



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 6th April 2024 Period start date To 5th April 2025 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 2024 to 2025, the charity continued to fundraise and grow on the foundations of the previous year, which had seen us emerging from the impact of the COVID pandemic. With fewer overhead expenses this year, we were able to give grants to our South African partner organisation. We believe we are now on an

		upward trajectory in terms of fundraising, reach, and long-term impact.
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: 2024–2025 Summary of Achievements During the financial year 2024–2025, Dress It Forward continued to build on the momentum of the previous year. Our work reached more beneficiaries than ever before, and we strengthened our operations both locally and in South Africa. Key Achievements

		● Major Donations: We received substantial clothing donations from our US-based representative. ● New School Partnerships: We gained a new UK school supporter, Prior Park College, which is now collecting on our behalf, adding to our growing network of supporting schools. ● Fundraising Events: Our annual Quiz Night and participation in the Bath Half Marathon remained highly successful. These events have become well-established and sustainable income streams, with high local engagement and recognition. ● Public Recognition: Our visibility within the local community has increased significantly. We are now a recognised name at the Bath Half, with many participants approaching <i>us</i> directly to run on our behalf — reducing recruitment costs and efforts. ● School Engagement: We expanded our school outreach efforts: ○ Re-established a meaningful connection with Royal High School Bath, delivering a talk on the charity's origins and ongoing work. ○ Strengthened ties with St Lawrence School, Bradford-on-Avon, where we delivered additional talks and received new support. ● Progress in South Africa: The South African NGO, Dress It Forward SA, was able to sustain and grow its team. The tagging and tracking system for donated outfits continues to prove effective, and we've begun providing feedback to donors showing where their donations were used — a major milestone in transparency and impact tracking. ● Social Media Growth: A dedicated social media volunteer
--	--	--

		helped develop our presence on Instagram and other platforms, increasing engagement and visibility. Video content and editorials have further supported outreach and awareness efforts. ● Local Partnerships: We established a new connection with Bath Rotary Club, who kindly awarded us a £500 grant to support our ongoing transport and logistics expansion goals — a key objective from the previous year. 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. ● The continued support of schools and the increased social media visibility have helped increase awareness of our work, encouraging empathy and engagement from young people in the UK. 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. Plans for the Future / Strategic Aims Transport Logistics: With funding secured, we will begin implementing our strategy to reach more remote and under-resourced areas of South Africa, overcoming one of our biggest logistical challenges. Capacity Building: We are now operating close to full capacity. Our business model is working efficiently, but we urgently require additional funding to scale further and meet demand. Continued Growth: Having stabilised and rebuilt after COVID, this year has been one of consolidation and scaling. Our focus in 2025–2026 will be to maintain that upward trajectory while refining our model for sustainability.
--	--	---

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		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity experienced continued income growth during 2024–2025, helped by sustained fundraising through repeat events and new donors. Our core fundraising events (Bath Half Marathon and quiz night) performed well again, and we saw significant donations from our international representatives. Our expenses were lower this year, enabling us to increase grant distribution to our South African partner. The Bath Rotary Club also awarded a £500 grant to support logistics expansion. • Total income: £6,319 • Total expenditure: £9,309 • Largest cost areas: Grant-making and Advertising & Promotion
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 made up as follows: 62% of our income came from individual sporting sponsorships 4% of our income came from Easyfundraising 23% of our income came from one fundraising event 4% of our income came from corporate sponsorship 8% of our income came from a grant donation
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 charity is currently operating at near full capacity in terms of volunteers, resources, and operational throughput. While demand for our services and donations has never been higher, our biggest risks include: • Limited volunteer capacity • Funding pressures • The logistical challenge of reaching more remote areas in South Africa We now have the model, demand, and public engagement to scale, but require greater and more consistent financial backing to do so sustainably.

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

		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			
	5				
	6				
	7				
	8				
	9				
	10				
	11				
	12				
	13				
	14				
	15				
	16				
	17				
	18				
	19				
	20				

[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

--

Other optional information

--

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
Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair	
-------	--

Date

--

Section A Receipts and payments

A1 Receipts

Bath Half Marathon Donation
Quiz Ticket Sales
Other Income

Sub total(Gross income for AR)

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).

Sub total

Total receipts

A3 Payments

Charitable Donations to South Africa
Advertising
Printing & computer costs

Sub total

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

Sub total

Total payments

Net of receipts/(payments)
A5 Transfers between funds
A6 Cash funds last year end
Cash funds this year end

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

Categories

B1 Cash funds

B2 Other monetary assets

B3 Investment assets

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

B5 Liabilities

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Dress it Forward

Receipts and payments accounts
For the period from

06/04/24

Unrestricted funds
to the nearest £

Restricted funds
to the nearest £

		-
	4167	-
	1462	-
	690	-
-		-
-		-
-		-
-		-
	6319	-
-		-
-		-
-		-
	6319	-
-		-
	8319	-
	440	-
	550	-
		-
		-
-		-
-		-
-		-
	9309	-
-		-
-		-
-		-
	9309	-
	-2990	-
-		-
	7898	-
	4908	-

Details

Total cash funds
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Details

Details

Details

Details

Signature

1189810

CC16a

To

05/04/25

Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
-	-	-
-	4167	-
-	1462	-
-	690	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	6319	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	6319	-
-	-	-
-	8319	-
-	440	-
-	550	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	9309	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	9309	-
-	-2990	-
-	-	-
-	7898	-
-	4908	-

Unrestricted funds
to nearest £

—
—
—
—

Agreement Error
Unrestricted funds
to nearest £

Fund to which asset belongs

Fund to which asset belongs

Fund to which liability relates

Print Name

Restricted funds
to nearest £

—
—
—
—

OK
Restricted funds
to nearest £

—
—
—
—
—
—

Cost (optional)

—
—
—
—
—

Cost (optional)

Amount due (optional)

—
—
—
—
—

Endowment funds
to nearest £

—

OK
Endowment funds
to nearest £

Current value (optional)

—
—
—
—
—

Current value (optional)

When due (optional)

Date of approval

