

# SENTENCING ACADEMY

England & Wales · Charity number 1183958

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2019-06-18

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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254 Pentonville Road  
London  
N1 9JY

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**Website** [www.sentencingacademy.org.uk](http://www.sentencingacademy.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 3.1 TO PROMOTE THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC BY PROMOTING EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SENTENCING PRACTICES, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR (BUT WITHOUT LIMITATION) BY CONDUCTING AND PROMOTING RESEARCH INTO EFFECTIVE SENTENCING PRACTICES FOR OFFENDERS IN ENGLAND AND WALES AND PUBLISHING THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH.3.2 TO ADVANCE EDUCATION ON THE SUBJECT OF THE SENTENCING OF OFFENDERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC, AND TO CONDUCT AND PROMOTE RESEARCH FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN ALL ASPECTS OF THAT SUBJECT AND TO PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH.

**Activities:** The Sentencing Academy is a research and engagement charitable incorporated organisation dedicated to promoting professional and public understanding of sentencing in England and Wales.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£412,534	£211,527	-	-
2024-03-31	£335,180	£210,487	-	-
2023-03-31	£222,500	£137,623	-	-
2022-03-31	£94,998	£79,154	-	-
2021-03-31	£88,000	£72,000	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anna Caroline Draper		2023-01-25
Bethany Currie		2022-02-16
Billy Peter Dobinson		2025-12-01
John Michael Hough		2019-06-18
Orla Claire Myatt		2022-02-16
Peter John Hungerford-Welch		2023-01-25

**SENTENCING ACADEMY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183958

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number: 1183958

# Sentencing Academy

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Community Accounting Plus  
Units 1 & 2 North West  
41 Talbot Street  
Nottingham  
NG1 5GL

# Sentencing Academy

## Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 6
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	7
Independent Examiner's Report	8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11 to 17

# Sentencing Academy

## Reference and Administrative Details

<b>Trustees</b>	John Michael Hough, Chair Orla Slattery (Myatt) Bethany Currie Peter Hungerford-Welch Anna Draper Billy Peter Dobinson
<b>Senior Management Team</b>	Julian Roberts, Co-Executive Director Estella Baker, Co-Executive Director Jonathan Bild, Deputy Director Ellie Cumbo, Director of External Relations
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	1183958
<b>Principal Office</b>	Unit 112 254 Pentonville Road London N1 9JY
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Eva Stevens, employee of Community Accounting Plus Units 1 & 2 North West 41 Talbot Street Nottingham NG1 5GL

# Sentencing Academy

## Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

### Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	John Michael Hough, Chair
	Orla Slattery (Myatt)
	Bethany Currie
	Peter Hungerford-Welch
	Anna Draper
	Ian Peter Brownhill (resigned 28 February 2025)
	Gregor Donaldson (resigned 28 February 2025)
	Billy Peter Dobinson (appointed 1 December 2025)

### Structure, governance and management

#### *Nature of governing document*

The charity is operated under the rules of its CIO Foundation adopted 18 June 2019.

#### *Recruitment and appointment of trustees*

Advertisement through our website as well as various platforms that specialise in Trustee recruitment. Interested parties are asked to submit a cover letter demonstrating they meet the requirements in the Job Description, and shortlisting will be carried out by the Chair of the Board and Senior management members.

Interviews carried out face to face by the Chair of the Board and the Directors, and once a decision is made, an offer is made.

If accepted, the next steps are to agree a start date, identify any training needs and share information with the other Board members, the Charity Commission and share on our website.

### Objectives and activities

#### *Objects and aims*

1. To promote the prevention of crime and the rehabilitation of offenders for the benefit of the public by promoting efficient and effective sentencing practices, including in particular (but without limitation) by conducting and promoting research into effective sentencing practices for offenders in England and Wales and publishing the useful results of such research.
2. To advance education on the subject of the sentencing of offenders for the benefit of the public, and to conduct and promote research for the public benefit in all aspects of that subject and to publish the useful results of such research.

# Sentencing Academy

## Trustees' Report (continued)

### *Objectives, strategies and activities*

Our main activities fall under three headings. First, we provide research leadership by conducting and commissioning original research into sentencing in England and Wales. Second, we engage in a range of activities that promote knowledge dissemination and exchange. They include the development of an Effective Sentencing resource hub; running seminars and practitioner-targeted learning programmes; and extending research capacity through creating opportunities for early career researchers. Third, we participate in policy engagement and public outreach. This involves responding to consultations on draft sentencing guidelines, major reviews and legislative developments; engaging with the media to educate the public and inform public debate; and enhancing public awareness and understanding of sentencing through such means as our website, our use of social media, our bi-monthly newsletter and by hosting open events. We make sentencing knowledge available to the public free of charge and communicate it in formats that facilitate understanding, thereby ensuring that expert information is available, and accessible, to diverse audiences.

### *Public benefit*

Our research activities benefit the public by expanding and improving the evidence base on sentencing and the public's understanding of it. This, in turn, provides the foundation for our evidence-led approach to our other activities, which benefit the public in additional ways. On the one hand, we deploy our expertise to help to shape sentencing policy and practice, including sentencing guidelines, in ways that promote the prevention of crime, delivery of justice to victims and encouragement of efficient and effective sentencing practices. On the other, we play a role in advancing education on sentencing, thereby improving public understanding and promoting public confidence in the criminal justice system.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

### **Achievements & performance**

#### *'Effective Sentencing' initiative*

During the reporting period the Directors undertook significant work in the context of the Effective Sentencing workstream. Its key output will be an online toolkit/resource - the Sentencing Hub - that will provide resources for sentencers and criminal justice professionals; other professional groups with an interest in sentencing, such as policy-makers and journalists; students and other researchers; and the public in general.

Following a market testing exercise to ensure value for money, Dias Creative was appointed as our design partner and a comprehensive project plan was drawn up that established milestones, timelines, and responsibilities. By December 2024, the first wireframe prototype of the Hub was completed. Following evaluation by the Directors, it was populated with its initial entry on Alcohol Treatment Requirements, thereby permitting further road testing and refinement of the design.

A steering group made up of potential end users was also set up to help to inform and shape the Hub and ensure that it meets the needs of sentencers and criminal justice professionals. A consultation webinar was held with the group, supplemented with a survey for those who were unable to attend. Output from the consultation was then fed into the Hub's design and development. Prior to launch, we plan to test the Hub with the same group to ensure that it is tailored to the practical requirements of end users.

Our vision for the Sentencing Hub is that it will be a user-friendly, evidence-based resource that supports informed sentencing decisions and provides a wealth of evidence-based information on sentencing to meet the needs of diverse audiences. Its development remains our key strategic priority and we are pleased with the progress that has been made towards its delivery during the reporting period. In the light of this, we are well placed to launch the Hub during 2025.

## Sentencing Academy

### Trustees' Report (continued)

#### *The Gauke Review, influence and informing policy and decision-makers*

In October 2024, the Government announced that it had set up an Independent Review of Sentencing to be conducted by an expert panel and chaired by the former Lord Chancellor and Justice Secretary, the Rt Hon David Gauke. Shortly afterwards, the Review Panel issued a call for evidence, which was a clear priority for us. The Directors pulled together a team of experts from within our own resources and our academic network to agree key areas for attention and recommendations. This resulted in an evidence-led submission of 42 pages and we were pleased that our work was referred to several times in the Panel's interim report on History and Trends in Sentencing that was published in February 2025.

Separately from our written submission, we co-hosted a day-long seminar on Perspectives on Sentencing on 10 January 2025 in collaboration with the Sentencing Council for England and Wales and City University Law School. David Gauke gave a presentation on the Sentencing Review as part of this event, and the seminar was also attended by other members of the Review Panel. Additional high-profile contributors included the Lady Chief Justice, Lady Carr, and the Rt Hon Lord Justice William Davis, the Chair of the Sentencing Council, as well as other Sentencing Council members and leading academics in the sentencing field. In addition to the Sentencing Review, the programme featured panel discussions on the topical themes of sentence inflation, victims and sentencing, and the purposes and effectiveness of sentencing. The event was free to attend and highly successful in drawing a significant audience across the academic and practitioner communities.

During the reporting period, we continued to respond to consultations of the Sentencing Council for England and Wales with respect to proposed sentencing guidelines. Owing to the volume and frequency with which such consultations occur, our conscious strategy has been to respond on those occasions when we have something significant to offer that will be of particular value to the drafting or review of a guideline. This promotes the efficient use of resources while optimising our potential for impact. In some instances, we have also published our response on our website to help to inform public debate, a practice that promotes our public education mission.

Beyond these formal institutional consultations, in December, our Executive Director, Professor Julian Roberts, gave a presentation to The Times Crime and Justice Commission. The Commission was comprised of leading figures whose expertise covered all aspects of the Commission's work, all of whom participated in a personal capacity. This was a valuable opportunity to draw attention to the evidence base on sentencing and associated work of the Sentencing Academy, directly influencing debate at the highest level.

Independent of our proactive initiatives, we are encouraged that there have been regular examples of our work being picked up by external parties, testifying to our stature and influence. For example, during a Parliamentary debate in April 2024, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Gareth Bacon MP, referred to our work on sentencing terminology. This work had previously been highlighted by the House of Commons Justice Committee in its report on Public Opinion and Understanding of Sentencing. Later in the year, the Youth Justice Board contacted us regarding our report on 'Children's Knowledge and Opinion of Sentencing', as it wished to include it as a discussion topic in its quarterly regional Development Practice Fora. This illustrates the way in which key institutions in the field recognise the Sentencing Academy as a repository for reputable, evidence-led research and are turning to our work to inform their daily practice.

Regarding our broader public education mission, the Academy's Directors made regular media appearances during the reporting period. For instance, Professor Julian Roberts was interviewed on LBC by Nick Ferrari as part of its coverage of the Sentencing Review and our Deputy Director, Dr Jonathan Bild, discussed changes to Home Detention Curfew on BBC Radio 4's highly regarded programme, More or Less. These examples demonstrate recognition by the media of the Academy's evidence-led expertise and the way in which that recognition creates opportunities for us to inject our expertise into public debate.

#### *Development of our research and engagement programme*

We have continued our work to develop the evidence base on sentencing and on the public understanding of sentencing, as well as to promote awareness of, and access to, resources on these topics in furtherance of the educative limb of our mission.

## Sentencing Academy

### Trustees' Report (continued)

During the reporting period, we published two reports on our own public opinion research. They were: 'Who's in Prison and What's the Purpose of Imprisonment? A Survey of Public Knowledge and Attitudes' and, secondly, 'Children's Knowledge and Opinion of Sentencing'. In addition, we commissioned two further reports from members of our academic network on Sentencing for Murder: A Review of Policy and Practice and on Coercive Control as Mitigation at Sentencing. All four reports can be downloaded, free of charge, from our website, together with a range of other resources that we continued to build and which are designed to cater for the needs of a wide range of audiences.

These resources include regular blog posts on topical subjects, a notable example being sentencing for rioting that we published in the context of the public disturbances that occurred during the summer of 2024. The blog also provided a platform for our Oxford Intern, Harry Grindle, to publish his work on The Techno-Judiciary: Sentencing in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and for Sarah Sawyerr JP to discuss the topic of Disproportionality in Sentencing for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Defendants. As these contributions illustrate, one of our achievements is to provide a dedicated forum for knowledge exchange between the different constituencies with a professional interest in sentencing. Our commitment in this regard, and to our wider aim of promoting the public understanding of sentencing, was further strengthened by our publication of complementary resources that explain sentencing practices; highlight key statistical trends; and clarify legal concepts. An example of this is two explainers we produced on the role of pre-sentence reports at sentencing when there was a public disagreement between the Sentencing Council and the Government about when such reports should be sought by sentencers. All of these materials are publicly accessible and available free of charge.

Other engagement activities during the reporting period included a highly successful roundtable event to launch our two public opinion reports that was held at City University Law School in September 2024. Attracting an audience from a variety of professional backgrounds, it was closed by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons and former Chair of the Youth Justice Board, Charlie Taylor. This again underscores the achievement of the Sentencing Academy not only in reaching relevant constituencies but in engaging with those at the highest level. In addition, Julian Roberts spoke at events that were organised by the Prisons Research Centre and Centre for Penal Theory and Ethics at the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge; the Great Britain China Centre; the Law Department at Northumbria University; and the University of Surrey. As well as contributing to knowledge exchange, this activity fortified the Sentencing Academy's links with the academic community, laying foundations for future collaboration.

As an organisation, we have continued to seek opportunities to build upon our existing research, especially when the findings have had unusually significant impact and generated an appetite for furthering the evidence and combating gaps in knowledge. A salient example concerns sentencing terminology and its comprehension by the public. Our proposal for research into this area was welcomed by the House of Commons Justice Committee's report, Public Opinion and Understanding of Sentencing that was subsequently picked up by the Government. We were therefore delighted that, at the end of the reporting period, we secured funding from the Dawes Trust for a project on this topic alongside a second project that will be focused on the Victim Personal Statement scheme. The latter is informed by a useful meeting that the Directors held with the London Commissioner for Victims. Both projects will form part of our research agenda during 2025/26.

#### ***Business, operations and human resources***

Pursuant to optimising our efficient use of resources, the charity transitioned from being an office-based to a virtual organisation with a mailbox address that complies with Charity Commission requirements. This has reduced our monthly expenses and overhead, facilitating a lean operational model. In a connected development, in December, we launched our new central directory on SharePoint. As well as providing the facility of remote storage and sharing of documents, it enables us to ensure proper regulation of access to documents and improves our data security.

## Sentencing Academy

### Trustees' Report (continued)

Further demonstrating our commitment to allying our data security with the promotion of the charity's interests, we conducted a market testing exercise during the spring to assess the hosting and management of the Sentencing Academy's website. As a result, we appointed a new supplier that has improved its stability and security, as well as its design and navigation, while providing value for money. Independently from this, we also successfully completed our annual cyber essentials re-assessment. Not only did this provide reassurance that we have suitable measures in place to protect the organisation and the information that we hold, but this form of accreditation is a pre-requisite of most funders and trusts. Securing it therefore represents a strategic step in the mission to safeguard our prospective financial viability.

During the reporting period, the Sentencing Academy has seen important changes in personnel. In June, we appointed a part-time Finance and Operations Administrator whose skills and expertise relieved the Directors of some of the administrative burden of the organisation. This enabled them to focus greater attention on the development and strategic direction of the charity. Then, in December, two additional part-time Directors were recruited, to create a senior leadership team of four, whose combination of expertise makes us well-placed to sustain the charity and promote its growth. One of the new Directors absorbed the responsibilities of our former Director of Operations who left in January, ensuring business continuity.

#### **Financial review**

We are pleased to note another strong financial performance in 2024/25, with our total expenditure covered by our annual grant from the Dawes Trust.

We are very grateful to the Dawes Trust for their continuing support of the Sentencing Academy.

#### ***Policy on reserves***

We have a Reserves policy that has been approved by the Board of Trustees and the reserves have been deposited in a separate savings account. Interest received automatically goes back into the main banking account and is used for core costs. There are currently no plans to increase reserves and our reserves policy has been shaped and developed in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission and informs the financial management of the organisation.

#### ***Major risks and management of those risks***

The same financial risks that have been outlined in recent years continue and, in particular, the need to prioritise income diversification and secure multi-year funding from a broad range of sources has grown more pressing. The current funding landscape is a challenging one and senior staff will be devoting more time to pursuing additional sources of funding in the coming year.

We are, however, pleased to note that the budget for 2025/26 is fully funded, minimising financial risks and exposure of the charity in the new financial year.

## Sentencing Academy

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

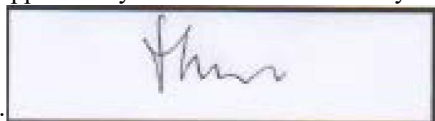
The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on ~~21/01/2020~~ and signed on its behalf by:



John Michael Hough  
Trustee

## Sentencing Academy

### Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Sentencing Academy

#### Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sentencing Academy

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sentencing Academy (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the 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 Act.

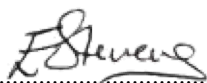
#### Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), which is one of the listed bodies.

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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.



.....  
Eva Stevens, BSc, CPFA, employee of Community Accounting Plus  
member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

Units 1 & 2 North West  
41 Talbot Street  
Nottingham  
NG1 5GL

Date:.....21/01/26.....

## Sentencing Academy

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	210,177	-	210,177	210,180
Charitable activities	3	25,560	175,000	200,560	125,000
Investment income	4	1,797	-	1,797	-
Total Income		<u>237,534</u>	<u>175,000</u>	<u>412,534</u>	<u>335,180</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	6	<u>(204,363)</u>	<u>(7,164)</u>	<u>(211,527)</u>	<u>(210,487)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(204,363)</u>	<u>(7,164)</u>	<u>(211,527)</u>	<u>(210,487)</u>
Net movement in funds		33,171	167,836	201,007	124,693
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>250,707</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>375,707</u>	<u>251,014</u>
Total funds carried forward	16	<u><u>283,878</u></u>	<u><u>292,836</u></u>	<u><u>576,714</u></u>	<u><u>375,707</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

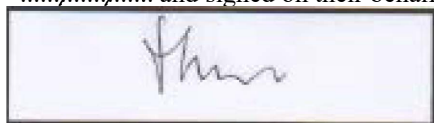
	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>				
Donations and legacies		210,180	-	210,180
Charitable activities		<u>-</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>
Total Income		<u>210,180</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>335,180</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities		<u>(210,487)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(210,487)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(210,487)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(210,487)</u>
Net (expenditure)/income		<u>(307)</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>124,693</u>
Net movement in funds		(307)	125,000	124,693
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward		<u>251,014</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>251,014</u>
Total funds carried forward	16	<u><u>250,707</u></u>	<u><u>125,000</u></u>	<u><u>375,707</u></u>

The notes on pages 11 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Sentencing Academy**  
**(Registration number: 1183958)**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	11	674	8,414
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>587,975</u>	<u>374,365</u>
		588,649	382,779
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	<u>(11,935)</u>	<u>(7,072)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>576,714</u>	<u>375,707</u>
<b>Funds of the charity:</b>			
<b>Restricted income funds</b>			
Restricted funds	16	292,836	125,000
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds		<u>283,878</u>	<u>250,707</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	16	<u>576,714</u>	<u>375,707</u>

The financial statements on pages 9 to 17 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 21/01/26 and signed on their behalf by:



John Michael Hough  
Trustee

# Sentencing Academy

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

#### Basis of preparation

Sentencing Academy 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 notes.

#### Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

Under the exemption available to smaller charities the Board of Trustees has chosen not to include a Statement of Cash Flows within the financial statements.

#### Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

#### Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

#### *Grants receivable*

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

#### Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregates similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

#### *Charitable activities*

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

## Sentencing Academy

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

#### Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

#### Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

#### Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	33.33%

#### Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

#### Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

## Sentencing Academy

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

#### 2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Grants, including capital grants; Grants from other charities	210,177	210,177	210,180
	<u>210,177</u>	<u>210,177</u>	<u>210,180</u>

#### 3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Grants	-	175,000	175,000	125,000
Firearms literature review	17,950	-	17,950	-
Sales & fees	7,500	-	7,500	-
Sundry receipts	110	-	110	-
	<u>25,560</u>	<u>175,000</u>	<u>200,560</u>	<u>125,000</u>

#### 4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Interest receivable and similar income; Interest receivable on bank deposits	1,797	1,797	-
	<u>1,797</u>	<u>1,797</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 5 Grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Dawes Trust	210,177	175,000	385,177
	<u>210,177</u>	<u>175,000</u>	<u>385,177</u>

## Sentencing Academy

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

#### 6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Direct expenses	6,578	-	6,578	12,060
Advertising & marketing	1,283	-	1,283	983
Audit & Accountancy	1,363	-	1,363	1,335
Consulting	74,359	-	74,359	67,037
General expenses	3,368	-	3,368	30,196
Insurance	902	-	902	464
IT, software & consumables	2,730	-	2,730	901
Rent & rates	16,696	-	16,696	18,249
Salaries, NI & pension	95,805	-	95,805	78,892
Subscriptions	307	-	307	137
Depreciation	-	-	-	233
Effectiveness of Sentencing project costs	-	7,164	7,164	-
Room hire	972	-	972	-
	<u>204,363</u>	<u>7,164</u>	<u>211,527</u>	<u>210,487</u>

#### 7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	233

#### 8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Staff costs during the year were:</b>		
Wages and salaries	90,542	74,024
Social security costs	2,788	1,973
Pension costs	2,475	2,895
	<u>95,805</u>	<u>78,892</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

## Sentencing Academy

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

	2025 No	2024 No
Average number of employees	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

2 (2024 - 3) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £2,475 (2024 - £2,895).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

The total benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £101,441 (2024 - £109,975). One Co-Executive Director and the Deputy Director were paid on a consultancy basis.

#### 9 Independent examiner's fees

During the period, the fees payable (excluding VAT) to the charity's independent examiner Community Accounting Plus are analysed as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent examination	850	850
	<u>850</u>	<u>850</u>

#### 10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from corporation taxation.

#### 11 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments	<u>674</u>	<u>8,414</u>

#### 12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank	537,975	324,365
Short-term deposits	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
	<u>587,975</u>	<u>374,365</u>

#### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	<u>11,935</u>	<u>7,072</u>

## Sentencing Academy

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

#### 14 Related party transactions

#### 15 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

##### **John Michael Hough**

£265 (2024: £182) of travel expenses were reimbursed to John Michael Hough during the year.

##### **Orla Slattery (Myatt)**

£64 (2024: £193) of travel expenses were reimbursed to Orla Slattery (Myatt) during the year.

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

#### 16 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<i>General</i>				
General fund	215,707	237,534	(204,363)	248,878
<i>Designated</i>				
Reserves	35,000	-	-	35,000
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>250,707</u>	<u>237,534</u>	<u>(204,363)</u>	<u>283,878</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Effectiveness of Sentencing	125,000	125,000	(7,164)	242,836
Dawes Trust - research projects 25/26	-	50,000	-	50,000
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>175,000</u>	<u>(7,164)</u>	<u>292,836</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>375,707</u>	<u>412,534</u>	<u>(211,527)</u>	<u>576,714</u>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Effectiveness of Sentencing- project which, amongst other initiatives, will include developing a toolkit-style resource where key stakeholders, including practitioners and the judiciary, can access the latest research on the effectiveness of sentencing.

## Sentencing Academy

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

*These are the figures for the previous accounting period and are included for comparative purposes*

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<i>General</i>					
General fund	215,944	210,180	(210,487)	70	215,707
<i>Designated</i>					
Reserves	<u>35,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,000</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>250,944</u>	<u>210,180</u>	<u>(210,487)</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>250,707</u>
<b>Restricted</b>					
Effectiveness of Sentencing	-	125,000	-	-	125,000
Deferred Sentencing	<u>70</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(70)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>70</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(70)</u>	<u>125,000</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>251,014</u>	<u>335,180</u>	<u>(210,487)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>375,707</u>

#### 17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted			2025
	General £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Current assets	260,813	35,000	292,836	588,649
Current liabilities	<u>(11,935)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,935)</u>
Total net assets	<u>248,878</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>292,836</u>	<u>576,714</u>
	Unrestricted			2024
	General £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Current assets	222,779	35,000	125,000	382,779
Current liabilities	<u>(7,072)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,072)</u>
Total net assets	<u>215,707</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>375,707</u>

**SENTENCING ACADEMY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183958

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number: 1183958

# Sentencing Academy

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Community Accounting Plus  
Units 1 & 2 North West  
41 Talbot Street  
Nottingham  
NG1 5GL

## **Sentencing Academy**

### **Contents (continued)**

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 7
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	8
Independent Examiner's Report	9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11
Notes to the Financial Statements	12 to 19

# Sentencing Academy

## Reference and Administrative Details

<b>Trustees</b>	John Michael Hough, Chair Orla Slattery (Myatt) Bethany Currie Ian Peter Brownhill Peter Hungerford-Welch Gregor Donaldson Anna Draper
<b>Senior Management Team</b>	Jonathan Bild, Deputy Director Sarah McManus, Director of Operations Julian Roberts, Executive Director
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	1183958
<b>Principal Office</b>	Unit 4.02 60 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8LU
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus Units 1 & 2 North West 41 Talbot Street Nottingham NG1 5GL

# Sentencing Academy

## Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

### Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	John Michael Hough, Chair
	Orla Slattery (Myatt)
	Bethany Currie
	Ian Peter Brownhill
	Peter Hungerford-Welch
	Gregor Donaldson
	Anna Draper

### Structure, governance and management

#### *Nature of governing document*

The charity is operated under the rules of its CIO Foundation adopted 18 June 2019.

#### *Recruitment and appointment of trustees*

The Dawes Trust nominates one trustee for the duration of our funding agreement whilst the remaining trustees were selected for their relevant expertise in our subject area or linked to specific skill sets to strengthen and diversify membership of the Board.

#### *Organisational structure*

We have taken positive steps this year to enhance the governance structure by conducting a comprehensive skills audit which provided valuable insights that will help shape future recruitment and training initiatives. Additionally, equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) self-assessment has been completed, ensuring adherence to Principle 6 of the Governance Code. This self-assessment will guide the Sentencing Academy's efforts in promoting EDI within its operations.

The Academy's continued commitment to robust governance is evident through the approval of eight new policies this year, review of existing policy documents, expansion of the Financial Procedures Manual and completion of a financial audit in July. These measures ensure effective management of people, information, financial operations, as well as risk evidencing compliance and operational integrity.

### Objectives and activities

#### *Objects and aims*

1. To promote the prevention of crime and the rehabilitation of offenders for the benefit of the public by promoting efficient and effective sentencing practices, including in particular (but without limitation) by conducting and promoting research into effective sentencing practices for offenders in England and Wales and publishing the useful results of such research.
2. To advance education on the subject of the sentencing of offenders for the benefit of the public, and to conduct and promote research for the public benefit in all aspects of that subject and to publish the useful results of such research.

# **Sentencing Academy**

## **Trustees' Report (continued)**

### ***Public benefit***

We conduct and commission research into sentencing in England and Wales. We respond to consultations on draft sentencing guidelines with a view to improving these guidelines and engaging in the policy-making process when opportunities arise. We use social media and our website to communicate with the public about sentencing issues and we also hold events that are available to the public. Our evidence-led approach informs our communications and activities to improve public understanding and awareness around sentencing.

Through responding fully to consultations on sentencing issues and engaging directly with the policy-making process we help shape sentencing policy and practice in a way that promotes the prevention of crime and efficient and effective sentencing practices. We conduct and commission research on sentencing issues which can further contribute to the prevention of crime through improved sentencing practices and this research also advances education on sentencing. Through our website, use of social media and engagement with the media along with our bi-monthly newsletter, and hosting open events, we make this knowledge available to the public free of charge ensuring that expert opinion is accessible.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

### **Achievements and performance**

This has been a busy and transformative year for the Sentencing Academy as it expanded and developed its strategic objectives and delivery output. A summary of our achievements is detailed below:

#### **1. Provide an open learning environment for those working at and for charity**

We have continued to support and offer two internship programmes in partnership with the Kalisher Trust and with the University of Oxford enabling participants to attend knowledge exchange events; collaborate with specialist researchers contributing to academic and practitioner debate, and to write and have published their own articles on our website under the supervision of the Deputy Director.

Through the Thesis Award initiative, we have tried to foster and encourage an interest in sentencing with post graduate students in universities across England and Wales. The award adjudicated by a panel enables students to contribute to scholarly work for publication on our website, sharing their work and insight with leading academics and researchers in the field alongside a monetary incentive. The initiative also looks to promote the work of the Academy and create links with new talent and those with a particular interest in sentencing.

We have begun to support two PhD students undertaking cutting edge research into sentencing in England and Wales. These students have also contributed to our wider work this year, providing assistance to a number of our publications during this period. This relationship both provides the PhD students the opportunity to develop their quantitative research skills by undertaking practical research and boosts the Sentencing Academy's capacity to conduct this type of research.

The charity has continued to take part and offer knowledge and development exchange sessions with a range of experts, practitioners, sentencers and policy makers. A collaborative event with the City Law School was organised, focusing on the Sentencing Council's open consultation on imposition guidelines. This event saw meaningful participation from academics, members of the voluntary sector, and representatives from the Sentencing Council, highlighting the Academy's role in facilitating important discussions on judicial matters, enabling learning and the sharing of expert opinion.

# Sentencing Academy

## Trustees' Report (continued)

### 2. Develop an 'Effective Sentencing' initiative

In the absence of a lead for this initiative, Directors have reshaped and revised the implementation plan, rescheduling other priorities to enable work to start on the development of the workstream during this period.

We have collaborated with a group of external consultants to introduce and disseminate the concept of a toolkit/resource hub. This initiative is a key output of the Effective Sentencing workstream, designed to enhance understanding and decision-making processes for sentencers, practitioners, and policy makers. An approved pool of researchers will be given commissioning opportunities to develop and contribute to this toolkit/resource hub in 2024/25, following agreement on a digital application model.

In preparation for a value-for-money exercise in the upcoming financial year, several design companies were identified as potential creators of the digital toolkit/resource hub. The Directors reviewed and evaluated numerous good practice examples in this field, narrowing down the list of design companies that the Academy will invite to tender for this project in the new financial year.

Externally, the Directors have shared the concept at networking events and with various partners, using these opportunities to better understand the need, demand, and format for the toolkit/resource hub. The feedback obtained from users has been invaluable, allowing the concept to evolve organically, guided by the needs of its target audience. A formal Steering Group, composed of service users for the toolkit, will be established next year, driven by the interest and necessity of this initiative to be user-led and developed from its inception.

### 3. Strengthen sustainability

This year, we have continued to develop and enhance the internal infrastructure of the charity. We have successfully achieved external accreditations that further validate and reflect the quality and standards of our internal processes and management framework. We registered as a provider on Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) portal as well as PCS-Tender which is the national eTendering system and is centrally funded by the Scottish Government. Both provide access to low and high value public contract opportunities in Scotland. Following a competitive tender submission on PCS we were awarded the contract to conduct a Literature Review on Sentencing Offences Involving Firearms. A project team including two external Scottish researchers have successfully delivered the report on time and within budget, a positive reflection on the team's capability and professionalism and the strength of the Academy's network of researchers.

During this period, we have gained invaluable experience and knowledge of the tendering process and its requirements; all of which will positively contribute to achieving our strategic goal of income diversification to support the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

We have successfully secured ISO 9001 (quality) and 14001 (environmental) accreditation which we achieved following an assessment and interviews via an external assessor. ISO is an internationally recognised standard that sets out the best way to manage processes, deliver services and covers a huge range of activities. We now have an Integrated Management System which now includes many of the policies, processes and controls we have already put in place across the last few years. Reaccreditation takes place every three years with ongoing improvement and compliance tracked via annual surveillance audits.

Successful completion of the basic level Cyber Essentials accreditation was achieved for the first time this year, strengthening the internal controls and measures to combat fraud and to protect and keep the data and information we hold safe. We also completed our first Carbon Reduction Plan which we have shared on our website finalising our accreditation with the Green Small Business.

## Sentencing Academy

### Trustees' Report (continued)

#### 4. Improve pathways to engage with criminal justice system stakeholders and the public

Over the past year, dedicated efforts to improve and expand communication channels have led to increased engagement across various platforms including X, LinkedIn, and the bi-monthly Newsletter. This upward trend indicates a successful strategy in building more of a robust online presence and suggests a growing community interested in what the Academy has to say on sentencing. Continual analysis and adaptation of these strategies will be key to encourage further improvement and growth in this area.

The Communications Group, comprising staff, Directors, and Trustees, has been instrumental in refining the organisation's media engagement strategy. This collaborative effort has ensured that the dissemination of information is consistent with the organisation's core values and objectives. Selective participation in media interviews demonstrates a commitment to contributing meaningfully to public discourse, ensuring that any involvement is substantiated by evidence and serves to enlighten the conversation constructively.

We have produced articles on deferred sentencing for the Magistrates Association Magazine and Blackstone's Briefings, contributing insights and analysis on this topical area of sentencing. We have also been cited in March by The Times, expanding our reach beyond the legal community as a repository of sentencing information aiding understanding around the complexities of legal proceedings and the nuances of judicial decisions.

The outreach and engagement initiatives this year have successfully concentrated on three major regional events in the North of England and Wales, specifically in Durham, York, and Cardiff. These events have facilitated the establishment of new connections with twelve speakers from diverse fields such as probation, psychiatry, restorative justice, and academia. Collaboration with 10 voluntary sector groups, including three key infrastructure organisations, has significantly amplified the reach to a broader network of charities and community groups.

The events have attracted approximately 220 delegates, encompassing professionals from the charitable sector, health, probation, the Scottish Sentencing Council, magistrates, academics, students, and the general public. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with 87% of those completing the evaluation stating that the events were useful, and a third considering them extremely so. Additionally, outreach efforts have extended to four magistrate benches and two regional probation services. The focus on contemporary sentencing issues and mental health has positioned these events as pivotal platforms for knowledge exchange, connecting experts, criminal justice stakeholders, the public, and policymakers.

Engagement with a broad spectrum of partners has significantly enhanced the impact and reach of the Academy. From participating in the Transition to Adulthood Alliance, supporting a tailored approach to young adults within the criminal justice system, to collaborations with key figures and institutions such as the Judicial College, to the HM Chief Inspector of Prisons and the Chair of the House of Commons Justice Committee, we have not only elevated the profile of our organisation but have also reinforced the importance of an evidence-based approach, ensuring the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of our work.

The organisation's efforts to contribute to the criminal justice system are multifaceted and impactful. Our research publications examine pivotal aspects of sentencing and our production of a briefing paper on the Criminal Justice Bill and Sentencing Bill highlights the importance of understanding legislative changes and their broader societal effects. These documents collectively signify a commitment to informed discourse on legal reform and its ramifications.

## Sentencing Academy

### Trustees' Report (continued)

The increase in blog output this year not only broadens accessibility to these discussions but also enriches public understanding by summarising key developments such as sentencing reforms proposed in the King's Speech, insights from the House of Commons Justice Committee report on public opinion and understanding of sentencing, and the intricacies of parole through high-profile cases. We have also expanded our reach by featuring guest contributions, looking at Scotland's approach to sentencing guidelines and the examination of the consequences of refusing to attend a sentencing hearing, the latter of which was cited in the House of Commons Library's Research Briefing on the Criminal Justice Bill. These efforts reflect the organisation's dedication to enhancing public and practitioner understanding and dialogue around critical sentencing issues. The inclusion of diverse perspectives and expert analyses further solidifies our role as a valuable resource for practitioners and the public seeking to navigate and comprehend the complexities of sentencing.

#### **5. Influence and inform policy and decision makers**

Our engagement with key policy and decision makers on sentencing issues is a testament to the trust and credibility we have established across political parties. During this year we have participated as a panelist at Parliament at the launch of the House of Commons Justice Committee's report from their inquiry into public opinion and understanding of sentencing. Our involvement highlights the influence and respect that the Academy has developed and grown over time. Our collaboration with the Scottish Sentencing Council to help launch the Inaugural Scottish Sentencing Research Symposium further demonstrates our pivotal role in shaping sentencing policy and research.

The recognition of the Sentencing Academy's work by the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, and the Irish Court of Appeal marks a significant milestone in the influence and authority of the Academy's research and contributions to legal scholarship. The citation of our deferred sentencing report by the Court of Appeal in England and Wales, and the reference to the Mental Health Literature Review that we produced for the Scottish Sentencing Council the Irish Court of Appeal, highlights the impact of the Academy's comprehensive analysis and thoughtful review of sentencing practice. These acknowledgments by such high courts not only validate the charity's efforts but also highlight the importance of continued research and discussion in the development of legal standards and procedures.

During this period, we also commenced with two research projects further demonstrating a dedication to understanding the nuanced perspectives of children and young people on sentencing and the public's view of prisons. The comprehensive report on parole reform and future proposals, coupled with the contract award following a competitive tender for a literature review on sentencing offences involving firearms for the Scottish Sentencing Council, underlines our influential role in shaping evidence-based policy and practice through collaboration with expert researchers this year.

#### **Financial review**

A strong financial performance for 2023/24 reflects the efficient and effective management of the charity supported by clear procedures and processes that support delivery. The reporting and recording of the management accounts has been overhauled, providing additional financial information to support the scrutiny and overview functions of the Board and Directors.

The surplus at the year-end is £124,693 with income received of £335,180 against the total expenditure of £210,487, demonstrating value for money given the achievements delivered in the year.

# Sentencing Academy

## Trustees' Report (continued)

### *Policy on reserves*

The charity has approved and implemented a reserves policy that has been shaped and developed in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission and informs the financial management of the organisation. The secure financial position at the end of this year, coupled with controlled expenditure in line with budget expectations, has enabled the organisation to manage risk and effectively use the policy to help protect the funds of the charity.

It has also supported the charity in investment of £50,000 into a notice base rate tracker deposit account specifically for charities to help maximise the return on our designated fund.

### *Major risks and management of those risks*

The same financial risks as they were outlined last year continue moving forward around prioritising income diversification, securing multi-year funding from a broad range of sources including developing income generation activities to help sustain and support the growth plans of the organisation.

External factors, such as the current economic situation, impact upon the availability of funding and the level of competition and demand. The budget for 2024/25 supports the activities and priorities below and is fully funded, which is pleasing to note, minimising financial risks and exposure of the charity in the new financial year.

All risks, including existing and new emerging financial risks are captured and monitored by Directors on a monthly basis to help monitor, mitigate, and manage this area of the organisation.

### **Plans for future periods**

#### *Aims and key objectives for future periods*

It is pleasing to note that all of our objectives for this current year were successfully achieved and have been evidenced as above apart from the drafting of a Communications Strategy and a revised three-year Business Plan. The following proposed outputs align with the key objectives agreed by the Board and Directors and will inform our delivery in 2024/25 alongside other day-to-day activities:

- Two/three research projects contributing to the development of the Effective Sentencing toolkit.
- Completion and publication of two research projects looking at the understanding of sentencing by children and young people and public perception of prisons.
- Implementation of the design and drafting of the Effective Sentencing toolkit/resource hub and delivery plans.
- Secure grant/trust funding or contract/commissioning as part of our income diversification commitment.
- Governance code self-assessment and associated actions – remaining principles.
- Communication's Strategy and three-year Business Plan delivery.
- Production of further Issues Papers/updating of existing papers.
- Launch of the Academy's YouTube channel.
- Sentencing Research Highlights publication.
- ISO reaccreditation.
- SA external bulletin and newsletter combined as one publication.
- Delivery of the public engagement plan.
- Appoint one more trustee as part of a targeted recruitment campaign.
- Recruitment and appointment of a CEO.

## Sentencing Academy

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

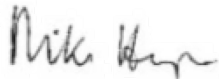
The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on ~~..13/..12/..24.~~ and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
John Michael Hough  
Trustee

## Sentencing Academy

### Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Sentencing Academy

#### Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sentencing Academy

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sentencing Academy (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the 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 Act.

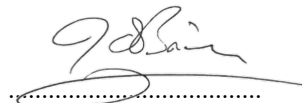
#### Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member and Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.



John O'Brien MSc, FAIA, FCCA, FCIE, employee of Community Accounting Plus  
Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

Units 1 & 2 North West  
41 Talbot Street  
Nottingham  
NG1 5GL

Date: 18/12/24

## Sentencing Academy

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	210,180	-	210,180	203,500
Charitable activities	3	-	125,000	125,000	19,000
Total Income		<u>210,180</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>335,180</u>	<u>222,500</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	5	<u>(210,487)</u>	-	<u>(210,487)</u>	<u>(137,952)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(210,487)</u>	-	<u>(210,487)</u>	<u>(137,952)</u>
Net movement in funds		(307)	125,000	124,693	84,548
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>251,014</u>	-	<u>251,014</u>	<u>166,466</u>
Total funds carried forward	16	<u><u>250,707</u></u>	<u><u>125,000</u></u>	<u><u>375,707</u></u>	<u><u>251,014</u></u>

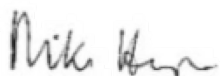
All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 12 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Sentencing Academy**  
**(Registration number: 1183958)**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	10	-	233
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	11	8,414	192
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>374,365</u>	<u>251,497</u>
		382,779	251,689
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	<u>(7,072)</u>	<u>(908)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>375,707</u>	<u>250,781</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u><u>375,707</u></u>	<u><u>251,014</u></u>
<b>Funds of the charity:</b>			
<b>Restricted income funds</b>			
Restricted funds	16	125,000	70
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds		<u>250,707</u>	<u>250,944</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	16	<u><u>375,707</u></u>	<u><u>251,014</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 10 to 19 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ~~13/12/24~~ and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
 John Michael Hough  
 Trustee

# Sentencing Academy

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

#### Basis of preparation

Sentencing Academy 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 notes.

#### Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

Under the exemption available to smaller charities the Board of Trustees has chosen not to include a Statement of Cash Flows within the financial statements.

#### Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

#### Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

#### *Grants receivable*

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

#### Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregates similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

#### *Charitable activities*

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

## Sentencing Academy

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

#### Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

#### Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

#### Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	33.33%

#### Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

#### Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

## Sentencing Academy

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

#### 2 Income from donations and legacies

	<b>Unrestricted funds General £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	210,180	210,180	203,500
	210,180	210,180	203,500
	210,180	210,180	203,500

#### 3 Income from charitable activities

	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Grants	125,000	125,000	-
Mental health literature review	-	-	19,000
	125,000	125,000	19,000
	125,000	125,000	19,000

#### 4 Grants and donations

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>Total funds £</b>
Dawes Trust	210,180	125,000	335,180
	210,180	125,000	335,180
	210,180	125,000	335,180

## Sentencing Academy

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

#### 5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Direct expenses	12,060	12,060	6,988
Advertising & marketing	983	983	1,044
Audit & Accountancy	1,335	1,335	810
Consulting	67,037	67,037	64,162
General expenses	30,196	30,196	4,113
Insurance	464	464	346
IT, software & consumables	901	901	852
Rent & rates	18,249	18,249	-
Salaries, NI & pension	78,892	78,892	58,310
Subscriptions	137	137	562
Depreciation	233	233	233
Entertaining	-	-	256
Training	-	-	276
	<u>210,487</u>	<u>210,487</u>	<u>137,952</u>

#### 6 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>233</u>	<u>233</u>

#### 7 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Staff costs during the year were:</b>		
Wages and salaries	74,024	55,715
Social security costs	1,973	433
Pension costs	2,895	2,162
	<u>78,892</u>	<u>58,310</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

## Sentencing Academy

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

	2024 No	2023 No
Average number of employees	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

3 (2023 - 2) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £2,895 (2023 - £2,162).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

The total benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £109,975 (2023 - £95,885). The Executive Director was paid on a consultancy basis.

#### 8 Independent examiner's fees

During the period, the fees payable (excluding VAT) to the charity's independent examiner Community Accounting Plus are analysed as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent examination	850	560
	<u>850</u>	<u>560</u>

#### 9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

#### 10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 April 2023	<u>2,937</u>	<u>2,937</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,937</u>	<u>2,937</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 April 2023	2,704	2,704
Charge for the year	<u>233</u>	<u>233</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,937</u>	<u>2,937</u>
<b>Net book value</b>		
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>233</u>	<u>233</u>

## Sentencing Academy

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

#### 11 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	<u>8,414</u>	<u>192</u>

#### 12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank	324,365	251,497
Short-term deposits	<u>50,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>374,365</u>	<u>251,497</u>

#### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	<u>7,072</u>	<u>908</u>

#### 14 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

#### 15 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

##### **John Michael Hough**

£182 (2023: £165) of travel expenses were reimbursed to John Michael Hough during the year.

##### **Orla Slattery (Myatt)**

£193 (2023: £217) of travel expenses were reimbursed to Orla Slattery (Myatt) during the year.

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

## Sentencing Academy

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

#### 16 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<i>General</i>					
General fund	215,944	210,180	(210,487)	70	215,707
<i>Designated</i>					
Reserves	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>250,944</u>	<u>210,180</u>	<u>(210,487)</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>250,707</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Effectiveness of Sentencing	-	125,000	-	-	125,000
Deferred Sentencing	70	-	-	(70)	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>70</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(70)</u>	<u>125,000</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>251,014</u></u>	<u><u>335,180</u></u>	<u><u>(210,487)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>375,707</u></u>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Effectiveness of Sentencing- project which, amongst other initiatives, will include developing a toolkit-style resource where key stakeholders, including practitioners and the judiciary, can access the latest research on the effectiveness of sentencing.

The transfer from the Deferred Sentencing fund to the General fund relates to activities which have ceased, and the release of any restrictions on the use of these funds.

## Sentencing Academy

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

*These are the figures for the previous accounting period and are included for comparative purposes*

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<i>General</i>					
General fund	166,396	222,500	(137,952)	(35,000)	215,944
<i>Designated</i>					
Reserves	-	-	-	35,000	35,000
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>166,396</u>	<u>222,500</u>	<u>(137,952)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250,944</u>
<b>Restricted</b>					
Deferred Sentencing	<u>70</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>166,466</u></u>	<u><u>222,500</u></u>	<u><u>(137,952)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>251,014</u></u>

#### 17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted			2024
	General £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Current assets	222,779	35,000	125,000	382,779
Current liabilities	(7,072)	-	-	(7,072)
Total net assets	<u><u>215,707</u></u>	<u><u>35,000</u></u>	<u><u>125,000</u></u>	<u><u>375,707</u></u>
	Unrestricted			2023
	General £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	233	-	-	233
Current assets	216,619	35,000	70	251,689
Current liabilities	(908)	-	-	(908)
Total net assets	<u><u>215,944</u></u>	<u><u>35,000</u></u>	<u><u>70</u></u>	<u><u>251,014</u></u>

**SENTENCING ACADEMY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183958

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# Accounts

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**Sentencing Academy**  
(Registered charity, number 1183958)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

<b>Page</b>	<b>Contents</b>
2 - 8	Trustees' annual report
9	Independent examiner's report
10	Receipts & payments account
11	Statement of assets & liabilities
12 - 13	Notes to the accounts

**Sentencing Academy  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Full name:** Sentencing Academy

**Organisation type:** Charitable Incorporated Organisation

**Registered charity number:** 1183958

**Principal address:**

Unit 4.02, 60 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8LU

**Trustees**

John Michael Hough, Chair  
Ian Peter Brownhill  
Umar Malik Al Azmeh  
Bethany Currie  
Orla Claire Myatt  
Gregor Donaldson  
Anna Draper, from 25/1/23  
Peter Hungerford-Welch, from 25/1/23  
Hannah Sian Quirk, until 25/1/23

**Independent examiner**

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

**Governance and management**

The charity is operated under the rules of its CIO Foundation adopted 18 June 2019.

The Dawes Trust nominates one trustee for the duration of our funding agreement and the other founding trustees were selected for their relevant expertise in our subject area. Subsequently, new trustees have been appointed following an open externally advertised recruitment campaign and an informal route where we have approached specialists to strengthen our skill set and expertise on the Board. The recruitment process took into account our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion, positively strengthening the gender balance on the Board.

**Objectives and activities**

1. To promote the prevention of crime and the rehabilitation of offenders for the benefit of the public by promoting efficient and effective sentencing practices, including in particular (but without limitation) by conducting and promoting research into effective sentencing practices for offenders in England and Wales and publishing the useful results of such research.
2. To advance education on the subject of the sentencing of offenders for the benefit of the public, and to conduct and promote research for the public benefit in all aspects of that subject and to publish the useful results of such research.

## **Sentencing Academy**

### **Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

We conduct and commission research into sentencing in England and Wales. We respond to consultations on draft sentencing guidelines with a view to improving these guidelines and engage in the policy-making process when opportunities arise. We use social media and our website to communicate with the public about sentencing issues and we also hold events that are available to the public. Our evidence-led approach informs our communications and activities to improve public understanding and awareness around sentencing.

Through responding fully to consultations on sentencing issues and engaging directly with the policy-making process we help shape sentencing policy and practice in a way that promotes the prevention of crime and efficient and effective sentencing practices. We conduct and commission research on sentencing issues which can further contribute to the prevention of crime through improved sentencing practices and this research also advances education on sentencing. Through our website, use of social media and bi-monthly newsletter, as well as the hosting of events that are open to all, we make this knowledge available to the public free of charge and in an accessible manner.

### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

### **Summary of the main achievements during the period**

This has been a busy and transformative year for the Sentencing Academy as it expanded and developed its strategic objectives and delivery outputs. A summary of our achievements is detailed below:

#### **1. Provide an open learning environment for those working at and for the charity.**

We have continued to support and offer two internship programmes in collaboration with the Kalisher Trust and with the University of Oxford enabling participants to attend knowledge exchange events; meet specialist researchers contributing to academic and practitioner debate, and to write and have published their own articles on our website under the supervision of the Deputy Director.

Recognition for students interested in sentencing issues has been fostered through our Thesis Award, which enables post-graduate students from those who have produced a dissertation relating to sentencing in England and Wales to share their paper with leading academics and researchers in the field alongside a monetary reward. This year's winning dissertation was entitled: 'Using the Sentencing Guidelines: How Criminal Law Practitioners Use Steps 1 and 2 to Achieve Consistent and Proportionate Sentences in a Retributive Framework'.

## **Sentencing Academy**

We have also successfully secured funding alongside the Universities of Leeds and Liverpool to support and work with two PhD students, one examining the effectiveness of community orders and the other exploring changes in sentencing severity over time. Both will be conducted over the coming years and provides the charity with an opportunity to grow and develop a talent pool of researchers with a passion for sentencing.

The charity has contributed to knowledge and development exchange sessions with practitioners, researchers, Involve, judges from Trinidad and Tobago and a delegation from the Singapore Attorney-General's Chambers, as the organisation acts as a hub of excellence and learning on sentencing issues.

### **2. Develop an 'Effective Sentencing' initiative.**

We developed a strong and persuasive proposal for the implementation of an Effective Sentencing (ES) workstream, identifying the gaps, suggested delivery model, and the difference and impact that this could have on sentencing practice. A targeted influencing programme of meetings secured support from key statutory and voluntary partners, enabling their feedback to inform the proposal which will be used in 2023/24 to secure future funding and collaborations.

We have incrementally revised our development plans, with an Effective Sentencing Toolkit lying at the heart of the initiative. The toolkit will be the initial major output from the workstream, and it will be developed, it is hoped, across the next two years in consultation with sentencers and other criminal justice professionals. It will be designed to match the information needs and expectations of its users and will detail transparent scientific criteria for inclusion into the toolkit alongside a peer review process.

Focus this year has been upon progressing the conceptualisation for the Effective Sentencing workstream and toolkit into a business plan proposal with tangible measures, outputs and support from partners and stakeholders. A recruitment drive to appoint a lead that would deliver the business plan for this service was unsuccessful but provided much learning and an opportunity for the charity to revise and refine its requirements for this role.

### **3. Strengthen sustainability.**

This year we have developed and enhanced the internal infrastructure of the charity, its policies, financial processes and procedures, governance, HR, risk, and reporting. Changes aligned to regulatory and legal requirements and good practice have been implemented, strengthening the day to day running of the organisation to ensure that it continues to be compliant, effective, and efficient in supporting the purpose and key strategic objectives of the charity.

## **Sentencing Academy**

We have inducted three new trustees who have now served a year's term with us, helping to shape and develop our communications and establish links with researchers. We have sadly thanked and said goodbye to a founding member of the charity and have recruited a legal practitioner (one of our former interns) and a leading academic to complement the existing skill set of members.

Alongside this we have doubled our staffing with the recruitment of the Director of Operations whose remit is to lead on the day-to-day operations of the organisation ensuring that it is compliant, financially viable and risk aware, creating a solid foundation for growth and delivery.

Capacity has been increased with additional consultancy contracts to help support and develop our communications work and research. The substantial consistent contribution to the charity from certain academics, experts and practitioners has led to the formulation of the "Advisers" group demonstrating the broader reach and influences that help to inform and shape the work of the charity.

External accreditation has commenced in many areas of the organisation in 2022/23, including Living Wage Employer status, data security with the commencement of our Cyber Essentials certification process, work towards a draft Carbon Reduction Plan, accredited by the Green Small Business, along with suppliers' approval to join the Crown Commercial Services Lower Value Procurement System. External validation evidences the safe, secure and ethical approach of the charity, supporting future sustainability and partnership and funding opportunities.

#### **4. Improve pathways to engage with criminal justice system stakeholders and the public.**

Partnerships and collaborations have been strengthened this year with key stakeholders, charities, universities and with practitioners. Engagement with the general public and wider voluntary sector has increased alongside the events that we have delivered this year. The charity has reached out and engaged with 15 regional voluntary and community groups and local magistrates, introducing them to our work, offering opportunities to deliver bespoke awareness raising sessions, and acting as the bridge between those with expert knowledge and wider society.

We have successfully delivered six events this year, two of which were hosted regionally outside of London as part of our outreach and engagement work. All were collaboratively delivered alongside a number of key partners with two being hosted online. Approximately 450 delegates have attended from a range of different sectors helping to focus and raise understanding around key sentencing issues. Areas that have been covered at our events have included artificial intelligence, deferred sentencing, whole life orders, the sentencing of pregnant defendants, sentencing young adults and sentencing offences involving violence against women and girls, evidencing the broad impact and application that sentencing has.

## Sentencing Academy

### 5. Influence and inform policy and decision makers.

Our primary function is to conduct and commission, and disseminate, research to inform policy makers around effective sentencing practices. It also enables us to share and make accessible expert knowledge to sentencers, practitioners and the public to help improve and increase understanding and awareness. We specialise in all types of research relating to sentencing issues, including qualitative, quantitative, and experimental research, literature, and other evaluative reviews. We are dedicated to the production and dissemination of research, staffed by people with substantial experience in sentencing matters and supplement this by working with colleagues across academia and the research community to draw upon their expertise. Across the last 12 months we have published five Issues Papers covering sentencing mentally disordered offenders, deferred sentencing, fines, sentencing historic offences, and pre-sentence reports alongside a research project looking in more depth at deferred sentencing, and also an examination of the Sentencing Council's guidance when sentencing offenders from an ethnic minority background.

This key area of activity has enabled us to work with eight specialist researchers in the field, distributing their findings and opinion to inform an evidence based approach. Our bimonthly newsletter has provided us with a useful platform to share our research findings, related reports, updates, and developments in the field with subscribers who have doubled in number this year.

We continue to strategically influence and take part in policy discussions and debates. We hosted an academic roundtable for the Sentencing Council to inform their consultation on a revised Totality guideline and our Executive Director was an invited speaker at the Victims Summit organised by the London Victims' Commissioner.

At the Parliamentary level, we work closely with the House of Commons Justice Committee, including co-hosting an academic roundtable at Parliament in December 2022 as part of their ongoing inquiry into public opinion and understanding of sentencing and participating in their public dialogue sessions in February/March 2023. Politicians from all sides continue to consult the charity, tapping into our expertise and evidence as a reliable and trusted central knowledge hub for sentencing.

An internal Communications Group, established this year, has provided a valuable steer and an opportunity to explore and discuss the challenges and risks involved as we develop and grow our communications work. The group has adopted a strategic approach, looking across the organisation to better understand and align key messages to ensure that we are consistent, are informed by the values of the charity and are aware of the impact of our work in this area.

## **Sentencing Academy**

### **Financial review**

A strong financial performance for 2022/23 reflects the efficient and effective management of the charity supported by clear procedures and processes that support delivery. The reporting and recording of the management accounts has been overhauled, providing additional financial information to support the scrutiny and overview functions of the Board and Directors.

The surplus at the year-end is £84,877 with income received of £222,500 against the total expenditure of £137,623 demonstrating value for money given the achievements delivered in the year and reflects a lean staffing and overhead cost.

### **The charity's policy on reserves**

The charity has approved and implemented a reserves policy that has been shaped and developed in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission and informs the financial management of the organisation. The secure financial position at the end of this year, coupled with limited expenditure and overhead exposure, have enabled the organisation to manage risk and effectively use the policy to help protect the funds of the charity.

### **Financial risks**

The same financial risks as were outlined last year continue moving forward around prioritising income diversification, securing multi-year funding from a broad range of sources including developing income generation activities to help sustain and support the growth plans of the organisation.

External factors such as the current economic crisis impact upon the availability of funding and the level of competition and demand. The budget for 2023/24 supports the activities and priorities below and is fully funded, which is pleasing to note, minimising financial risks and exposure of the charity in the new financial year.

All risks, including existing and new emerging financial risks are captured and monitored by Directors on a monthly basis to help monitor, mitigate, and manage this area of the organisation.

### **Plans for future periods**

The following proposed outputs align with the key objectives agreed in the draft Business Plan and will inform our delivery in 2023/24 alongside other day to day activities:

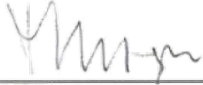
- Two large research projects looking at perceptions and knowledge of children on sentencing and work towards deferred sentencing focused upon women offenders.
- Delivery of three events including an event in Wales looking at contemporary issues in sentencing.
- Implementation of the Effective Sentencing workstream and commencing work on the design of an Effective Sentencing Toolkit in collaboration with key partners and stakeholders.

## Sentencing Academy

- Complete registration of the Research and Insight Crown Commercial Services procurement framework.
- Explore and secure grant/trust funding or contract/commissioning as part of our income diversification commitment, exploring opportunities to develop income generating activities.
- Expand engagement work with the public contributing to improved understanding and awareness around sentencing.
- Complete and use the Governance code self-assessment and associated actions as a tool for continuous improvement.
- Review and revise the charity's strategic and operational commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Strengthen existing partnerships, evolving collaborations, and exploring new connections to support the future sustainability of the charity particularly in our new Effective Sentencing workstream.
- Draft and deliver a Communications Strategy and three year Business Plan as our road map for the charity.
- Production of a range of additional Issues Papers.
- Develop and deliver Research Sounding Board knowledge exchange meetings acting as a hub for the sentencing research community.
- Complete Cyber Essentials certification and Carbon Reduction Plan.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed



John Michael Hough, Trustee

Date 20/11/23

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Sentencing Academy  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

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

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the 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 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 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.

Signed  Date 20/11/23  
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE  
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

**Sentencing Academy  
Receipts & payments account  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

2022			2023
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted
Funds		Funds	Funds
£	Note	£	£
£		£	£
	<b>Receipts</b>		
94998	Grants & donations	203500	-
-	Fees	19000	-
<u>94998</u>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<u>222500</u>	<u>-</u>
	<b>Payments</b>		
415	Advertising & marketing	1044	-
65	Affiliations	562	-
39280	Consultancy	64162	-
699	Equipment	-	-
8108	General & direct expenses	11102	-
239	Insurance	384	-
813	IT	852	-
87	Memberships	-	-
896	Professional fees	774	-
28159	Salaries, NI & pensions	58211	-
-	Entertaining	256	-
-	Training	276	-
<u>393</u>	Travel	-	-
<u>79154</u>	<b>Total payments</b>	<u>137623</u>	<u>-</u>
15844	<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	84877	-
<u>150776</u>	Cash funds at start of this period	<u>166550</u>	<u>70</u>
<u>166620</u>	<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>	<u>251427</u>	<u>251497</u>

**Sentencing Academy  
Statement of assets and liabilities  
at 31 March 2023**

2022			2023
£		Note	£
<u>166620</u>	<b>Cash assets</b>		
<u>166620</u>	Bank accounts		<u>251497</u>
			<u><b>251497</b></u>
	<b>Other monetary assets</b>		
<u>154</u>	Prepayment - Insurance		<u>192</u>
<u>154</u>			<u><b>192</b></u>
	<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		
	General equipment.		
	Computer equipment purchased 2019, £2,238.		
	Laptop purchased 2022, £699.		
	<b>Liabilities</b>		
<u>(773)</u>	Creditors	4	<u>(908)</u>
<u>(773)</u>			<u><b>(908)</b></u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed  Date 20/11/23  
John Michael Hough, Trustee

**Sentencing Academy  
Notes to the accounts  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

**2. Grants & donations**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Dawes Trust	203000	-	203000
Barrow Cadbury Trust	<u>500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>500</u>
	<b><u>203500</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>203500</u></b>

**3. Funds analysis**

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Closing balance £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Deferred Sentencing	<u>70</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70</u>
	<b><u>70</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>70</u></b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	<u>166550</u>	<u>222500</u>	<u>(137623)</u>	<u>251427</u>
	<b><u>166550</u></b>	<b><u>222500</u></b>	<b><u>(137623)</u></b>	<b><u>251427</u></b>

The specific purposes for which the restricted funds are to be applied are as follows:

Deferred Sentencing – to examine deferred sentencing regarding its current applicability for young adults through literature research and a case law review.

**4. Creditors**

	£
Salaries, NI & pension (pension)	236
Professional fees (IE fee)	<u>672</u>
	<b><u>908</u></b>

**5. Trustees' remuneration**

During this period, a total of £358.38 was reimbursed to 3 trustees for travel expenses incurred.

## Sentencing Academy

### 6. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in this period.

### 7. Glossary of terms

**Creditors:** These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

**Prepayments:** These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

**Restricted funds:** These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

**SENTENCING ACADEMY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183958

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# Accounts

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**Sentencing Academy**  
(Registered charity, number 1183958)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

<b>Page</b>	<b>Contents</b>
2 - 5	Trustees' annual report
6	Independent examiner's report
7	Receipts & payments account
8	Statement of assets & liabilities
9 - 10	Notes to the accounts

**Sentencing Academy  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

**Full name** Sentencing Academy

**Organisation type** Charitable incorporated organisation

**Registered charity number** 1183958

**Principal address**

Bentham House, 4-8 Endsleigh Gardens, London, WC1H 0EG

**Trustees**

John Michael Hough, Chair

Ian Peter Brownhill

Hannah Sian Quirk

Umar Malik Al Azmeh

Bethany Currie, from 16/02/22

Orla Claire Myatt, from 16/02/22

Gregor Donaldson, from 16/02/22

Nicola Margaret Padfield, until 15/12/21

Ceryl Marsh, until 17/07/22

**Independent examiner**

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

**Governance and management**

The charity is operated under the rules of its CIO Foundation adopted 18 June 2019.

The Dawes Trust nominate one trustee for the duration of our funding agreement and the other founding trustees were selected for their relevant expertise in our subject area. Subsequently, new trustees have been appointed after an open competition with vacancies advertised on the Sentencing Academy's website and on the CharityJob website.

**Objectives and activities**

1. To promote the prevention of crime and the rehabilitation of offenders for the benefit of the public by promoting efficient and effective sentencing practices, including in particular (but without limitation) by conducting and promoting research into effective sentencing practices for offenders in England and Wales and publishing the useful results of such research.
2. To advance education on the subject of the sentencing of offenders for the benefit of the public, and to conduct and promote research for the public benefit in all aspects of that subject and to publish the useful results of such research.

## **Sentencing Academy**

### **Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

We conduct and commission research into sentencing in England and Wales. We respond to consultations on draft sentencing guidelines with a view to improving these guidelines and engage in the policy-making process when opportunities arise. We use social media and our website to communicate with the public about sentencing issues and we also hold events that are available to the public.

Through responding fully to consultations on sentencing issues and engaging directly with the policy-making process we help shape sentencing policy and practice in a way that promotes the prevention of crime and efficient and effective sentencing practices. We conduct and commission research on sentencing issues which can further contribute to the prevention of crime through improved sentencing practices and this research also advances education on sentencing. Through our website, use of social media and bi-monthly newsletter, as well as the hosting of events that are open to all, we make this knowledge available to the public free of charge and in an accessible manner.

### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

### **Summary of the main achievements during the period**

The publication of research has remained one of our key activities and we are grateful to colleagues across the research community whose work underpins our research output. Our most substantial publication during this period explored public knowledge of sentencing practice and trends, based on original polling we commissioned. We have also published reports on a range of sentencing issues: Ethnicity and Custodial Sentencing, Suspended Sentence Orders, Respect and Legitimacy at Sentencing, Defendants' Understanding of Sentencing, Intoxication and Sentencing, and Sentencing Domestic Abuse. Our bi-monthly newsletter provides regular updates on sentencing developments and we endeavour to make our outputs as accessible as possible to a wide audience.

During this period, we have undertaken two externally-funded research projects: a report on the use of deferred sentencing which was kindly supported by the Barrow Cadbury Trust and a literature review on mental health and sentencing for the Scottish Sentencing Council.

We have continued to engage with stakeholders across the criminal justice system with a view to furthering our aim to improve sentencing practice in England and Wales. This has included providing responses to Sentencing Council consultations and House of Commons Justice Committee inquiries and also participating in Select Committee evidence sessions. Working with other third sector organisations we sought to advance amendments to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill during its passage through Parliament and we assisted the Bishop of Gloucester in organising an online seminar for members of the House of Lords in preparation for the Bill reaching the Lords.

## **Sentencing Academy**

We work to increase research and scholarship in sentencing, primarily through participation in internship schemes in conjunction with the Kalisher Trust and the Oxford Centre for Criminology. We have also initiated a thesis prize to recognise research produced by postgraduate students.

### **Financial review**

COVID restrictions have impacted upon the expenditure of the organisation, its delivery and development plans. Reduced and remote operations have resulted in unspent income greater than what was anticipated at the end of this year. This does however positively support delivery and increased activity plans for 2022/23, new opportunities and planned growth. Moving forward the new remote ways of working will continue to be adopted which will have a positive cost benefit in the new financial year.

The surplus made at the year end is £15,844 with income received of £94,998 against a total expenditure of £79,154 demonstrating value for money given the achievements delivered in the year and reflects a lean staffing and overhead cost.

### **The charity's policy on reserves**

The secure financial position at the end of this year; limited expenditure and overhead exposure have reduced the risk and requirement for a reserves policy. However, we have recognised the fluctuating nature of the external operating environment and will be developing a reserves policy in the next financial year to reflect the change and risk.

### **Financial risks**

We have identified, moving forward, the need to prioritise income diversification, securing multi year funding from a broad range of sources including developing income generation activities to help sustain and the grow the organisation. This will be one of our key strategic objectives in the new financial year enabling us to effectively manage and control this risk.

### **Plans for future periods**

Looking ahead a number of key developments and objectives have been agreed by Directors as part of an interim strategic plan for 2022-23 and are as follows:

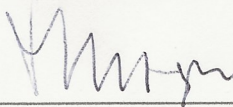
- Strengthen and develop the infrastructure of the charity to underpin and support future growth by Employing a Head of Operations to deliver against this.
- Develop initiatives such as a formal Advisers group harnessing external expertise to collaboratively achieve more ethical, efficient and effective sentencing practices.
- Devise and implement a new Communications and Marketing Strategy enhancing how we share our work externally alongside the launch of a new website and as part of our digital transformation plans.
- Expand the reach and engagement ability of the charity by hosting regional events across England and Wales, sharing sentencing research, data and findings with keynote speakers to improve public understanding and connection with practitioners, academics and researchers in the field.

## Sentencing Academy

- Review the purpose, mission and strategic objectives of the business in response to changing operating environments to help sustain and grow the charity across the next three years.
- Diversify income streams developing new funding relationships and opportunities around commissioning, contracts and future collaborations alongside income generating activities.
- Formalise research and practitioner opportunities to act as a sounding board informing planned targeted pieces of research in response to gaps and demand.
- Grow and develop links and contacts with the judiciary to better understand their needs and how our expertise and evidence led approach might be positioned to address.
- Create a model for a centre of excellence focused upon effective sentencing exploring inclusion of parole and probation, providing independent information about the effectiveness of sanctions, and the sentencing process more broadly, contributing to a more cost-effective sentencing regime.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_



John Michael Hough, Trustee

Date \_\_\_\_\_

2/11/22

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Sentencing Academy  
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sentencing Academy (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the 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').

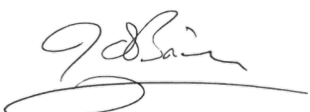
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**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 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.

Signed  Date 29/11/2022  
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE  
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

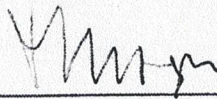
**Sentencing Academy  
Receipts & payments account  
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

2021			2022
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted
Funds		Funds	Funds
£	Note	£	£
£		£	£
	<b>Receipts</b>		
<u>87502</u>	Grants & donations	2 86498	8500
<u>87502</u>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b><u>86498</u></b>	<b><u>8500</u></b>
	<b>Payments</b>		
-	Advertising & marketing	415	-
65	Affiliations	65	-
36212	Consultancy	33630	5650
-	Equipment	699	-
2679	General expenses	7828	280
235	Insurance	239	-
818	IT	813	-
-	Memberships	87	-
862	Professional fees	896	-
31487	Salaries, NI & pensions	25659	2500
-	Travel	393	-
<u>72358</u>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b><u>70724</u></b>	<b><u>8430</u></b>
15144	<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	15774	70
<u>135632</u>	Cash funds at start of this period	<u>150776</u>	-
<u>150776</u>	<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>	<b><u>166550</u></b>	<b><u>70</u></b>
		<b><u>166620</u></b>	

**Sentencing Academy  
Statement of assets and liabilities  
at 31 March 2022**

2021			2022
£		Note	£
	<b>Cash assets</b>		
150776	Bank accounts		166620
<u>150776</u>			<u>166620</u>
	<b>Other monetary assets</b>		
176	Prepayment - Insurance		154
<u>176</u>			<u>154</u>
	<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		
	General equipment.		
	Computer equipment purchased 2019, £2,238.		
	Laptop purchased 2022, £699.		
	<b>Liabilities</b>		
(752)	Creditors	4	(773)
<u>(752)</u>			<u>(773)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed  Date 2/11/22  
John Michael Hough, Trustee

**Sentencing Academy**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

**2. Grants & donations**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Dawes Trust	86498	-	86498
Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	8500	8500
	<b>86498</b>	<b>8500</b>	<b>94998</b>

**3. Funds analysis**

	Opening balance £	Receipts (Payments) £		Closing balance £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Deferred Sentencing	-	8500	(8430)	70
	-	<b>8500</b>	<b>(8430)</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	150776	86498	(70724)	166550
	<b>150776</b>	<b>86498</b>	<b>(70724)</b>	<b>166550</b>

The specific purposes for which the restricted funds are to be applied are as follows:

Deferred Sentencing – to examine deferred sentencing regarding its current applicability for young adults through literature research and a case law review.

**4. Creditors**

	£
Salaries, NI & pension (pension)	137
Professional fees (IE fee)	636
	<b>773</b>

**5. Trustees' remuneration**

During this period, a total of £23 was reimbursed to 1 trustee for travel expenses incurred.

## Sentencing Academy

### 6. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in this period.

### 7. Glossary of terms

**Creditors:** These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

**Prepayments:** These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

**Restricted funds:** These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

**SENTENCING ACADEMY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183958

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# Accounts

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**Sentencing Academy**  
(Registered charity, number 1183958)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2021**

<b>Page</b>	<b>Contents</b>
2 - 3	Trustees' annual report
4	Independent examiner's report
5	Receipts & payments account
6	Statement of assets & liabilities
7	Notes to the accounts



**Sentencing Academy  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

**Full name** Sentencing Academy

**Organisation type** Charitable incorporated organisation

**Registered charity number** 1183958

**Principal address**

Bentham House, 4-8 Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0EG

**Trustees**

Ian Brownhill

Umar Azmeh

Professor Nicola Padfield

Dr Hannah Quirk

John Michael Hough

**Independent examiner**

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

**Governance and management**

The charity is operated under the rules of its CIO Foundation adopted 18/6/2019

The Dawes Trust nominate one trustee for the duration of our funding agreement and the other trustees were selected for their relevant expertise in our subject area. We have yet to recruit any additional trustees beyond these five initially-appointed trustees.

**Objectives and activities**

To promote the prevention of crime and the rehabilitation of offenders for the benefit of the public by promoting efficient and effective sentencing practices, including in particular (but without limitation) by conducting and promoting research into effective sentencing practices for offenders in England and Wales and publishing the useful results of such research.

To advance education on the subject of the sentencing of offenders for the benefit of the public and to conduct and promote research for the public benefit in all aspects of that subject and to publish the useful results of such research.

**Public benefit statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

We conduct and commission research into sentencing in England and Wales. We respond to consultations on draft sentencing guidelines with a view to improving these guidelines. We use social media and our website to communicate with the public about sentencing issues and we also hold events that are available to the public.

## Sentencing Academy

### Summary of the main achievements during the period

During this period we began publishing papers in our Issues paper series which are designed to provide a state-of-the-art overview of various aspects of sentencing in England and Wales. This series began with the publication of papers examining the following topics: Victim Personal Statements; Guilty Pleas; Effectiveness of Sentencing Options; Out of Court Disposals; and Community Orders. All of these papers are free to access and are available on our website.

In addition to our larger publications, we have provided shorter commentaries on topical issues, such as an examination of sentencing options for courts during a period of pandemic. We have also launched a monthly newsletter and used social media to reach a wider audience.

We have sought to provide scrutiny of the Government's sentencing proposals first contained in the September 2020 White Paper, A Smarter Approach to Sentencing, which have subsequently been included in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. Following the publication of the White Paper we co-hosted an online event with the UCL Centre for Criminal Law which discussed the proposals and we have actively engaged with the Parliamentary process since the publication of this Bill. We have further attempted to shape sentencing practice through our responses to Sentencing Council consultations.

We continue to attend events organised by stakeholders across the criminal justice system and we seek to work collaboratively with other organisations where this may help further our charitable objectives. We have participated in an internship programme organised by the Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford and also instigated a Fellowship Scheme, supporting two Fellows to complete an independent piece of sentencing research.

### The charity's policy on reserves

At present we do not have a policy on reserves due to our secure funding stream from the Dawes Trust. A policy on reserves will be developed in due course but our secure income combined with limited expenditure has meant that we have not considered this to be an urgent priority. This is particularly the case as the Dawes Trust is keen for us to utilise our grant for our charitable activities rather than use it to build up reserves.

### Financial review

The Sentencing Academy is in a secure financial position at the end of this reporting period due to a combination of three years of unrestricted funding from the Dawes Trust and relatively low overhead costs. At the end of this reporting period we had remaining funds in our bank account of £150,776.84 to last through to our next tranche of funding from the Dawes Trust on 1 November 2021.

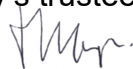
### Risks

The only financial risk we face in the foreseeable future would be if the Dawes Trust was not able to provide the agreed funding but we do not see that as a realistic possibility as the funding has already been allocated to the Sentencing Academy.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

John Michael Hough, Trustee



Date 2 Dec 2021

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Sentencing Academy  
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sentencing Academy (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the 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 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 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.

Signed  Date 8/12/2021  
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE  
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

**Sentencing Academy  
Receipts & payments account  
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

2020		2021
£		£
	<b>Receipts</b>	
<u>176050</u>	Grants Dawes Trust	<u>87502</u>
<u>176050</u>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b><u>87502</u></b>
	<b>Payments</b>	
18953	Wages, NI & pension	31487
1114	Professional fees	862
11614	Consultancy	36212
100	Events	-
43	Affiliations	65
115	General expenses	2679
4257	Web design	-
290	Insurance	235
234	IT	818
175	Advertising & marketing	-
2779	Equipment	-
744	Travel	-
<u>40418</u>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b><u>72358</u></b>
135632	<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>15144</b>
<u>-</u>	Cash funds at start of this period	<u>135632</u>
<u>135632</u>	<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>	<b><u>150776</u></b>

**Sentencing Academy  
Statement of assets and liabilities  
at 31 March 2021**

2020		Note	2021
£	<b>Cash assets</b>		£
135632	Bank accounts		150776
<u>135632</u>			<u>150776</u>
	<b>Other monetary assets</b>		
155	Prepayments	2	176
<u>155</u>			<u>176</u>
	<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		
	General equipment.		
	Computer equipment £2,238 purchased in 2019		
	<b>Liabilities</b>		
(1465)	Creditors	3	(752)
<u>(1465)</u>			<u>(752)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed Hannah Quirk Dated 07/12/2021  
 Dr Hannah Quirk, Trustee

**Sentencing Academy**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2021**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

**2. Prepayments**

	£
Insurance	176
	<u>176</u>

**3. Creditors**

	£
Pensions	128
Independent examination	624
	<u>752</u>

**4. Trustees' remuneration**

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

**5. Related party transactions**

There were no related party transactions during the year.

**6. Glossary of terms**

**Creditors:** These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

**Prepayments:** These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.