



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 6th April 2023 Period start date To 5th April 2024 Period end date

Charity name: Dress It Forward

Charity registration number: 1189810

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The relief of financial hardship among disadvantaged and impoverished individuals living in South Africa by providing such persons with formal clothing (including but not limited to outfits for graduation celebrations or job interviews) which they could not otherwise afford. The prevention or alleviation of poverty either generally or individually, of people living in South Africa, by providing: grants and services to charities, or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.
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	The charity sources and collects donations of second-hand, formal clothing (especially prom dresses and suits) from within the UK. Using partner organisations it then distributes this clothing to disadvantaged and impoverished individuals living in South Africa, allowing these individuals to attend their high school graduation ceremonies and so inspiring the next generation of pupils. During the financial year 2023 to 2024, the charity continued to fundraise to replenish funds following its first two years that had been significantly negatively impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. More expenses were incurred and we were able to give grants to the charity Dress It Forward SA in

		order to fulfil our objectives.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The charity supports and benefits those living in poverty or facing financial hardship, especially but not limited to, graduating high school students. We rely on trusted partner organisations (i.e. the South African registered non-profit organisation 'Dress It Forward SA') to manage the donations once they arrive in South Africa and distribute them to the appropriate recipients. We do not means test the individuals who receive our donations but instead operate on a trust basis in terms of assessing financial hardship. We target poor communities and schools with a high level of students living in poverty and therefore ensure that the clothing reaches those who need it most. To qualify for clothing, students must be in Grade 12 in the year that they choose their outfit. They also need to provide a copy of their ID and proof that they are in matric (the final two years of high school). This could be either their latest school report or a letter from the school confirming their attendance. Other non-student recipients of clothing (e.g. those in need of clothing for job interviews, weddings or other church services) will be referred direct to us from other organisations or individuals who will testify to their need on a case by case basis. We have found this to be a successful way of operating. The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	The charity provides grants to charities and organisations in South Africa share our objectives and can carry out this work on our behalf, i.e. those who can administer and manage our donations of clothing once they have arrived in South Africa. The

		charity has an already established working relationship with the South African registered NGO 'Dress It Forward SA' but may also use other organisations that have been approved by our trustees.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	All the charity's activities are undertaken by volunteers, there are no paid staff.
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	Trustee Annual Report Year: 2023–2024 Summary of Achievements During the financial year 2023–2024, Dress It Forward (DIF) made significant strides in both our local and international activities, positively impacting the lives of our beneficiaries in South Africa and strengthening our connections in the UK and beyond.

		Key Achievements 1. Expanding Our Reach ○ This year, DIF gained a volunteer representative in the United States, enabling the collection of dresses from a new region. These donations are shipped directly to South Africa, increasing the diversity and quantity of outfits available to disadvantaged students. Notably, this expansion incurs no additional financial overhead for the charity. 2. Community Engagement and Fundraising ○ Our annual quiz night and the Bath Half Marathon fundraiser proved highly successful. These events collectively raised substantial funds, contributing significantly to our operational budget. The Bath Half Marathon was particularly impactful, with a dedicated full-time volunteer overseeing the event, easing pressure on trustees and boosting event efficiency. ○ With these successful events, we have established a reliable and repeatable income stream, ensuring financial sustainability. 3. Strengthening Operations in South Africa ○ The South African NGO, Dress It Forward SA (DIFSA), who we have given grants to with the remit of achieving our own charity's objectives, achieved a milestone by
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		securing dedicated premises and employing a full-time staff member. This development has enhanced their operational capacity, allowing for the distribution of over 620 outfits this year—a record-breaking achievement. ○ These outfits provided a lifeline to many families, covering 80% of the matric class at one high school. As DIFSA grows in reputation, their ability to support communities continues to expand. 4. Promotional Efforts and Educational Outreach ○ We launched targeted school talks in the UK, reaching new audiences and fostering partnerships. Schools such as St Laurence in Bradford-on-Avon have demonstrated enthusiasm for supporting our mission, with plans to act as key sponsors moving forward. ○ A unique tagging system was introduced to track individual donations from the UK to recipients in South Africa, ensuring transparency and enhancing donor satisfaction. 5. Leveraging Media and Social Platforms ○ This year, we worked with a professional editor to create short video clips from our documentary footage. These engaging 15-second clips are now being shared on social media to increase visibility, inspire new supporters, and attract
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		donations. Impact on Beneficiaries and Society • For the beneficiaries in South Africa, a donated dress or suit means far more than an outfit. It symbolises hope, achievement, and a brighter future. Attending the matric dance is a profound milestone for students in the Cape Flats and other disadvantaged communities, showcasing their determination to overcome significant socioeconomic challenges. • By alleviating the financial burden on families, DIFSA enables these students to celebrate their hard-earned success without incurring further hardship. The ripple effect is profound: younger community members witness these celebrations and are inspired to remain in school despite the obstacles of poverty, gangsterism, and teen pregnancy. Environmental Benefits • Through our work, DIF contributes to the reduction of textile waste. In line with WRAP’s statistics, our efforts prevent significant volumes of clothing from ending up in UK landfills, aligning with broader sustainability goals. Next Steps Moving forward, we aim to address challenges such as transport logistics in South Africa and security at DIFSA’s new premises. We are also exploring opportunities for expanding our reach into rural areas, where access to resources is even more limited. In conclusion, 2023–2024 was a year of rebuilding, innovation, and impact. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, supporters, and partners, DIF continues to empower young South Africans, one dress
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		at a time.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	Our objectives were to establish a premises this year in South Africa and we did this and managed to employ a part-time member of staff in addition (via DIFSA).
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	We raised a total of £9028 this financial year which surpassed our objective to raise £6000 to enable us to open a premises in South Africa.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity had funds of £??? at the end of the financial year
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The charity intends to hold in reserve funds equivalent to four months operating costs, to cover unforeseen costs, uncertainties about inflation and possible shortfalls in expected income.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£0
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	The charity's income is currently too low to be able to hold reserves, but in future, it is the intention for the charity to hold in reserve funds equivalent to four months operating costs, to cover unforeseen costs, uncertainties about inflation and possible shortfalls in expected income.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

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	The charity's principal sources of funding were donations from individuals via sponsorship, fund-raising events and legacy donations: 64% of our income came from individual sporting sponsorships 15% of our income came from a single legacy donation 15% of our income came from one fundraising event 6% of our income came from corporate sponsorship

Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The uncertainties about future inflation may mean that the running costs of the premises in South Africa that we fund through grants to 'Dress It Forward SA' become higher than the charity has budgeted for. The prolonged "cost of living crisis" may lead to lower donations than the charity has budgeted for.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
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	All trustees are appointed by the members. There are no ex-officio or nominated 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	Dress It Forward
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1189810
Charity's principal address	17 Pulteney Gardens Bath BA2 4HG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

		Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
	1	Georgina Short	Chair		
	2	Sharon Jelf	Treasurer		
	3	Alexandra Ensom			
	4	Tine Stapelfeldt			
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	20				

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

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

	Type of adviser	Name	Address
	Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)		

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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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)		
	Full name(s)	Georgina Short	Sharon Jelf
	Position (eg	Chair	
	Secretary, Chair, etc)		
	Date		



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Dress it Forward

1189810

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

4/6/2023

To

05/04/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
		-	-	-	-
Bath Half Marathon Donation	7,243	-	-	7,243	-
Quiz Ticket Sales	1,715	-	-	1,715	-
other income - easy fundraising	70	-	-	70	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	9,028	-	-	9,028	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	9,028	-	-	9,028	-
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Donations to South Africa	7,600	-	-	7,600	-
Advertising	1,308	-	-	1,308	-
Shipping	120	-	-	120	-
Printing & computer costs	330	-	-	330	-
Bank/Finance charges	47	-	-	47	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	9,405	-	-	9,405	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	9,405	-	-	9,405	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 377	-	-	- 377	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	8,274	-	-	8,274	-
Cash funds this year end	7,897	-	-	7,897	-

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	-	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	