



Parrhesia Inc

ANNUAL REPORT

For the period ending 31 March 2022



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CHARITY INFORMATION

For the period ending 31 March 2022

Charity Overview

Registered Charity Name:	Parrhesia Inc
Charity Number:	1193561
Principal Office Address:	Park House East End Sheriff Hutton York YO60 6SX
Trustees:	Major General David McDowall CBE Rev Nicholas Mercer Sara Rowbotham MBE Martin Derek Bright Arpita Dutt Tracy Amanda Boylin David Dickson FCA Stuart Cotton Professor David Lewis

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the period ending 31 March 2022

Introduction

This is the first annual report for Parrhesia Inc (PI), a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (registered number 1193561). Parrhesia Inc is focussed on the practice, protection, and promotion of the human rights of whistleblowers in the UK, by producing high-level research that can be used by practitioners and policymakers alike.

The Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

- Major General David McDowall CBE
- Rev Nicholas Mercer
- Sara Rowbotham MBE
- Martin Derek Bright
- Arpita Dutt
- David Dickson FCA
- Stuart Cotton
- Professor David Lewis

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Trust Deed. Trustees meet quarterly, and all decisions are reached by agreement. The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. We are a new, charitable whistleblowing think-tank, emerging out of the research carried out by whistleblower practitioners and academics.

Background

Parrhesia is an Ancient Greek term meaning “to speak freely”, implying not only freedom of speech, but the obligation to speak the truth for the common good, even at great personal risk. It was viewed as a fundamental tenet of democracy. We believe that parrhesia is a fundamental part of a modern democracy; that without truth, transparency and accountability, democracy dies.

Those who speak truth-to-power have always faced consequences for it. Even today, those who speak-out about corruption, malpractice, incompetence, human trafficking and modern slavery, organised crime, and misconduct in public office, face severe consequences to their employment, health, finances, family, and reputation. This retaliation is usually deliberate, public, and meant to undermine, stigmatise and silence them – serving as a warning to others who might think of doing the same. We believe that those who speak in the spirit of parrhesia, the parrhesiastes, should be protected and those who attack them should be held to account and sanctioned.

What are we trying to achieve

The whistleblowing community-of-practice in the UK has a wealth of experience and expertise in protecting whistleblowers. However, this wealth of knowledge is fragmented, mostly uncoordinated, and suffers without an over-arching body that draws together researchers, NGOs, lawyers, policymakers, other charities, businesses, and those with lived experience. As a result, the wealth of knowledge in the section is more difficult to access than it needs to be; there is little in terms of a research and policy agenda; debate can be poorly informed, and best practice is not widely shared. What legislation the UK has to protect whistleblowers, is over twenty years old, and does not protect everyone who speaks up.

This means that the UK falls behind other countries in how it looks after those that try to do the right thing. We believe that policy and debate need to be better informed, by bringing together the different parts of the community and conducting research at the highest level.

In Parrhesia Inc, we are building an authoritative body of knowledge and evidence, through co-ordinated research on whistleblowers' human rights, to protect technical advice to government and others. We will monitor abuses of whistleblowers' human rights, contribute to the sound administration of the law, propose reform where there are demonstrable deficiencies, and comment on proposed legislation.

We will do this by being a facilitator: a forum for all those working in the field to come together and share best practice and ideas. We will work with others to reduce detriment, collaborate on projects, and seek consensus across the community of practice in order to further our collective purpose. Our own organisation is made up of the leading academics in the field of whistleblowing research; those at the forefront of professional work with whistleblowers; expert leaders of BGOs; parliamentarians and policy makers, and of course whistleblowers themselves.

To achieve this, we will initially focus on the following three aims:

- **Aim 1** to champion evidence-based policy making
- **Aim 2** to be the consensus builder among the community of practice: bringing people together
- **Aim 3** to be, and to be seen to be, the respected voice of research evidence.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are to promote the human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) of whistleblowers in the United Kingdom and in particular the right to freedom of expression by all or any of the following means:

- Monitoring abuses of whistleblowers' human rights
- Obtaining redress for abuses of whistleblowers' human rights and relieving need among the victims of such abuse
- Research into whistleblowers' human rights issues
- Providing technical advice to government and others on whistleblowers' human rights issues
- Contributing to the sound administration of the law relating to whistleblowers' human right
- Raising awareness of whistleblowers' human rights issues
- Promoting public support for whistleblowers' human rights issues
- Promoting respect for whistleblowers' human rights
- Eliminating infringements of whistleblowers' human rights

In furtherance of that object, but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power to engage in political activity provided that the trustees are satisfied that the proposed activities will further the purposes of the charity to an extent justified by the resources committed and the activity is not the dominant means by which the charity carried out its objects¹.

Activities to date – what we have achieved so far

Aim 1 – to champion evidence-based policy making

We have established PI as the co-ordinating body for access to Areas of Research Interest (ARI) into all aspects of whistleblowing. We have created an Academic Council consisting of the leading authorities in whistleblowing research to provide the mechanisms and focus through which independent academic research can be channelled to answer the key questions posed by policymakers. The Chair of PU's Academic Council is a recognised authority on both employment and whistleblowing law and a key member of our discussion group with government ministers and policy makers.

Together with Protect, the UK's leading whistleblowing charity, we have formulated and presented to policymakers a list of research priorities to provide the answers to identified gaps in their knowledge (a copy is attached to this application). We are now engaged in developing partnerships with various

¹ Founding Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Parrhesia Inc, November 2021, updated 31st July 2022.

universities, represented by members of the Academic Council, to gain joint funding to progress these research topics, whereby universities provide the academic research resource and PI provides the transition to policy development and a route to realise tangible outcomes to improve whistleblower protection.

Aim 2 – to be the consensus builder among the community of practice: bringing people together

Across the Academic Council, our Policy Advisory Group, and our trustees, we have participated in a wide range of seminars, closed roundtable discussions and consultancy with public and private organisations. We have created formal partnerships with other national and international NGOs and organisations working in the field (Protect, Whistleblower International Network (WIN), Government Accountability Project (GAP)).

Our Academic Council has met biannually to discuss current research trends and identify gaps in whistleblowing research out of which we have identified collective priorities for future research. We have also researched and constructed databases identifying firstly areas of support, ambivalence and potential opposition to legislative change across the UK national political spectrum, and secondly a comparative database identifying sources of potential funding aligned with the aims and objectives of potential funders who might support our future work.

We believe that the establishment of an independent statutory authority is urgently required to create a safe environment in which wrongdoing may be disclosed and to ensure that the rights of whistleblowers are protected, respected fulfilled. We have publicly supported the APPG on Whistleblowing, and their Secretariat (Whistleblowers UK) at the launch of a Bill proposing the establishment of the Independent Office of the Whistleblower. We have purposely included support for such an authority in our discussions with Ministers.

We are arranging a seminar for early 2023 at which we will show the new independent Human Rights film 'When We Speak' (nominated for best documentary at the Raindance Festival) and hold a public discussion with the director, members of the cast (Oxfam, #MeToo and GCHQ whistleblowers) and, hopefully, the Minister of State responsible for whistleblowing (Kevin Hollinrake MP, appointed Oct 2022).

Aim 3 – to be, and to be seen to be, the voice of authority and influence, the *thought leaders*, at the policy table

We have become a facilitator within the whistleblowing sector, creating a forum for those working in the field to come together and share best practice. We collaborate on projects and seek consensus across the community of practice in order to further our collective purpose. Significantly, we have partnered with Protect, the leading UK Whistleblowing charity, to present a co-ordinated initiative to Ministers in the relevant UK Government departments (BEIS and Home Office) with joint statements / proposals for reform in the short, medium, and long term effected by use of statutory instruments, ministerial directives and legislative reform. We have established very good relations with senior policymakers in both major departments (BEIS: Employment Matters and Home Office: Joint Anti-Corruption Unit (JACU)), and cross-party politicians in the All Party Parliamentary Groups for Whistleblowing, Fair Business Banking and Anti-Corruption and Responsible Tax. Most importantly, we have held collaborative talks with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the BEIS department, who is very supportive of our aims and with whom we have forthcoming discussions on a prioritised programme of measures for implementation within the timescale of the current government.

We have been approached by the Care Quality Commissions (CQC) to provide independent advice as part of a governance panel for an independent review into the handling of protected disclosures, as well as a wider review seeking input from people using and working in health and social care and from NHS employees.

Internationally, we have progressed networking relationships with the Whistleblower International Network (WIN), the International Whistleblowing Research Network (IWRN), the Government

Accountability Project (GAP) and Whistleblowers of America in the USE and the Whistleblower Canada Research Society. We have also been asked by the Department of Corruption Prevention and Detection in the Ukrainian Anti-corruption Agency to assist in formulating state policy on whistleblowing, enforcing such regulations within all state institutions and private companies and the provision of legal support and protection to whistleblowers. Their aspiration is to have an initial programme established by April 2023. We have invited BEIS and Protect to join with use in putting together a comprehensive collaborative response on policy development, procedural channels and therapeutic support requirements. We are seeking additional sources of funding (PRFU and OSF) to resource this endeavour. Our CFO has also been invited by the Council of Europe to train BGOs on whistleblowing in Kosovo and North Macedonia.

Structure, Governance and Management

PI is led by Ian Foxley as CEO with Wendy Addison as CFO. They are responsible for the work and for recruiting, managing, and supervising (subject to funding) of a Communications Officer, Website Manager, a Funding and Relationship Manager and a Research Assistant / Academic Council Secretary. Currently only the roles of CEO, CFO and Research Assistant / Academic Council Secretary are funded on a part time basis.

Parrhesia's strategy, implementation, financial planning, and governance is overseen by its Board of Trustees, as is the work of the C-suite who report directly to the Board. There is a subcommittee structure, chaired by various trustees with relevant experience which oversees the more detailed work of the organisation.

Reserves Policy

The charity currently has no reserves and thus no reserves policy is applicable at present. Our intention is to build up reserves that cover 3 months of ongoing expenditure, which currently amounts to around £15,000.

Remuneration Policy

The charity subscribes to the Living Wage policy and the Prompt Payment Code and is accredited to the Good Business Charter.

Political Donations

Parrhesia has no party-political affiliations and does not make political donations.

Financial Accounts

The accounts for the period ending 31 March 2022 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Articles of Association and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice, applicable to all charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act

2011. They 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.

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- So far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant information of which the independent reviewer is unaware, and
- Each trustee has taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant financial information that may have a material impact on the financial reports and to establish that the organisation's independent reviewer is aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Arpita Dutt'.

.....
Arpita Dutt
Interim Chair of Trustees

Approved by the board on 13.01.2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

For the period ending 31 March 2022

I report on the accounts of Parrhesia Inc for the period ending 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 10-13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view", and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

Have not been met, or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
Nicola Ainscough FCA BSc
Chartered Accountant
Equilibrium Accountants Ltd
48 Goodramgate, York, YO1 7LF

21 December 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the period ending 31 March 2022

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Period to 31 Mar 2022 Total £
INCOME	2			
Incoming and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		-	12,000	12,000
Charitable activities		-	36,667	36,667
Other trading activities		-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-
Other income		-	25	25
Total incoming resources		-	48,692	48,692
EXPENDITURE				
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	-	33,086	33,086
Other	4	-	1,419	1,419
Total resources expended		-	34,505	33,505
Net income / (expenditure) for the period		-	14,187	14,187
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward as at 1 Apr 21		-	-	-
Total funds carried forward as at 31 Mar 22		-	14,187	14,187

The notes on pages 12-13 form a part of these financial statements

A Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as all gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

There is no difference between the net income / (expenditure) for the period above and the historical cost equivalent. All activities are continuing.

BALANCE SHEET

For the period ending 31 March 2022

	Notes	£	As at 31 Mar 2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets			2,132
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		-	
Prepayments		676	
Cash at bank and in hand		11,859	
		<u>12,535</u>	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year			(480)
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)			<u>12,055</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			<u>14,187</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-
Net Assets			<u>14,187</u>
FUNDS	5		
Unrestricted funds			14,187
Restricted funds			-
Total Funds			<u>14,187</u>

The notes on pages 12-13 form a part of these financial statements

Trustee benefits: advances, credit and guarantees

During the period no benefits, in the form of advances, credit and guarantees, were conferred upon trustees of the charity.

Guarantees and other financial commitments

During the period no guarantees or other financial commitments were made.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 10-13 were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Arpita Dutt
Interim Chair of Trustees

Date: 13.01.2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the period ending 31 March 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Statutory Information

Parrhesia Inc is a registered charity in the UK with the Charities Commission, registration number 1193561.

b) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and on the receipts and payment basis.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently in the period, are set out below.

c) Compliance with accounting standards

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Accounting and Reporting by Charities for Smaller Entities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Effective January 2015) – (Charities 'SORP' FRS 102)): the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A – Small Entities and other applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom.

d) Funds structure

Earmarked funds, as shown in the notes to the accounts, represent funds set aside by the trustees for use on specific projects. Amounts shown as Restricted Funds, on the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet, represent funds donated for specific projects in accordance with the Charities Act definition.

e) Income recognition

Revenue is recognised in respect of non-government, non-exchange transactions, donations and funds received for goods and services supplied during the financial period on receipt.

Government Grants are recognised using the accrual model.

f) Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the period the trustees did not receive any remuneration or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, as none were incurred.

2. INCOME

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Period to 31 Mar 2022 Total £
Donations and legacies			
General	-	12,000	12,000
Charitable Activities			
JRCT Grant	-	36,667	36,667
Other Income			
Bank Interest Received	-	7	7
Cashback Received	-	18	18
	<u>-</u>	<u>48,692</u>	<u>48,692</u>

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Period to 31 Mar 2022 Total £
Bookkeeping	-	4,080	4,080
Insurance	-	148	148
IT Support	-	4,800	4,800
Legal Fees	-	5,100	5,100
Office Expenses	-	278	278
Staff Costs	-	17,175	17,175
Memberships and Subscriptions	-	441	442
Travel Costs	-	1,064	1,064
	-	33,086	33,086

4. OTHER

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Period to 31 Mar 2022 Total £
Bank Charges	-	3	3
Governance	-	705	705
Depreciation	-	711	711
	-	1,419	1,419

5. FUNDS

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Period to 31 Mar 2022 Total £
Unrestricted Fund			
General	-	14,187	14,187
Earmarked	-	-	-
Restricted Fund	-	-	-
	-	14,187	14,187