

**The Institute for Constitutional & Democratic Research
Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024**

Charity name: The Constitutional & Democratic Research Foundation
Charity registration number: 1194293

Objectives & Activities

The Constitutional & Democratic Research Foundation (operating name: The Institute for Constitutional & Democratic Research) exists:

1. To advance the education of the public in the subject of constitutions and democracy
2. To promote human rights (as set out in the universal declaration of human rights and subsequent united nations conventions and declarations) throughout the world by all or any of the following means:
 1. Monitoring abuses of human rights
 2. Research into human rights issues
 3. Providing technical advice to government and others on human rights matters
 4. Contributing to the sound administration of human rights law
 5. Commenting on proposed human rights legislation
 6. Raising awareness of human rights issues
 7. Promoting public support for human rights
 8. Promoting respect for human rights among individuals and corporations
 9. International advocacy of human rights

In the 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 carries out its objects.

Activities

The organisation provides advocacy, advice, information and/or research to advance the education of the public in the subject of constitutions and democracy.

Achievements and Performance

In this period the organisation carried out the following activity:

- Acted as Secretariat to the APPG on Democracy and the Constitution working with MPs from all parties to advise on emerging constitutional issues



- Acted as Counsel for the APPG for Democracy and the Constitution Inquiry into the new photographic ID requirement for voters in UK elections and their impact on constitutional and democratic rights of voters.
- Produced various advisory notes on legislation emerging around constitutional and democratic issues.

Financial Review

The charity received £18,975 in income throughout this period from philanthropic sources including the Joseph Rowntree Reform. Spending of £16,169.69 primarily covered fees for Director Sam Fowles to conduct the APPG inquiry into the impacts of photographic voter ID and covered travel costs for witnesses to participate in this inquiry.

At present the organisation holds no reserves and Trustees do not have a reserves policy in place. This is largely due to the size of the charity at present and its early stages of development. Trustees have a policy in place to confirm that no debt can be undertaken by the charity without their consent and that no debt is likely to be undertaken at present.

Structure, Governance and Management

The ICDR had three trustees across this period – Chloe Hill, Andrew Lane, and Kezia Dugdale. It is a CIO registered on 1 April 2021. Trustees alternate the Chair position at each meeting. The Board meets on average 4 times a year to monitor company business and delegate day-to-day management of the organisation to Director Sam Fowles and Chief Operating Officer Vicki Grace. Trustees are nominated for consideration but other Board members or staff and approved by the whole Board following an initial meeting with one or more existing Trustees.

Reference and Administration

Charity Name: The Constitutional and Democratic Research Foundation

Other names The Institute for Constitutional & Democratic Research

Registered charity no. 1194293

Main address Cornerstone Barristers, 2-3 Gray's Inn Square, WC1R 5JH

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) Andrew Lane

Position Trustee

Date 14.01.25