



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

**From** January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024  
**Period end date**

**Period start date To** 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

**Charity name:** Brighton Exiled/Refugee Trauma Service

**Charity registration number:**

**Objectives and Activities**

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Brighton Exiled/Refugee Trauma Services (BERTS) is a dedicated trauma service, for refugees, asylum seekers and destitute migrants in Sussex. It is a purely voluntary service run for the benefit of the community. We offer free specialist Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, EMDR, trauma counselling and psychotherapy to local people to help them come to terms with their relocation in the UK.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Mental health treatment and support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General Charitable Purposes</li><li>• The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives</li><li>• The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty</li><li>• Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity</li></ul>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Yes

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Clinical Director is responsible for this activity with advice and support from Trustees
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A

Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

### **Achievements and Performance**

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	See annual report

### **Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	

Other		
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## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Completed by Treasurer (chartered accountant) and audited by external/independent chartered accountant
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves are held because funding is precarious from year to year
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Reserves at year end 31/12/24 = £31,921.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

## Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Grants from local authority, partnerships with other third sector organisations, NHS grants.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Lack of funds for operational costs
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Charity Commission CIO
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Election, discussion and agreement with existing Trustees

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

### Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Brighton Exiled/Refugee Trauma Service
Other name the charity uses	BERTS
Registered charity number	<b>1188586</b>
Charity's principal address	Brighton Exiled/Refugee Trauma Service BERTS C/O COMMUNITY BASE 113 QUEENS ROAD BRIGHTON BN1 3XG

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office (if any)</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	<b>Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)</b>
1	Sally Munt	Clinical Director and Trustee	2020-onwards	
2	Colin Blowers	Chair	2020-onwards	
3	Reem Abushawareb	Trustee	2020-onwards	
4	Tessa Axelrod	Trustee	2020-onwards	
5	Mehran Toroghi	Trustee	appointed August 2025	
6	Lizzy West	Former Trustee: Withdrawn June 2025 due to personal reasons	2023-onwards	
7				
8				

**Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved**

<b>Director name</b>		
N/A		

**Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity**

<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	
N/A		

**Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others**

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

**Additional information (optional)****Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
<b>GP Advisor</b>	<b>DR Hannah Gould-Brown</b>	NHS St Peters Medical Practice, Brighton
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Lewis	151 Huddersfield Road Holmfirth W Yorkshire HD9 3TP
<b>Clinical Supervisor</b>	Vicki Lidbetter	NHS West Sussex, Time to Talk Mental Health Service

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

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**Exemptions from disclosure**

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

**Working with asylum seekers incurs personal risk from Far Right organisations who are well organised. We do not divulge personal details of Trustees or volunteers for this reason.**

**Other optional information**

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## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

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Full name(s)

Colin Michael Blowers

Colin Michael Blowers	
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Position (eg Secretary,  
Chair, etc)

Acting Chair of Trustees

Acting Chair of Trustees	
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Date

10 Sept 2025

10 Sept 2025
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**BRIGHTON EXILED/REFUGEE TRAUMA SERVICE (BERTS)**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Income</b>	£	£
Grants	31,090	-
Donations received	550	50
<b>Total income</b>	<b>31,640</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Insurance	247	247
DBS checks	50	50
Therapist fees	5,305	12,900
CEO Fees	6,000	6,000
Administration staff cost	3,670	3,830
Office expenses	1,177	577
Sim card for vulnerable client	-	252
Client support costs	829	998
Resources	180	179
Training	-	(395)
Fixed asset depreciation	154	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>17,612</b>	<b>24,638</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>14,028</b>	<b>-24,588</b>

**BALANCE SHEET at 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Assets</b>	£	£
Cash at bank	31,611	17,893
Fixed assets	310	
	<b>31,921</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>		
General fund	31,921	17,893

<b><u>Fixed assets</u></b>	(write off over 3 years)	Cost	Dep'n	NBV
Printer	2024	379	126	253
External HD	2024	85	28	57
		<b>464</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>310</b>



# Independent examiner's report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of BRIGHTON EXILED REFUGEE TRAUMA SERVICES (BERTS)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Brighton Exiled Refugee Trauma Services (BERTS) ("The Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2024.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Trust'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.

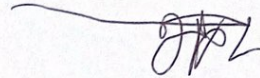
## Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust 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:



Tom Atkins

52 Bates Road

Brighton  
BN16 6G

6 September 2025