

RIVER ACTION UK

England & Wales · Charity number 1194995

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-06-29

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

Phone 08009871549

Email info@riveractionuk.com

Website www.riveractionuk.com

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, IN PARTICULAR IN RELATION TO RIVERS AND OTHER BODIES OF WATER.

Activities: To raise awareness on river pollution and apply pressure on industrial and agricultural producers to take greater responsibility for remedying the adverse environmental impact their supply chains are having on the health of our UK rivers.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|------------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £1,530,586 | £1,476,518 | £504,169 | 13 |
| 2024-03-31 | £928,740 | £726,971 | £450,101 | 9 |
| 2023-03-31 | £485,398 | £303,735 | - | - |
| 2022-03-31 | £278,080 | £211,411 | - | - |

Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Charles Basil Lucas Watson BA | Chair | 2021-02-18 |
| Daniella Maria Boon | | 2025-04-23 |
| Emma Maria Maitland Mosley | | 2025-04-23 |
| James Edward Macpherson | | 2021-01-01 |
| James Richard Murray | | 2025-04-23 |
| Marina Gibson | | 2022-01-01 |

RIVER ACTION UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1194995

Accounts

Charity no. 1194995

River Action UK
Report and Audited Financial Statements
31 March 2025

River Action UK

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Date of foundation 29 June 2021

Charity number 1194995

Registered office Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

Trustees The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Charles Watson | Chair |
| Daniella Boon | appointed 23 April 2025 |
| Marina Gibson | |
| James Macpherson | |
| Emma Mosley | appointed 23 April 2025 |
| James Murray | appointed 23 April 2025 |

Bankers CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Auditors Godfrey Wilson Limited
Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
5th Floor Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the period ended 31 March 2025. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective from January 2019).

Structure, governance and management

The Trust ("the Charity") is a charitable incorporated organisation number CE026257, and is a registered charity, number 1194995. The Charity was established by initial gifts from Founder & Chair, Charles Watson. The Charity actively fundraises and seeks to carry out the work desired through the careful stewardship of its existing resources and ad hoc contributions.

There must be at least 2 Trustees and new Trustees shall be appointed by a Trustees' Resolution passed at a special meeting called under Clause 9.3.1 of the original Foundation Constitution. New Trustees shall be selected with regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Charity. If a vacancy occurs this shall be noted in the Trustees' Minutes at their next meeting.

Procedures have not been adopted for the induction and training of Trustees but all ensure they continue to operate within current guidelines by discussing all issues arising as advised by the Charity Commission.

Remuneration of the key management personnel is set out in the staff handbook and is subject to internal performance reviews.

The trustees have appointed a Chief Executive, who is supported by a relevant staff structure, and is responsible for the running of the charity.

The Trustees should hold at least two ordinary meetings each year.

The Trustees who served during the period are as set out on page 1.

The charity works with approximately 40 volunteers who contribute to public protests and campaigns.

Objectives and activities of the charity

River Action is an impactful charity on a mission to rescue Britain's rivers from the environmental calamity caused by the deluge of agricultural, sewage and industrial pollution.

We are powered by the voices of local communities and backed by hard evidence. Our work in any catchment begins with partnering with local activists and communities equipping them with the tools and knowledge to collect pollution data. We harness this evidence into powerful campaigns, amplifying their message via all communications channels available, so their voice is loud, clear and reaches far. Building on this momentum we drive meaningful change through advocacy, legal action and continued campaigning - exposing polluting corporations to hold them to account, and to pressure the Government to enforce the law to protect our rivers.

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

As such, our **five-year strategy** covers three goals, each with two objectives:

1. **Empower local communities:**
 - Provide communities and activists with a toolkit that enables them to rescue their river catchments; and
 - Enable citizen science groups and NGOs to collect evidence of pollution levels, providing evidence to inform campaigns to hold polluters and the government to account.
2. **Mobilise public opinion:**
 - Raise public awareness through creative and original content, gain maximum exposure in the national media, and amplify activists' voices; and
 - Leverage this awareness to influence the government and polluting industries through petitions, boycotts, shareholder actions and positive direct engagement between stakeholders.
3. **Advocate government policy and industry practice change:**
 - Drive government policy enforcement of regulations through taking legal action against the relevant government bodies and creating a charter of best practices for rivers to expedite reform in regulation, incentivise sustainable water quality management and to enforce the law; and
 - Catalyse behaviour change in polluting industries to adopt river-friendly practices by presenting them with evidence of the pollution they are causing, pressuring urgent investment in outdated infrastructure, offering nature-based solutions, and leveraging consumer and stakeholder support.

Quarterly internal monitoring and evaluation procedures are undertaken in the reporting period to assess the success of the above objectives.

The Trustees have complied with s17(5) of Charities Act 2011 and have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit by the Charity Commission when exercising relevant powers or duties.

Financial review

As set out on pages 16 and 17, the Charity's assets have increased in the period to £504,169, with £481,470 of this being unrestricted.

Reserves policy

1. **Introduction:**

The purpose of this Reserves Policy is to ensure that River Action UK maintains adequate reserves to support its operations and manage unforeseen financial challenges while fulfilling its mission and charitable objectives.
2. **Purpose of holding reserves:**

Reserves are funds set aside to ensure the sustainability and financial health of the charity in case of unexpected circumstances or fluctuations in income. These funds enable River Action UK to:

 - Sustain essential activities during periods of reduced funding or unexpected financial strain;
 - Manage risks related to income volatility and unforeseen expenses;
 - Ensure that commitments to staff, suppliers, and beneficiaries can be met; and
 - Invest in future initiatives and opportunities that align with the charity's objectives.

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

3. Reserve levels:

River Action UK aims to maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to 3 months of operational costs as a total potential cost of liquidation according to the annual budgeted expenditure. This ensures that the charity can continue its operations for a limited period if significant income disruption occurs and meet its liabilities. The reserve level will be reviewed annually by the trustees as part of the budget-setting process and adjusted accordingly to reflect changes in:

- The level of predictable income and expenditure;
- Strategic priorities and commitments; and
- Economic and funding environment.

4. Use of reserves:

Reserves will only be used for the following purposes:

- To cover operational costs during periods of income shortfall;
- To meet unforeseen liabilities or emergency expenditures; and
- To take advantage of strategic opportunities that align with the charity's mission, subject to trustee approval.

All decisions to use reserves must be approved by the Board of Trustees, and the impact on the charity's financial stability will be assessed before any withdrawals.

5. Monitoring and review:

The reserves level will be monitored and reviewed annually at the Trustee meeting in April at the start of each financial year to ensure it remains appropriate for the charity's needs. The reserves policy will also be formally reviewed annually as part of the budgeting process, or more frequently if significant changes to the Charity's financial circumstances occur.

6. Reporting on reserves:

The charity is currently holding reserves in excess of the level outline in the above policy. Total reserves held at year end are £504,169 of which £481,470 is unrestricted and £22,699 is restricted. The unrestricted reserves cover 4 months of operational expenditure, but as a newly established charity, holding a higher level of reserves will help ensure the future sustainability of the organisation. Furthermore, these reserves will enable quick investment opportunities for the charity, particularly in the campaigning space.

Risk management

River Action's CEO and Senior Management Team maintain a risk register detailing all potential risk areas, updated regularly. The areas of risk include financial, strategic, governance, operational, reputational, legal, staffing and other risks. The level of each risk's likelihood and impact is assessed and combined to give a rating that when above a certain limit alerts the team to pay special attention to that risk and expedite remedial actions. Concerns are discussed in monthly Senior Management Team meetings and with Trustees in our quarterly board meetings. The Risk Register is then updated further with agreed changes in risk profile and mitigating actions.

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The main risks requiring Senior Management Team and Trustee attention in this financial year were as follows:

- **Secure funding** - as a young organisation with a growing team and overheads, we were concerned that we would not have sufficient funds to recruit our team and attain our objectives. Thanks to the generous support of new donors and the public, our fundraising was successful for this year, with a healthy pipeline for the next year, and our team has delivered our strategic priorities. The risk level has been lowered accordingly; and
- **Secure team** - following a period of rapid growth and recruitment, we are delighted to have engaged a team of talented and committed individuals. The organisational culture is a very important contributor to our success, and we have endeavoured to enable a healthy balance between intense campaigning and quieter times for reflection and planning. The SMT is developing its strategic and organisational processes to ensure we maximise our efficiency and impact. With the core team now in place, we plan to recruit only a small number of roles next year. The risk level has been lowered accordingly.

There were no moderate or major risks that materialised.

Achievements and performance

This year, the Charity has continued to build on its success from 2023/24, cementing its reputation as an impactful campaigning organisation. We expanded our focus from the River Wye catchment to the River Thames, raising awareness of the health risks from sewage pollution, River Action has become a go-to trusted voice on the issue of agricultural and sewage pollution and the crisis facing Britain's rivers.

The team grew to 15 staff during the year enabling us to deliver considerably more impact, building on past experience and testing our theory of change to maximise impact. As a key measure of our campaigning profile and success, we are pleased that the charity's public following through social media has grown rapidly this year along with significant uplift of national media coverage as we supported more communities, bringing their concerns to the key decision makers in industry and government to bring about urgent change.

Last year was an exceptional breakthrough year. We empowered hundreds of river rescue communities, built strong coalitions nationally and locally, and set policy, legislative and industry changes in motion.

Headline achievements include:

Objective one - empower local communities

- **River rescue kit (RRK)** - Developed with grassroots groups, the RRK provides a comprehensive toolkit for citizen-led river campaigns, covering pollution causes, solutions, citizen science, legal rights, media, and fundraising. With over 4,000 views and 13 new groups joining within weeks of its launch, River Action is becoming a national hub for local river rescue. April also saw the first of a series of online events open to all river campaigners sharing and building on the content of the River Rescue Kit. The programme will continue in 2025/26;
- **River Action community fund** - Among the small grants we awarded to grassroots groups was £25,000 to establish Friends of the Thames, a catchment-scale coalition standing up to Thames Water and unifying voices along the river; and £5,000 to enable the protection of the first Welsh river bathing site at Hay-on-Wye; and

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

- **Friends of the River Thames** - Cementing our campaign work highlighting the Thames Water sewage scandal, we have initiated, seed funded and supported the set-up of a new charity, Friends of the River Thames which will give one united voice for the river and galvanise local communities taking action across the length of the river and to continue River Action's legacy. As well as providing seed funding our Head of Communities, Erica Popplewell, is a Trustee for the Charity and our CEO, James Wallace joined Erica on the advisory board. Other members of River Action are also helping FOTT with advice and support on areas of expertise including social media, fundraising and legal strategy.

Objective two - mobilise public opinion

- **March for Clean Water** - We organised and led the UK's largest-ever water demonstration, mobilising 141 organisations and over 15,000 people from across the country. Protesters dressed in blue marched from Albert Embankment to Parliament Square. A-list celebrities including Stephen Fry, Jo Brand and Chris Packham backed the campaign, which secured 1,200+ media mentions. Tangible political outcomes followed in response to our asks of government:
 - Public letter of commitment from the Secretary of State backing our campaign;
 - Introduction of the Water (Special Measures) Bill to reform water company regulation; and
 - Launch of new Independent Water Commission on sewage pollution.
- **Influencer and press strategy** - We now consistently lead UK environmental NGOs in share of voice for rivers — setting the narrative, breaking stories, and responding swiftly to national news. We release impactful pollution data ahead of key events like the Boat Race, driving strong media coverage. Backed by influencers and celebrities, we're building cultural momentum for river health; and
- **Website update** - We have revamped and re-launched our website to provide clear and succinct information on our work, driving greater engagement in our actions and better reflect our brand.

Objective three - advocate government policy and industry practice change

- **General election** - Our campaigns made river health the top environmental issue at the election, especially in core catchments like the Wye and Thames. Along the Wye all five MPs elected had river pollution as a top commitment, with four MPs being elected for the first time, demonstrating the impact of targeted campaigning and how much the public and voters care about rivers;
- **All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on water pollution** - As joint secretariat with Surfers Against Sewage, and supported by our public affairs advisors Seahorse Environmental, this influential new cross-party group of 64 MPs and peers, from across the political spectrum has already helped shape the brief of the new Independent Water Commission and river policy reform;
- **Legal actions** - Our strategic legal work galvanised and pushed for systemic changes:
 - River Action's case against the Environment Agency for failing to enforce the Farming Rules for Water (FRfW) led to a government review of the guidance on FRfW, clarified the law and raised awareness of the failures of FRfW as a regulatory regime;
 - River Action successfully intervened in the case of The National Farmers Union v Herefordshire Council, leading to a landmark ruling classifying chicken manure as 'waste' in law with significant implications for the handling of manure on farms across the UK. The ruling has already been relied on to help block a proposed megafarm in Norfolk and will inform national planning and environmental policy;

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Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

- With advisory board member Dr Alison Caffyn as claimant, River Action's case against Shropshire Council's approval of yet another intensive poultry unit has the potential to set an important precedent for local authorities across the UK to properly account for the cumulative environmental impacts of additional IPUs and stop the irresponsible spread of factory farming in vulnerable river catchments like the Severn; and
- Our new legal action launched in March 2025 against Ofwat, in relation to its 'price review 24 determination' and 'customers not paying twice', points towards systemic failures and provides a platform to campaign for the reform of the regulator.
- **#CheekyNandos** - This bold, creative campaign connected water pollution to the public's consumption of cheap chicken. We highlighted the contribution of one of Nando's leading poultry suppliers to river degradation — especially along the Wye. Actor Jim Murray's video calling out Nando's has 5 million views, growing our Instagram following by 15,000. Influencers like Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Joanna Lumley and Paul Whitehouse joined, and Nando's publicly committed to reviewing its Wye-based supply chain — a rare win for campaign-led corporate accountability.

Over this year, River Action has continued its growth into a maturing environmental campaigning charity, with a reputation across the nation, industry, government and media as a trusted campaigning organisation and voice for communities, rivers and nature. As a deeply collaborative team, our approach of working through a network of partners and being evidence-led and relentlessly tough on polluters and failed regulators, we have been able to earn the respect of those we seek to influence positively, while bearing our legal teeth when necessary. It has proven to be essential that we not only have a place at the boardroom/government department table but also act as an independent convener to help find alignment that delivers urgent action. We have a long way to go but are pleased with the output of our work and value the many people we work with across the UK.

Fundraising

The Charity has had another successful year raising funds to cover its core costs and campaign costs through various channels including grants from trusts and foundations, High Net Worth Individuals, online donations and crowdfunders in addition to funds raised by external fundraisers (members of the public raising funds for us by running marathons or engaging in similar activities). Our mutually beneficial relationships with funders have allowed us to secure multi-year grants, maintained our existing relationships with funders and continue to engage new leads, while remaining free of the constraints imposed on others who accept funding from polluters and government. Most of the funds raised are unrestricted, with some restricted to community work and legal action.

We are keen to assess the market appetite for funding our cause and have begun a research project. While our current stream of income provides a general sense of interest in our cause, we recognise that it isn't a comprehensive or fully reliable indicator. To gain a clearer understanding of our community's level of engagement and support, we have sent out a survey to all our current funders in addition to some new ones to gather information about the interests, priorities and funding preferences of potential and existing funders. To ensure strategic alignment, we are aiming to identify the key areas of interest within the freshwater emergency cause and their appetite for funding these areas. The results from the survey will inform our funding strategy, enhancing proposal targeting and foster stronger, more aligned partnerships with funders.

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Impact reporting

Our Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting system includes both quantitative and qualitative Key Performance Indicators with specific targets that we use to monitor our progress and impact. The team updates periodically to follow our progress, and measure our impact for the benefit of updating our partners, beneficiaries, funders and the public and also to improve our work.

During the period ended 31 March 2025 incoming resources amounted to £1,530,586. The Statement of Financial Activities on page 16 includes income and expenditure throughout the period.

Fundraising practices

We do not accept funding from the Government or polluting industry in order to stay independent and hold truth to power. We take a blended approach to fundraising, and as such receive funding from Trusts and Foundations, High Net Worth Individuals, donations from our supporters and wider the public through crowdfunders and fundraising platforms or donations through our website. We do all of our fundraising in house, and do not have any arrangements with external people or organisations to fundraise on our behalf. Some members of the public engage in activities such as running marathons to raise funds for us, but we do not have prior agreements with these activists. The funding received via this channel is akin to our online donations.

We have not formally registered with the Fundraising Regulator, however, in relation to protecting vulnerable people and other members of the public our Employee Handbook states that we will ensure that:

- We comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice, including fundraising that involves children;
- Employees and volunteers are made aware of the Institute of Fundraising guidance on keeping fundraising safe and the NCVO Guidance on vulnerable people and fundraising;
- Our fundraising material is accessible, clear and ethical, including not placing any undue pressure on individuals to donate;
- We do not either solicit nor accept donations from anyone whom we know or think may not be competent to make their own decisions; and
- We are sensitive to any additional needs that a donor may have when attending our events.

There have been no instances of non-compliance with these standards, or complaints received about our fundraising activity.

Plans for the future

The Charity has an ambitious programme of campaigns planned over the next six to 12 months. Headline activities include:

Objective one - empower local communities

- **River Rescue Kit Phase 2** - Continue with a programme of virtual in person events building on the River Rescue Kit to support and equip community river campaigners. We will look to invite community leaders to lead these events as well as the River Action team;
- Develop our citizen science strategy for both River Action and the communities we support through equipment loan and funding. The strategy will ensure it has maximum campaigning impact and that the data we collect is in the public domain in a form that is accessible and clear to media, Government and other campaigners;
- **River Action community fund** - Continue to identify and find grassroots river campaigns that we can support and amplify, channelling funding from our generous donors into high-impact and qualified community projects and campaigns;

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

- Build our presence on the River Severn, connecting community voices across the catchment, catalysing a grassroots movement, using targeted citizen science, specifically eDNA testing, as both a tool for community engagement and a method for generating credible, localised evidence of pollution;
- Consolidate the strong foundation and continue to develop 'Friends of the Thames' (FOTT) collaboration of community groups and activists along the river, targeting Thames Water as the UK's biggest polluter and pressuring the Government to hold them to account; and
- **Make a nuisance** - Launch a powerful coordinated legal action with communities to investigate and stop sewage pollution.

Objective two - mobilise public opinion

- Drive creative and meaningful 'calls to action' that leverage the public to maximise the impact of our campaigns, including where legal action is involved. We will particularly invest in driving actions that engage and mobilise the public around agricultural pollution;
- Continue to spread awareness across our digital media platforms (social and website) and gain wide and extensive coverage in the local, national and international media with original stories and high impact campaigns;
- Use the River Rescue Kit to identify stories and campaigning opportunities from various communities and then promote those stories through our communications channels;
- Develop our influencer and ambassador strategy to amplify our campaign impact and develop key relationships with micro and macro influencers, looking for opportunities to partner with influencers to create novel and engaging content that drives public opinion around our campaigns; and
- Embed the use of analytics across the organisation to assess and improve our media and digital communications.

Objective three - advocate government policy and industry practice change

- Play a leading role in driving ambition of the Independent Water Commission to ensure recommendations drive political ambition for systemic reform of the water sector;
- Looking ahead to the Welsh election in 2026, work with key partners to develop a Welsh Charter for Rivers and targeted political advocacy plan to ensure rivers are front and centre of Senedd elections;
- The APPG will have a series of evidence sessions building understanding of the issue in this caucus of parliamentarians. The first session will focus on sewage and agricultural pollution. The APPG is also set to meet Sir John Cunliffe, chair of the Independent Water Commission;
- River Action is calling for a new Agricultural Water Pollution Strategy. We have developed a six-point plan of deliverable actions that could substantially reduce the well documented damage being done to our watercourses by agricultural pollution while enabling the transition to regenerative agriculture and enhanced food security. The year ahead will see the dissemination of this strategy across Westminster and Whitehall a high priority;
- Use our strategic legal actions to raise awareness through campaigning and push for systemic changes. Looking ahead, we will work to embed the implications of the River Action v Environment Agency, NFU v Herefordshire Council and Dr Alison Caffyn v Shropshire Council rulings through inside and outside track advocacy across the UK;
- We are bringing a judicial review challenge against Ofwat in relation to its price review 24 determination (with a hearing expected towards the end of 2025), we are pursuing our Advertising Standards Authority complaints against the Red Tractor Food Assurance Scheme (with the potential for litigation if the complaints are not upheld) and we may bring a judicial review against DEFRA in relation to its decision-making around Thames Water and the Special Administration Regime;

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

- In addition, we will continue to develop and bring targeted legal actions that seek to clarify the law, set new legal precedents with ripple effects for legal and policy decision-making, and hold polluters, regulators and government to account;
- Engage with leaders from regulators, industry and NGOs to support and, if necessary, pressure the new government to expedite commitments to restore Britain's rivers, including refinancing failing water companies;
- Continue to pressure Nando's, highlighting its role in river pollution and become a market leader to address the issue;
- Build on the success of our #CheekyNando campaign to target other key supply chain protagonists e.g. KFC, Tesco, Hook2Sisters etc; and
- Build on our Judicial Review against Shropshire Council to highlight the 'enablers' of chicken mega farms across the Severn catchment, particularly within the planning system, linking into the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

Operations and system update

To strengthen our governance and broaden the expertise guiding our strategic direction, River Action is planning to recruit three new trustees. Each new trustee will bring valuable and diverse knowledge to the charity, supporting us as we grow and evolve.

We will also change our accounting period from April–March to January–December, aligning our financial reporting with our campaign strategy. This change will take effect from 1 April 2025.

In addition, we will be implementing a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. This will allow us to better store, manage, and utilise our contact data — improving communication, stakeholder engagement, and operational efficiency.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the charity for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity at any time and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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.

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity have no liability to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditors

Godfrey Wilson Limited were appointed as auditors to the charity during the period and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 15 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Charles Watson

Charles Watson
Chair

Independent auditors' report

To the trustees of

River Action UK

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of River Action UK (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 7 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Independent auditors' report

To the trustees of

River Action UK

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out in the trustees' report, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The procedures we carried out and the extent to which they are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below:

Independent auditors' report

To the trustees of

River Action UK

(1) We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, and assessed the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Throughout the audit, we remained alert to possible indications of non-compliance.

(2) We reviewed the charity's policies and procedures in relation to:

- Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations, and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risk of fraud, and whether they were aware of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- Designing and implementing internal controls to mitigate the risk of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud.

(3) We inspected the minutes of trustee meetings.

(4) We enquired about any non-routine communication with regulators and reviewed any reports made to them.

(5) We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and assessed their compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

(6) We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected transactions or balances that may indicate a risk of material fraud or error.

(7) We assessed the risk of fraud through management override of controls and carried out procedures to address this risk. Our procedures included:

- Testing the appropriateness of journal entries;
- Assessing judgements and accounting estimates for potential bias;
- Reviewing related party transactions; and
- Testing transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. Irregularities that arise due to fraud can be even harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent auditors' report

To the trustees of

River Action UK

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Date: 15 September 2025

GODFREY WILSON LIMITED

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
5th Floor Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

Godfrey Wilson Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

River Action UK

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025

| | Note | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | 2025 Total £ | Restated 2024 Total £ |
|------------------------------------|------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Income from: | | | | | |
| Donations | 3 | 258,576 | 1,127,720 | 1,386,296 | 873,357 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 132,450 | - | 132,450 | 50,669 |
| Interest income | | - | 11,840 | 11,840 | 4,714 |
| Total income | | <u>391,026</u> | <u>1,139,560</u> | <u>1,530,586</u> | <u>928,740</u> |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | |
| Raising funds | | - | 144,558 | 144,558 | 93,244 |
| Charitable activities | | <u>478,236</u> | <u>853,724</u> | <u>1,331,960</u> | <u>633,727</u> |
| Total expenditure | 6 | <u>478,236</u> | <u>998,282</u> | <u>1,476,518</u> | <u>726,971</u> |
| Net income / (expenditure) | | (87,210) | 141,278 | 54,068 | 201,769 |
| Transfers between funds | | <u>40,289</u> | <u>(40,289)</u> | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | 8 | (46,921) | 100,989 | 54,068 | 201,769 |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | <u>69,620</u> | <u>380,481</u> | <u>450,101</u> | <u>248,332</u> |
| Total funds carried forward | | <u><u>22,699</u></u> | <u><u>481,470</u></u> | <u><u>504,169</u></u> | <u><u>450,101</u></u> |

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 14 to the accounts.

The prior year comparative has been restated to recognise restricted grant income within charitable activities, rather than donations and legacies, in line with the treatment in the current year. There is no impact on the reserves position.

River Action UK

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2025

| | Note | £ | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|----------------------------------------------|------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Current assets | | | | |
| Debtors | 11 | 30,773 | | 11,461 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | <u>543,656</u> | | <u>458,355</u> |
| | | 574,429 | | 469,816 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year | 12 | <u>(70,260)</u> | | <u>(19,715)</u> |
| Net current assets | | | <u>504,169</u> | <u>450,101</u> |
| Net assets | 13 | | <u>504,169</u> | <u>450,101</u> |
| Funds | 14 | | | |
| Restricted funds | | | 22,699 | 69,620 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General funds | | | <u>481,470</u> | <u>380,481</u> |
| Total charity funds | | | <u>504,169</u> | <u>450,101</u> |

Approved by the trustees on 15 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Charles Watson

Charles Watson
Chair

River Action UK

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2025

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cash used in operating activities: | | |
| Net movement in funds | 54,068 | 201,769 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments | (11,840) | (4,714) |
| Increase in debtors | (19,312) | (5,487) |
| Decrease in creditors | <u>50,545</u> | <u>12,287</u> |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | <u>73,461</u> | <u>203,855</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments | <u>11,840</u> | <u>4,714</u> |
| Net cash provided by investing activities | <u>11,840</u> | <u>4,714</u> |
| Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year | 85,301 | 208,569 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year | <u>458,355</u> | <u>249,786</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year | <u><u>543,656</u></u> | <u><u>458,355</u></u> |

The charity has not provided an analysis of changes in net debt as it does not have any long term financing arrangements.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

a) General information and basis of preparation

River Action UK is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is Mariner House, 62 Prince Street, Bristol, BS1 4QD.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

River Action UK meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

d) Donated services and facilities (continued)

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) Grants payable

Grants which have been authorised and paid are included as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities. Grants which have been authorised but not yet paid are accrued in the balance sheet and are included within creditors falling due within one year or after one year (as appropriate).

i) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities based as follows:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| Raising funds | 9.8% | 13.0% |
| Charitable activities | 90.2% | 87.0% |

j) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

k) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

l) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

m) Financial instruments

The trust only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

n) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

o) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no sources of estimation uncertainty in the current or prior year.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

2. Prior period comparatives: statement of financial activities

| | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | Restated 2024 Total £ |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Income from: | | | |
| Donations | 70,783 | 802,574 | 873,357 |
| Charitable activities | 50,669 | - | 50,669 |
| Interest income | - | 4,714 | 4,714 |
| Total income | <u>121,452</u> | <u>807,288</u> | <u>928,740</u> |
| Expenditure on: | | | |
| Raising funds | - | 93,244 | 93,244 |
| Charitable activities | 110,558 | 523,169 | 633,727 |
| Total expenditure | <u>110,558</u> | <u>616,413</u> | <u>726,971</u> |
| Net income and net movement in funds | <u>10,894</u> | <u>190,875</u> | <u>201,769</u> |

3. Income from donations

| | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | 2025 Total £ |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Donations | 258,576 | 350,587 | 609,163 |
| Grants | - | 756,167 | 756,167 |
| Gift aid | - | 20,966 | 20,966 |
| Total income from donations | <u>258,576</u> | <u>1,127,720</u> | <u>1,386,296</u> |

Prior period comparative

| | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | Restated 2024 Total £ |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Donations | 62,215 | 101,037 | 163,252 |
| Grants | - | 666,362 | 666,362 |
| Gift aid | 8,568 | 35,175 | 43,743 |
| Total income from donations | <u>70,783</u> | <u>802,574</u> | <u>873,357</u> |

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

4. Income from charitable activities

| | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | 2025 Total £ |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Grants | <u>132,450</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>132,450</u> |
| Prior period comparative | | | Restated 2024 |
| | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | Total £ |
| Grants | <u>50,669</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>50,669</u> |

5. Government grants

The charity received no government grants during the current or prior period.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

6. Total expenditure

| | Raising funds £ | Charitable activities £ | Support and governance costs £ | 2025 Total £ |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Staff costs (note 9) | 114,383 | 410,100 | 84,207 | 608,690 |
| Design costs | - | 234,270 | - | 234,270 |
| Raising awareness and campaigning | - | 156,464 | - | 156,464 |
| Legal | - | 112,450 | - | 112,450 |
| Computer and website | - | - | 56,798 | 56,798 |
| Props and equipment | - | 55,775 | - | 55,775 |
| Travel and subsistence | - | - | 47,282 | 47,282 |
| Grants payable (note 7) | - | 40,000 | - | 40,000 |
| Advertising, marketing and PR | - | 31,817 | 7,382 | 39,199 |
| Photography | - | 31,167 | - | 31,167 |
| Accountancy | - | - | 16,979 | 16,979 |
| Event costs | - | 16,056 | - | 16,056 |
| Meeting costs | - | - | 14,581 | 14,581 |
| Administrators | - | - | 14,538 | 14,538 |
| Printing, postage and stationery | - | - | 10,496 | 10,496 |
| Insurance | - | - | 7,544 | 7,544 |
| Staff training and welfare | - | - | 5,346 | 5,346 |
| Recruitment | - | - | 3,988 | 3,988 |
| Fundraising platform fees | 3,817 | - | - | 3,817 |
| Charitable and political donations | - | 1,000 | - | 1,000 |
| Bank fees | - | - | 78 | 78 |
| Sub-total | 118,200 | 1,089,099 | 269,219 | 1,476,518 |
| Allocation of support and governance costs | <u>26,358</u> | <u>242,861</u> | <u>(269,219)</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total expenditure | <u>144,558</u> | <u>1,331,960</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,476,518</u> |

Total governance costs were £9,000 (2024: £3,360).

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

6 Total expenditure (continued) Prior period comparative

| | Raising funds £ | Charitable activities £ | Support and governance costs £ | 2024 Total £ |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Staff costs (note 9) | 69,663 | 251,124 | 54,051 | 374,838 |
| Raising awareness and campaigning | - | 156,874 | - | 156,874 |
| Design costs | - | 67,500 | - | 67,500 |
| Travel and subsistence | - | - | 30,438 | 30,438 |
| Computer and website | - | - | 29,612 | 29,612 |
| Administrators | - | - | 13,749 | 13,749 |
| Advertising, marketing and PR | - | - | 8,304 | 8,304 |
| Props and equipment | - | 7,873 | - | 7,873 |
| Photography | - | 7,633 | - | 7,633 |
| Event costs | - | 5,783 | - | 5,783 |
| Meeting costs | - | - | 5,656 | 5,656 |
| Accountancy | - | - | 4,717 | 4,717 |
| Recruitment | - | - | 3,715 | 3,715 |
| Staff training and welfare | - | - | 3,161 | 3,161 |
| Fundraising platform fees | 3,142 | - | - | 3,142 |
| Insurance | - | - | 2,680 | 2,680 |
| Printing, postage and stationery | - | - | 1,133 | 1,133 |
| Bank fees | - | - | 150 | 150 |
| Legal | - | 13 | - | 13 |
| Sub-total | 72,805 | 496,800 | 157,366 | 726,971 |
| Allocation of support and governance costs | <u>20,439</u> | <u>136,927</u> | <u>(157,366)</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total expenditure | <u>93,244</u> | <u>633,727</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>726,971</u> |

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

7. Grants payable

During the year, 4 (2024: Nil) new grants were awarded to 4 institutions (2024: Nil) and none to individuals (2024: Nil) under our charitable objective to empower local communities to protect Britain's rivers, as set out in our annual report.

Total grants committed to during the year were as follows:

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Grants payable to institutions: | | |
| Friends of the Wye | 5,000 | - |
| Fulham Reach Boat Club | 5,000 | - |
| The Cleddau Project | 5,000 | - |
| Friends of the Thames | <u>25,000</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total grants payable to institutions | <u><u>40,000</u></u> | <u><u>-</u></u> |

Allocation of support costs to grant making activities is given in note 6.

There were no grants payable included in accruals at the year end (2024: £nil).

8. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Trustees' remuneration | Nil | Nil |
| Trustees' reimbursed expenses | Nil | 288 |
| Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT): | | |
| ▪ Statutory audit | 7,500 | - |
| ▪ Independent examination | - | 2,800 |
| ▪ Other services | <u>6,649</u> | <u>1,131</u> |

In common with other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements. Our auditors have also provided bookkeeping, consultancy, and payroll services to the charity during the year.

9. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Salaries and wages | 525,791 | 328,133 |
| Social security costs | 52,936 | 29,939 |
| Pension costs | <u>29,963</u> | <u>16,766</u> |
| | <u><u>608,690</u></u> | <u><u>374,838</u></u> |

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

9. Staff costs and numbers (continued)

Included in salaries and wages are ex-gratia termination payments of £2,860. These costs have been funded from unrestricted general funds (note 14).

1 employee earned between £100,000 and £110,000 (2024: 1 employee earned between £90,000 and £100,000).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and Chief Executive Officer. The total remuneration and employee benefits of the key management personnel were £121,061 (2024: £106,048).

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | No. | No. |
| Average head count | <u><u>13</u></u> | <u><u>9</u></u> |

10. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

11. Debtors

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade debtors | 650 | 116 |
| Gift aid | - | 8,588 |
| Prepayments | <u>30,123</u> | <u>2,757</u> |
| | <u><u>30,773</u></u> | <u><u>11,461</u></u> |

12. Creditors : amounts falling due within 1 year

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade creditors | 44,775 | 4,748 |
| Accruals | 9,662 | 3,572 |
| Other taxation and social security | <u>15,823</u> | <u>11,395</u> |
| | <u><u>70,260</u></u> | <u><u>19,715</u></u> |

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Restricted funds £ | Unrestricted funds £ | 2025 Total £ |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Current assets | 22,699 | 551,730 | 574,429 |
| Current liabilities | - | (70,260) | (70,260) |
| Net assets at 31 March 2025 | <u>22,699</u> | <u>481,470</u> | <u>504,169</u> |

Prior year comparative

| | Restricted funds £ | Unrestricted funds £ | 2024 Total £ |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Current assets | 69,620 | 400,196 | 469,816 |
| Current liabilities | - | (19,715) | (19,715) |
| Net assets at 31 March 2024 | <u>69,620</u> | <u>380,481</u> | <u>450,101</u> |

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

14. Movements in funds

| | At 1 April 2024 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers between funds £ | At 31 March 2025 £ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Legal Action | 69,620 | 54,950 | (115,915) | - | 8,655 |
| The Wales Project | - | 50,000 | (50,000) | - | - |
| March for Clean Water | - | 249,733 | (290,022) | 40,289 | - |
| Citizen Science | - | 36,343 | (22,299) | - | 14,044 |
| Total restricted funds | 69,620 | 391,026 | (478,236) | 40,289 | 22,699 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| General funds | 380,481 | 1,139,560 | (998,282) | (40,289) | 481,470 |
| Total unrestricted funds | 380,481 | 1,139,560 | (998,282) | (40,289) | 481,470 |
| Total funds | 450,101 | 1,530,586 | (1,476,518) | - | 504,169 |

Purposes of restricted funds

Legal Action

This includes all costs related to our legal campaigns, such as outsourcing (including legal fees), gathering new evidence, strategic communications to maximise campaign impact, and the dedicated work of our team involved in these efforts.

The Wales Project

Funding supported our essential work in Wales, helping to strengthen local environmental efforts and campaigns.

March for Clean Water

A powerful demonstration calling for urgent action to protect water quality and combat pollution. Activists, communities, and environmental groups united to raise awareness and push for stronger policies ensuring clean, safe water.

Citizen Science

This project supports catchment-based activism, the monitoring of pollution, and river restoration. River Action has developed a new Communities Toolkit, which includes expanding the citizen science programme to wider catchments.

Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds represent the charity's decision to support projects with general reserves, covering a budgeted overspend.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

14. Movements in funds (continued)

Prior year comparative

| | At 1 April 2023 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | At 31 March 2024 £ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Restricted funds | | | | |
| Creative assets | 58,726 | - | (58,726) | - |
| Legal action | - | 121,452 | (51,832) | 69,620 |
| Total restricted funds | <u>-</u> | <u>121,452</u> | <u>(110,558)</u> | <u>69,620</u> |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General funds | <u>189,606</u> | <u>807,288</u> | <u>(616,413)</u> | <u>380,481</u> |
| Total unrestricted funds | <u>189,606</u> | <u>807,288</u> | <u>(616,413)</u> | <u>380,481</u> |
| Total funds | <u>189,606</u> | <u>928,740</u> | <u>(726,971)</u> | <u>450,101</u> |

15. Related party transactions

The aggregate donations from trustees during the year was £195,000 of which £65,000 was restricted (2024: Nil).

Erica Popplewell, Head of Communities, is a trustee of Friends of the Thames (charity number 1212696). James Wallace, CEO, is on the advisory board of Friends of the Thames. During the year the charity paid a grant of £25,000 (2024: £nil) to Friends of the Thames. All amounts were paid in the year. All transactions were carried out at arms' length.

RIVER ACTION UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1194995

Accounts

Charity no. 1194995

River Action UK
Report and Unaudited Financial
Statements
31 March 2024

River Action UK

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2024

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of foundation | 29 June 2021 |
| Charity number | 1194995 |
| Registered office and operational address | Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD |
| Trustees | The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows: Marina Gibson James Macpherson Charles Watson |
| Bankers | Lloyds Bank Plc Lewisham London CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent |
| Independent examiners | Godfrey Wilson Limited Chartered accountants and statutory auditors 5th Floor Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD |

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Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the period ended 31 March 2024. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 13 to 15 and comply with the Charity's Foundation Constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102) (SORP).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trust ("the Charity") is a charitable incorporated organisation number CE026257, and is a registered charity, number 1194995. The Charity was established by initial gifts from Founder & Chair Charles Watson. The Charity actively fundraises and seeks to carry out the work desired through the careful stewardship of its existing resources and ad hoc contributions.

There must be at least 2 Trustees and new Trustees shall be appointed by a Trustees' Resolution passed at a special meeting called under Clause 9.3.1 of the original Foundation Constitution. New Trustees shall be selected with regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Charity. If a vacancy occurs this shall be noted in the Trustees' Minutes at their next meeting.

Procedures have not been adopted for the induction and training of Trustees but all ensure they continue to operate within current guidelines by discussing all issues arising as advised by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees should hold at least two ordinary meetings each year.

The Trustees who served during the period are as set out on page 1.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY

River Action is an impactful charity on a mission to rescue Britain's rivers from the environmental calamity caused by the deluge of agricultural, sewage and industrial pollution. We aim to secure the necessary community activism, public support and policy change to end river pollution and enable natural climate solutions.

We go to the root causes of the problem and use a systemic approach to cascade change across the UK. Our five year strategy has three goals:

1. Empower local communities:

- Provide communities with a toolkit that includes legal guidance and advice, training in mobilising communities through media and communications, and guidance on how to raise funds for local campaigns; and
- Help communities gather and present evidence of pollution sources and levels by enabling and organising collaborations between NGOs, activists, citizen science groups and academic bodies.

2. Mobilise public opinion:

- Raise public awareness through creative and original content designed to go viral, gain maximum exposure in the national media, and amplify activists' voices; and
- Leverage this awareness to pressure the government through petitions and call for consumer action such as boycotting products from certain polluting suppliers.

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Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

3. Advocate government policy and industry practice change:

- Drive government policy enforcement of regulations through taking legal action against the relevant government bodies and creating a charter of best practices for rivers to expedite reform in regulation, incentivise sustainable water quality management and to enforce the law; and
- Catalyse behaviour change in polluting industries to adopt river-friendly practices by presenting them with evidence of the pollution they are causing pressuring urgent investment in outdated infrastructure, offering nature-based solutions, and leveraging consumer and stakeholder support.

The Trustees have complied with s17(5) of Charities Act 2011 and have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit by the Charity Commission when exercising relevant powers or duties.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

As set out on pages 10 and 11, the Charity's assets have increased in the period to £450,101, with £380,481 of this being unrestricted.

Reserves

From April 2024, the trustees have established an aim to hold a minimum of £213,000 in free reserves (defined as unrestricted net current assets), which equates to three months of projected running costs / total expenditure for the year 2024/25, to ensure that charity's main activities can be carried out and operational needs are met. The current level of unrestricted reserves is £380,481, which equates to 6 months of charity expenditure. The charity plans to bring reserves in line with the policy by investing in future projects as outlined in the "plans for the future" section of this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

River Action's CEO and Senior Management Team maintain a risk register detailing all potential risk areas, updated regularly. The areas of risk include financial, strategic, governance, operational, reputational, legal, staffing and other risks. The level of each risk's likelihood and impact is assessed and combined to give a rating that when above a certain limit alerts the team to pay special attention to that risk and expedite remedial actions. Concerns are discussed in monthly Senior Management Team meetings and with Trustees in our quarterly board meetings. The Risk Register is then updated further with agreed changes in risk profile and mitigating actions.

The main risks requiring Senior Management Team and Trustee attention in this financial year were as follows:

- Secure funding - as a new organisation with a growing team and overhead, we were concerned that we will have sufficient funds to recruit our team and attain our objectives. Thanks to the generous support of new donors and the public, our fundraising was successful for this year, with a healthy pipeline for the next year, and our team has delivered our strategic priorities. The risk level has been lowered accordingly; and
- Secure team - following a period of rapid growth and recruitment, we are delighted to have engaged a team of talented and committed individuals. The organisation culture is a very important contributor to our success, and we have endeavoured to enable a healthy balance between intense campaigning and quieter times for reflection and planning. With the core team now in place, we plan to recruit only a small number of roles next year. The risk level has been lowered accordingly.

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This year, the Charity has continued to build on its success from 2022/23, cementing its reputation as an impactful campaigning organisation. We expanded our focus from the River Wye catchment to the River Thames, including the launch of our first legal action targeting the Environment Agency and raising awareness of the health risks from sewage pollution, River Action has become a go-to trusted voice on the issue of agricultural and sewage pollution and the crisis facing Britain's rivers.

The team grew to 10 staff during the year enabling us to deliver considerably more impact, building on past experience and testing our theory of change to maximise impact. As a key measure of our campaigning profile and success, we are pleased that the Charity's public following through social media has grown rapidly this year along with significant uplift of national media coverage as we supported more communities, bringing their concerns to the key decision makers in industry to government to bring about urgent change.

Headline achievements include:

- Galvanised a group of river activists on the River Thames - including Sir Steve Redgrave and Steve Backshall - creating a campaign around the 2023 Henley Royal Regatta with pathogen testing results for E.coli used to target Thames Water, England's biggest river polluter, pressuring board level discussions to expedite sewage investment. We then built on this success for the Boat Race in March 2024 where our E.Coli testing results discovered 10 times safe bathing water levels, and the story generated 1,751 news stories across the UK and international media;
- Empowered over 15 different community groups and over 100 activists across the country to rescue local river catchments, providing practical advice, research to understand and resolve the challenges, and public communications;
- Produced a series of animation films, cheekily called "This is Shit," alongside leading 'Shaun the Sheep' animators with celebrity voice-overs including Paul Whitehouse, Stephen Fry, Alexander Armstrong and Megan McCubbin, reaching an audience of over 660k views;
- Launched our first legal challenge with a Judicial Review against the Environment Agency and DEFRA (as a related party) for failing to uphold the Farming Rules for Water along the River Wye and allowing the intensive poultry industry to cause the ecological collapse of the river catchment;
- Executive Produced and premiered Black Samphire, a gothic horror short film highlighting the insidious danger of water pollution, ahead of World Water Day. It was held at the Brixton Ritzy cinema with impressive media coverage - 160 people attended and as well as the film and documentary, were treated to a panel discussion including Feargal Sharkey on the hot topic of how to reform the water industry;
- Developed and launched the Charter for Rivers - a call to action which sets out 10 policies required to achieve healthy rivers by 2030 - supported by over 70 cross sector of organisations from national eNGOs such as National Trust, Wildlife Trusts, WWF and Greenpeace; Sustainable farming organisations such as Soil Association, Nature Friendly Farming Network and Sustain; national governing bodies including British Rowing, Swim England, Angling Trust, British Canoeing; and a wide range of local community groups. We co-hosted a parliamentary event with Philip Dunne MP, Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee, to launch the Charter;
- Launched a petition - Rescue our Rivers - in May 2023 calling for the support of our Charter. Our petition received over 108,000 signatories. We presented the petition to No.10 Downing Street and to the headquarters of Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties;
- Developed a Local Charter for Rivers and accompanying resources pack for dissemination to voters ahead of the 2024 local and mayoral election. This was launched in partnership with the WI, Rivers Trust and other Charter signatories, achieving over 200 downloads;

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Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

- Actively worked with the Wye community and Leigh Day Solicitors, connecting them together with the thousands of people and businesses that have suffered with loss of income by the pollution in the River Wye. This is a group legal action being taken by Leigh Day (we are taking a supporting role) against Avara, the main poultry producer along the Wye, using statutory nuisance law;
- Funded at very short notice a legal appeal against Natural Resources Wales, which successfully resulted in the granting of the first stretch of Bathing Water Status on the River Wye at the Warren near Hereford;
- Commenced another major campaign against the recent rapid growth of the intensive poultry industry in the catchment of the River Severn. This was launched by River Action initiating a funding a judicial review to overturn planning consent for a major new intensive poultry unit in Shropshire;
- Hosted and presented on panels at the centre of a wide variety of river-related events including the UK River Summit and Festival 2024 - in which we declared and discussed the Freshwater Emergency with senior politicians, industry leaders, media and environmentalists including CEOs of a water company, regulator and Feargal Sharkey - and speaking at 'Getting what you pay for', at the RSA in February 2024, and gave a speech at The national Church in Wales AGM;
- Co-hosted a 'Rivers Event' in London to discuss mitigating the huge problem of river pollution caused by intensive agricultural practices that was attended by 130 attendees including NGOs, influencers and the press, a group of waste to resource technology providers - to promote nutrient trading - and the now Minister for Agriculture and Chair of the Environment Agency;
- Expanded the team with the appointment of Campaigns Analyst, Senior Development Coordinator, Communities Coordinator and Senior Media Coordinator. These new roles have increased our ability to build links to community groups and created media contact based on data and evidence and reach the major media outlets to gain positive coverage. One example of this was the Oxbridge Boat Race story in March 2024. Chloe Peck (Communities Coordinator) collected E.coli data which was interpreted by Nick Woolgrove (Campaigns Analyst), and created into a media story by Ian Woolverton, (Senior Media Coordinator). Our results caused a media storm around the Boat Race, with 1,751 news items across the UK and international media;
- Increased our online presence and following through producing high quality and inspiring content. Significantly grew our media coverage and reach. Latest figures show that between 1 January and 31 March 2024, we generated 3,287 media stories. Our share of voice, in comparison to 11 other environmental campaigners, including Surfers Against Sewage, the Wildlife Trusts and Rivers Trusts, was 42%, higher than any other eNGO; and
- Took the Environment Agency and DEFRA to court for failing to enforce the Farming Rules for Water and protect the River Wye in February 2024. Whilst the judge ruled against River Actions claims, he did so on the basis that he believed that as a result of River Action bringing its claim against the EA, the latter's enforcement policies had undergone significant improvement, making it difficult for him to rule in our favour. The judgement also resulted in a number of other wins for River Action, including the Judge's recognition an acknowledgement of the severe levels of pollution caused by excessive phosphorus entering the River Wye, the recognition that farming practices must change, and the Judge's rebuttal of the NFU's intervention in the case, confirming that there was little legal basis for the DEFRA Guidance on enforcement of the Farming Rules for Water. As a result of the latter ruling, River Action is now evaluating taking further legal action on the matter. The media coverage reached millions of people, and a crowdfunder raised nearly £47,000. Submitted three complaints to the Advertising Standards Authority accusing Red Tractor's advertising and other publicity materials of falsely representing environmental performance. We understand that the ASA are preparing to release their judgement following investigation.

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Over this year, River Action has continued its growth into a maturing environmental campaigning charity, with a reputation across the nation, industry, government and media as a trusted campaigning organisation and voice for communities, rivers and nature. As a deeply collaborative team, our approach of working through a network of partners and being evidence-led and relentlessly tough on polluters and failed regulators, we have been able to earn the respect of those we seek to influence positively, while bearing our legal teeth when necessary. It has proven to be essential that we not only have a place at the boardroom/government department table but also act as an independent convener to help find alignment that delivers urgent action. We have a long way to go but are pleased with the output of our work and the many people we work with across the UK.

The Charity has had another successful year raising funds to cover its core costs and campaign costs through various channels including grants from trusts and foundations, High Net Worth Individuals, fundraising events, online donations and crowdfunders. Our mutually beneficial relationships with funders have allowed us to secure multi-year grants, maintained our existing relationships with funders and continue to engage new leads, while remaining free of the constraints imposed on others who accept funding from polluters and government. Most of the funds raised are unrestricted, with some restricted to community work and legal action.

We have updated our Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting system to incorporate all our activities with input from the team. Our MER system includes both quantitative and qualitative Key Performance Indicators that the team updates periodically to follow our progress and measure our impact for the benefit of updating our partners, beneficiaries, funders and the public and also to improve our work.

During the year ended 31 March 2024 incoming resources amounted to £928,740. The Statement of Financial Activities on page 10 includes income and expenditure throughout the period.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Charity has an ambitious programme of campaigns planned over the next 6 to 12 months. Headline activities include:

Objective One - Empowering communities

- Launch our River Rescue Kit to empower and support communities across Britain to rescue their local river catchments. The RRK will include all guidance and tools an activist might need, delivered through a network of collaborators including NGOs, law firms and experienced community groups;
- Help establish more citizen science communities across the UK, extending nutrient pollution and bacteria testing in collaboration with independent scientists including universities;
- Establish a River Action Community Fund providing micro funding for small community projects to inspire and drive nation-wide campaigns by gathering evidence of pollution and targeting polluters;
- Continue our Partnership with British Rowing (and other river user groups) for a major River Thames Campaign at Henley Royal Regatta with athletes participating in pathogen testing and events, including 2024 Olympics in France, targeting UK's worst polluter, Thames Water;
- Facilitate the development of a 'Friends of the River Thames' (FORT) collaboration of community groups and activists along the river; and
- Launch a major campaign tackling the pollution caused by the dairy industry across England and Wales to promote best practice and increase farm payments, nutrient trading, food standards and fair pricing to farmers.

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Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Objective Two - Mobilising public opinion

- Produce engaging and creative content such as a further episode of our mini series of short videos on river pollution with the help of Jeremy Wade (creator of Discovery Channel show River Monsters);
- Continue to spread awareness across our social media platforms and gain wide and extensive coverage in the local, national and international media with original stories and high impact campaigns;
- Rebuild our main website to provide engaging information, resources and stories including a new microsite for the community toolkit; increasing social media presence and followers; and
- Create an internal story bank for our communication campaigns including images and stories from various communities and then promote those stories through our communications channels.

Objective Three - Advocate government policy and industry practice change

- Lead a national 'March for Clean Water' in October 2024 mobilising NGOs, celebrities and communities across the country following the election to pressure the new government to prioritise clean water and reform regulators;
- Deploy our Charter for Rivers through advocacy targeting policy makers and ensure election-winning parties/MPs are held to account;
- Engage with leaders from regulators, industry and NGOs to support and if necessary pressure the new government to expedite commitments to restore Britain's rivers, including refinancing failing water companies;
- Appeal our Judicial Review against the Environment Agency for its failure to protect the River Wye, and then create a national campaign exposing the scandal of retailers, and pursue further Judicial Reviews, including the River Severn, and across Britain for the government's failure to protect our rivers; and
- Pursue our complaint against Red Tractor for falsely certifying dairy farms as environmentally friendly.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the charity for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity at any time and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The members of the charity have no liability to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the Charity keeps accounting records which comply with the Charities Act and the provisions of the Foundation Constitution and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period.

Independent examiners

Godfrey Wilson Limited were re-appointed as independent examiners to the charity during the period and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 30 August 2024 and signed on their behalf by

charles watson

Charles Watson
Chair

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

River Action UK

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of River Action UK (the CIO) for the period ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 10 to 22.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO'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

Since the CIO's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

Godfrey Wilson Limited also provides bookkeeping and payroll services to the CIO. I confirm that as a member of the ICAEW I am subject to the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2016, which I have applied with respect to this engagement.

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 CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Rob Wilson

Date: 30 August 2024

Robert Wilson FCA

Member of the ICAEW

For and on behalf of:

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

River Action UK

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2024

| | Note | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | 2024 Total £ | 2023 Total £ |
|---------------------------------------------|------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Income from: | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | 121,452 | 802,574 | 924,026 | 485,398 |
| Interest income | | - | 4,714 | 4,714 | - |
| Total income | | <u>121,452</u> | <u>807,288</u> | <u>928,740</u> | <u>485,398</u> |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | |
| Raising funds | | - | 93,244 | 93,244 | 50,438 |
| Charitable activities | | <u>110,558</u> | <u>523,169</u> | <u>633,727</u> | <u>253,297</u> |
| Total expenditure | 5 | <u>110,558</u> | <u>616,413</u> | <u>726,971</u> | <u>303,735</u> |
| Net income and net movement in funds | | 10,894 | 190,875 | 201,769 | 181,663 |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | <u>58,726</u> | <u>189,606</u> | <u>248,332</u> | <u>66,669</u> |
| Total funds carried forward | | <u><u>69,620</u></u> | <u><u>380,481</u></u> | <u><u>450,101</u></u> | <u><u>248,332</u></u> |

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 13 to the accounts.

River Action UK

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2024

| | Note | £ | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|----------------------------------------------|------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Current assets | | | | |
| Debtors | 10 | 11,461 | | 5,974 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | <u>458,355</u> | | <u>249,786</u> |
| | | 469,816 | | 255,760 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year | 11 | <u>(19,715)</u> | | <u>(7,428)</u> |
| Net current assets | | | <u>450,101</u> | <u>248,332</u> |
| Net assets | 12 | | <u>450,101</u> | <u>248,332</u> |
| Funds | 13 | | | |
| Restricted funds | | | 69,620 | 58,726 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General funds | | | <u>380,481</u> | <u>189,606</u> |
| Total charity funds | | | <u>450,101</u> | <u>248,332</u> |

Approved by the trustees on 30 August 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Charles Watson

Charles Watson
Chair

River Action UK

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2024

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cash used in operating activities: | | |
| Net movement in funds | 201,769 | 181,663 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments | (4,714) | - |
| (Increase) / decrease in debtors | (5,487) | 26,836 |
| Increase / (decrease) in creditors | <u>12,287</u> | <u>(6,915)</u> |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | <u>203,855</u> | <u>201,584</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments | <u>4,714</u> | - |
| Net cash provided by investing activities | <u>4,714</u> | - |
| Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year | 208,569 | 201,584 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year | <u>249,786</u> | <u>48,202</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year | <u><u>458,355</u></u> | <u><u>249,786</u></u> |

The charity has not provided an analysis of changes in net debt as it does not have any long term financing arrangements.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

River Action UK meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of provision of a specified service is deferred until criteria for income recognition are met.

d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

d) Donated services and facilities (continued)

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities based as follows:

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| Raising funds | 13.0% | 16.6% |
| Charitable activities | 87.0% | 83.4% |

i) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

j) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

k) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

l) Financial instruments

The trust only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

m) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

n) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no sources of estimation uncertainty in the current or prior year.

2. Prior period comparatives: statement of financial activities

| | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | 2023 Total £ |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Income from: | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 59,451 | 425,947 | 485,398 |
| Total income | 59,451 | 425,947 | 485,398 |
| Expenditure on: | | | |
| Raising funds | - | 50,438 | 50,438 |
| Charitable activities | 725 | 252,572 | 253,297 |
| Total expenditure | 725 | 303,010 | 303,735 |
| Net income | 58,726 | 122,937 | 181,663 |

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

3. Income from donations and legacies

| | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | 2024 Total £ |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Donations | 112,884 | 767,399 | 880,283 |
| Gift aid | <u>8,568</u> | <u>35,175</u> | <u>43,743</u> |
| Total income from donations and legacies | <u><u>121,452</u></u> | <u><u>802,574</u></u> | <u><u>924,026</u></u> |

Prior period comparative

| | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | 2023 Total £ |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Donations | 53,824 | 425,947 | 479,771 |
| Gift aid | <u>5,627</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>5,627</u> |
| Total income from donations and legacies | <u><u>59,451</u></u> | <u><u>425,947</u></u> | <u><u>485,398</u></u> |

4. Government grants

The charity received no government grants during the current or prior period.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

5. Total expenditure

| | Raising funds £ | Charitable activities £ | Support and governance costs £ | 2024 Total £ |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Photography | - | 7,633 | - | 7,633 |
| Props & equipment | - | 7,873 | - | 7,873 |
| Meeting costs | - | - | 5,656 | 5,656 |
| Administrators | - | - | 13,749 | 13,749 |
| Fundraising platform fees | 3,142 | - | - | 3,142 |
| Event costs | - | 5,783 | - | 5,783 |
| Staff training & welfare | - | - | 3,161 | 3,161 |
| Staff costs (note 7) | 69,663 | 251,124 | 54,051 | 374,838 |
| Recruitment | - | - | 3,715 | 3,715 |
| Design costs | - | 67,500 | - | 67,500 |
| Advertising, marketing and PR | - | - | 8,304 | 8,304 |
| Raising awareness and campaigning | - | 156,874 | - | 156,874 |
| Computer and website | - | - | 29,612 | 29,612 |
| Legal | - | 13 | - | 13 |
| Accountancy | - | - | 4,717 | 4,717 |
| Bank fees | - | - | 150 | 150 |
| Printing, postage & stationery | - | - | 1,133 | 1,133 |
| Insurance | - | - | 2,680 | 2,680 |
| Travel and subsistence | - | - | 30,438 | 30,438 |
| Sub-total | 72,805 | 496,800 | 157,366 | 726,971 |
| Allocation of support and governance costs | 20,439 | 136,927 | (157,366) | - |
| Total expenditure | 93,244 | 633,727 | - | 726,971 |

Total governance costs were £5,377 (2023: £5,045).

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

5. Total expenditure (continued)

Prior period comparative

| | Raising funds £ | Charitable activities £ | Support and governance costs £ | 2023 Total £ |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Administrators | - | - | 10,664 | 10,664 |
| Fundraising platform fees | 870 | - | - | 870 |
| Event costs | 1,213 | - | - | 1,213 |
| Consultancy | - | - | 850 | 850 |
| Fundraisers | 17,483 | - | - | 17,483 |
| Staff costs (note 7) | 18,710 | 50,257 | 42,637 | 111,604 |
| Recruitment | - | - | 3,420 | 3,420 |
| Advertising, marketing and PR | - | - | 1,592 | 1,592 |
| Raising awareness and campaigning | - | 122,126 | - | 122,126 |
| Computer and website | - | - | 4,611 | 4,611 |
| Legal | - | 18,754 | - | 18,754 |
| Accountancy | - | - | 5,045 | 5,045 |
| Charitable donations | - | 3,200 | - | 3,200 |
| Bank fees | - | - | 30 | 30 |
| Printing, postage & stationery | - | - | 368 | 368 |
| Memberships | - | - | 304 | 304 |
| Insurance | - | - | 478 | 478 |
| Travel and subsistence | - | - | 3,267 | 3,267 |
| Grants payable (note 8) | - | (2,144) | - | (2,144) |
| Sub-total | 38,276 | 192,193 | 73,266 | 303,735 |
| Allocation of support and governance costs | 12,162 | 61,104 | (73,266) | - |
| Total expenditure | 50,438 | 253,297 | - | 303,735 |

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

6. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Trustees' remuneration | Nil | Nil |
| Trustees' reimbursed expenses | 288 | Nil |
| Independent examiner's fee: | | |
| ▪ Independent examination (excluding VAT) | 2,800 | 1,650 |
| ▪ Other services | 1,681 | 2,554 |
| | <u>1,681</u> | <u>2,554</u> |

7. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Salaries and wages | 328,133 | 72,315 |
| Social security costs | 29,939 | 3,352 |
| Pension costs | 16,766 | 682 |
| Freelance staff | - | 35,255 |
| | <u>374,838</u> | <u>111,604</u> |

1 employee earned between £90,000 and £100,000 (2023: No employee earned more than £60,000).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and chief executive officer. The total remuneration and employee benefits of the key management personnel were £106,048 (2023: £77,774, including the freelance staff cost above).

| | 2024 No. | 2023 No. |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Average head count | <u>9</u> | <u>3</u> |

8. Grants payable

Grants payable were made to the following institutions:

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Radnorshire Wildlife Trust | - | (2,144) |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>(2,144)</u> |

Included in 21/22 accruals were grant commitments of £5,845 to Radnorshire Wildlife Trust. This was an over-accrual by £2,144, reflected in the prior year as a negative balance.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

9. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

10. Debtors

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Trade debtors | 116 | - |
| Gift aid | 8,588 | 5,581 |
| Prepayments | 2,757 | 393 |
| | <u>11,461</u> | <u>5,974</u> |

11. Creditors : amounts due within 1 year

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Trade creditors | 4,748 | 3,911 |
| Accruals | 3,572 | 3,517 |
| Other taxation and social security | 11,395 | - |
| | <u>19,715</u> | <u>7,428</u> |

12. Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Restricted funds £ | Unrestricted funds £ | 2024 Total £ |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Current assets | 69,620 | 400,196 | 469,816 |
| Current liabilities | - | (19,715) | (19,715) |
| Net assets at 31 March 2024 | <u>69,620</u> | <u>380,481</u> | <u>450,101</u> |

Prior year comparative

| | Restricted funds £ | Unrestricted funds £ | 2023 Total £ |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Current assets | 58,726 | 197,034 | 255,760 |
| Current liabilities | - | (7,428) | (7,428) |
| Net assets at 31 March 2023 | <u>58,726</u> | <u>189,606</u> | <u>248,332</u> |

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

13. Movements in funds

| | At 1 April 2023 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | At 31 March 2024 £ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Restricted funds | | | | |
| Creative assets | 58,726 | - | (58,726) | - |
| Legal action | - | 121,452 | (51,832) | 69,620 |
| Total restricted funds | 58,726 | 121,452 | (110,558) | 69,620 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General funds | 189,606 | 807,288 | (616,413) | 380,481 |
| Total unrestricted funds | 189,606 | 807,288 | (616,413) | 380,481 |
| Total funds | 248,332 | 928,740 | (726,971) | 450,101 |

Purposes of restricted funds

Creative Assets

River Action conceptualised, funded, commissioned and executive produced a new animation series called This is Sh*t, working with lead animators from Shaun the Sheep and Fantastic Mr Fox, and voice overs from Stephen Fry, Sunetra Saker, Paul Whitehouse, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and others. The series launched in July 2023 and used humour to engage the public in supporting River Action's advocacy work including petitions and the Charter for Rivers.

Legal Action

All costs pertaining to our legal campaigns covering all outsourcing costs (including legal fees), costs of gathering evidence, citizen science and communications to maximise the campaign impact in addition to the cost of the team's work dedicated to these campaigns.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

13. Movements in funds (continued)
Prior year comparative

| | At 1 April 2022 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | At 31 March 2023 £ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Restricted funds | | | | |
| Creative assets | <u>-</u> | <u>59,451</u> | <u>(725)</u> | <u>58,726</u> |
| Total restricted funds | <u>-</u> | <u>59,451</u> | <u>(725)</u> | <u>58,726</u> |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General funds | <u>66,669</u> | <u>425,947</u> | <u>(303,010)</u> | <u>189,606</u> |
| Total unrestricted funds | <u>66,669</u> | <u>425,947</u> | <u>(303,010)</u> | <u>189,606</u> |
| Total funds | <u>66,669</u> | <u>485,398</u> | <u>(303,735)</u> | <u>248,332</u> |

14. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the current or prior period.

RIVER ACTION UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1194995

Accounts

Charity no. 1194995

River Action UK
Report and Unaudited Financial
Statements
31 March 2023

River Action UK

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2023

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of foundation | 29 June 2021 |
| Charity number | 1194995 |
| Registered office and operational address | Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD |
| Trustees | The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows: Marina Gibson James Macpherson James Wallace (resigned 16 May 2022) Charles Watson |
| Bankers | Lloyds Bank Plc Lewisham London CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent |
| Independent examiners | Godfrey Wilson Limited Chartered accountants and statutory auditors 5th Floor Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD |

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 11 to 13 and comply with the Charity's Foundation Constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102) (SORP).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trust (the "Charity") is a charitable incorporated organisation, number CE026257, and is a registered charity, number 1194995. The Charity was established by initial gifts from Founder & Chair Charles Watson. The Charity actively fundraises and seeks to carry out the work desired through the careful stewardship of its existing resources and ad hoc contributions.

There must be at least 2 Trustees and new Trustees shall be appointed by a Trustees' Resolution passed at a special meeting called under Clause 9.3.1 of the original Foundation Constitution. New Trustees shall be selected with regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Charity. If a vacancy occurs this shall be noted in the Trustees' Minutes at their next meeting.

Procedures have not been adopted for the induction and training of Trustees but all ensure they continue to operate within current guidelines by discussing all issues arising as advised by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees should hold at least two ordinary meetings each year.

The Trustees who served during the period are as set out on page 1.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY

River Action is an impactful charity on a mission to rescue Britain's rivers from the environmental calamity caused by the deluge of agricultural, sewage and industrial pollution. We aim to secure the necessary community activism, public support and policy change to end river pollution and enable natural climate solutions.

We go to the root causes of the problem and use a systemic approach to cascade change across the UK. Our five year strategy has three goals:

1. Empower local communities:
 - Provide communities with a toolkit that includes legal guidance and advice, training in mobilising communities through media and communications, and guidance on how to raise funds for local campaigns; and
 - Help communities gather and present evidence of pollution sources and levels by organising collaborations between NGOs, activists, citizen science groups and academic bodies.
2. Mobilise public opinion:
 - Raise public awareness through creative and original content designed to go viral, gain maximum exposure in the national media, and amplify activists' voices; and
 - Leverage this awareness to pressure the government through petitions and call for consumer action such as boycotting products from certain polluting suppliers.

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

3. Advocate government policy and industry practice change:
 - Drive government policy enforcement of regulations through taking legal action against the relevant government bodies and creating a charter of best practices for rivers; and
 - Catalyse behaviour change in polluting industries to adopt river-friendly practices by presenting them with evidence of the pollution they are causing, offering nature-based solutions, and leveraging consumer and stakeholder support to pressure them to do so.

The Trustees have complied with s17(5) of Charities Act 2011 and have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit by the Charity Commission when exercising relevant powers or duties.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

As set out on pages 9 and 10, the Charity's assets have increased in the period to £248,332, with £189,606 of this being unrestricted.

Reserves

The Trustees will continue to monitor the level of reserves. As the Charity enters its third year of existence, the Trustees will be working with its accountants to develop a Reserves Policy, which will be presented in its next annual accounts after considering any long-term commitments, of which there are none at present.

Risk management

River Action's CEO and Senior Management Team maintain a risk register detailing all potential risk areas, updated monthly. The areas of risk include financial, strategic, governance, operational, reputational, legal, staffing and other risks. The level of each risk's likelihood and impact is assessed and combined to give a rating that when above a certain limit alerts the team to pay special attention to that risk and expedite remedial actions.

Concerns are discussed in monthly Senior Management Team meetings and with Trustees in our quarterly board meetings. The Risk Register is then updated further with agreed changes in risk profile and mitigating actions.

The main risks requiring Senior Management Team and Trustee attention in this financial year were as follows:

- Secure funding - as a new organisation with a growing team and overheads, we were concerned that we would not have sufficient funds to recruit our team and attain our objectives. Thanks to the generous support of new donors and the public, our fundraising was successful for this year, with a healthy pipeline for the next year, and our team has delivered our strategic priorities. The risk level has been lowered accordingly; and
- Secure team - following a period of intense recruitment, we are delighted to have engaged a team of talented and committed individuals. The organisation culture is a very important contributor to our success, and we have endeavoured to enable a healthy balance between intense campaigning and quieter times for reflection and planning. With the core team now in place, we will continue to grow slowly but not by much. The risk level has been lowered accordingly.

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This year, the Charity has continued to build on its success from 2021/22, cementing its reputation as an impactful campaigning organisation. Continuing to focus primarily on the River Wye catchment, including the launch of our first legal action targeting the the Environment Agency, River Action has become a go-to trusted voice on the issue of agricultural pollution and the crisis facing Britain's rivers.

With the appointment of the Charity's first CEO and supported by the Development Manager in autumn 2022, the focus has been on raising essential funds to grow our team so we can expand impact and the reach of campaigns. This has enabled the Charity to broaden campaigns with a strategic focus on developing the Charter for Rivers aimed at driving the need for healthy rivers up the voting agenda ahead of the next general election. This has been aided by the recruitment of a Campaigns Manager and Communications Coordinator at the beginning of 2023 with the appointment of two further Coordinator roles within the Campaigns Team starting in Q1 of 2023/24. The Charity's public following through social media has grown rapidly this year along with significant uplift of national media coverage.

Headline achievements include:

- Pressured greater investment from government for environmental regulators through the appointment of 50 new enforcement staff in the Environment Agency through the "Give Us Back Our Rivers" campaign, supported by almost 70,000 people through our 'Double the Dosh' petition;
- Avara Foods admitted culpability for their role in the pollution destroying the River Wye following consistent and assertive pressure by River Action and local community groups. Avara supply the food for chickens, derived from soya grown in deforested areas of the Amazon, and the young chicken poults to farmers and then buy back matured chickens and process them for supermarkets like Tesco;
- Direct engagement with the heads of government agencies, regulators, agriculture companies and food retailers to uphold the law and invest in rapid improvement in farming practices. This has included letters written to the Secretary of State for Environment and Ministers for Rivers supported by local and national NGOs, and a series of direct meetings with the leadership teams of environmental regulators, the water industry and the agricultural & food retailing sector;
- Launched our first legal challenge with a Judicial Review against the Environment Agency and DEFRA (as a related party) for failing to uphold the Farming Rules for Water along the River Wye and allowing the intensive poultry industry to cause the ecological collapse of the river catchment;
- Continued to provide support to community groups along the River Wye, advising on campaign strategy, citizen science, promotion of stories, events and actions, communications and legal support. Our collaboration with activists like Angela Jone (The Wild Woman of the Wye) has brought the plight of the river and local communities to the attention of people across the country;
- Developed the Charter for Rivers supported by over 70 cross sectors of organisations from national eNGOs such as National Trust, Wildlife Trusts, WWF and Greenpeace; Sustainable farming organisations such as Soil Association, Nature Friendly Framing Network and Sustain; national governing bodies including British Rowing, Swim England, Angling Trust, British Canoeing; and a wide range of local community groups. An extensive political advocacy and public campaign plan has been developed around the Charter for 2023/24;

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

- Increased online presence and high quality and inspiring content with increasing followers and contributors to local catchment-based action and national public opinion. We have increased our Twitter followers to 7,225, Instagram to 1,913, and Facebook followers to 1,198. We commissioned a series of cheeky animations - called This is Sh*t - with the animators who created characters such as Wallace and Gromitt and Shaun the Sheep which will be launched in the summer of 2023;
- Rapidly increased our media presence through connections and contacts brought in through our Chairman, CEO and Campaigns Manager with coverage of the Charity's campaigns and comment on related media stories in The Times, The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Financial Times, Daily Express, Sky News, The i, BBC, ITV, and many more; and
- Expansion of the team with the appointment of a CEO, Development Manager, Campaigns Manager, Communications Coordinator and completed recruitments of a Campaigns Coordinator and Communities Coordinator. We have set up our systems, processes and policies to guide and enable our work as a highly effective campaigning team.

The combined impact of these achievements has been to establish the charity as one of the leading independent campaigning organisations focussed on combating the existential environmental threats to the UK's rivers. They have also given a voice to our beneficiaries and helped them engage with the perpetrators of pollution in their communities and the statutory regulatory bodies responsible for enforcing policy. The expansion of the team positions River Action to scale its campaign work beyond the River Wye into other catchment areas and focusing on a broad range of issues impacting the health of rivers such as dairy farming, sewage pollution and abstraction going forward. They have also established River Action's national campaign voice with recognition in the sector of the vital and unique role the Charity has in this campaigning space.

The Charity has successfully raised funds to cover its core costs and campaign costs through various channels including grants, High Net Worth Individuals, fundraising events, online donations and crowdfunders. We have forged partnerships with funders, secured multi-year grants and continue to engage new leads. Most of the funds raised are unrestricted, with some restricted to community work, creation of communication content and citizen science.

We have created a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting system that involves input from the team to follow our progress, and measure our impact for the benefit of updating our partners, beneficiaries, funders and the public and also to improve our work.

During the year ended 31 March 2023 incoming resources amounted to £485,398. The Statement of Financial Activities on page 9 includes income and expenditure throughout the period.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Charity has an ambitious programme of campaigns planned over the next 6-12 months:

- Charter for Rivers - our major campaign will focus public, political and media attention on the crisis facing our rivers with the intention of making rivers a major voting issue in the next general election, by-elections and London Mayoral election. We will be launching the Charter with a range of public stunts and political events in Westminster, launching a petition to develop the public mandate behind the Charter which will be handed in with an impactful public stunt, releasing the new series of cheeky but thought provoking animations to drive petition signatures, and working with Charter signatories to present the Charter at political party conferences;

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

- Catchment Campaigns - we will continue to support communities along the river Wye by identifying and calling out industry protagonists, we plan to launch a campaign focused on the impact of the dairy industry on rivers in the South West, investigate partnership campaigns focused on the over abstraction issue of chalk streams, and launch a campaign on the Thames focused on sewage pollution and impending water shortages facing populations across the capital and the South East of England;
- Communities Toolkit - we will develop and launch the package of support for helping communities to become effective campaigners. This will include a website with information about the causes and solutions to river pollution and over abstraction, a repository for evidence of pollution and gathering stories, and sign-posting to partners who can provide expert advice including on citizen science and legal action;
- Legal Action - we will continue to pursue our first legal challenge against the environment agency and pursue our advertising standards complaint against the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme. We will work with our legal advisors to identify any further opportunities to launch legal challenges that will have a significant systemic impact; and
- We continue to nurture relationships with our existing donors, updating them with our progress and maintaining multi-year grants, and we continuously seek new leads, identify and engage major donors and pursue new partnerships to raise funds for our work through all channels available to us including grants, individual donations, online donations, crowdfunding.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the charity for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity at any time and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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.

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The members of the charity have no liability to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the Charity keeps accounting records which comply with the Charities Act and the provisions of the Foundation Constitution and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period.

Independent examiners

Godfrey Wilson Limited were re-appointed as independent examiners to the charity during the period and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 4 August 2023 and signed on their behalf by

charles watson

Charles Watson
Chair

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

River Action UK

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of River Action UK (the CIO) for the period ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 9 to 19.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO'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

Since the CIO's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

Godfrey Wilson Limited also provides bookkeeping and payroll services to the CIO. I confirm that as a member of the ICAEW I am subject to the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2016, which I have applied with respect to this engagement.

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 CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Rob Wilson

Date: 4 August 2023

Rob Wilson FCA

Member of the ICAEW

For and on behalf of:

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

River Action UK**Statement of financial activities****For the year ended 31 March 2023**

| | | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | 2023 Total £ | Nine Months Ended 31 March 2022 Total £ |
|---------------------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Income from: | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | <u>59,451</u> | <u>425,947</u> | 485,398 | <u>278,080</u> |
| Total income | | <u>59,451</u> | <u>425,947</u> | 485,398 | <u>278,080</u> |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | |
| Raising funds | | - | 50,438 | 50,438 | 9,549 |
| Charitable activities | | <u>725</u> | <u>252,572</u> | 253,297 | <u>201,862</u> |
| Total expenditure | 5 | <u>725</u> | <u>303,010</u> | 303,735 | <u>211,411</u> |
| Net income and net movement in funds | | 58,726 | 122,937 | 181,663 | 66,669 |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | - | 66,669 | 66,669 | - |
| Total funds carried forward | | <u>58,726</u> | <u>189,606</u> | 248,332 | <u>66,669</u> |

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 13 to the accounts.

River Action UK

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2023

| | Note | £ | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|----------------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Current assets | | | | |
| Debtors | 10 | 5,974 | | 32,811 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | <u>249,786</u> | | <u>48,202</u> |
| | | 255,760 | | 81,013 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year | 11 | <u>(7,428)</u> | | <u>(14,344)</u> |
| Net current assets | | | <u>248,332</u> | <u>66,669</u> |
| Net assets | 12 | | <u>248,332</u> | <u>66,669</u> |
| Funds | 13 | | | |
| Restricted funds | | | 58,726 | - |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General funds | | | <u>189,606</u> | <u>66,669</u> |
| Total charity funds | | | <u>248,332</u> | <u>66,669</u> |

Approved by the trustees on 4 August 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Charles Watson

Charles Watson
Chair

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

River Action UK meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of provision of a specified service is deferred until criteria for income recognition are met.

d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

d) Donated services and facilities (continued)

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities based as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------|
| Raising funds | 16.6% | 0.0% |
| Charitable activities | 83.4% | 100.0% |

i) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

j) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

k) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

l) Financial instruments

The trust only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

m) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

n) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

2. Prior period comparatives: statement of financial activities

| | | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | Nine Months Ended 31 March 2022 Total £ |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Income from: | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | 32,144 | 245,936 | 278,080 |
| Total income | | 32,144 | 245,936 | 278,080 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | |
| Raising funds | | - | 9,549 | 9,549 |
| Charitable activities | | 32,144 | 169,718 | 201,862 |
| Total expenditure | 5 | 32,144 | 179,267 | 211,411 |
| Net income | | - | 66,669 | 66,669 |

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

3. Income from donations and legacies

| | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | 2023 Total £ |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Donations | 53,824 | 425,947 | 479,771 |
| Gift aid | <u>5,627</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>5,627</u> |
| Total income from donations and legacies | <u>59,451</u> | <u>425,947</u> | <u>485,398</u> |

Prior period comparative

| | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | 2022 Total £ |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Donations | 26,299 | 218,970 | 245,269 |
| Gift aid | <u>5,845</u> | <u>26,966</u> | <u>32,811</u> |
| Total income from donations and legacies | <u>32,144</u> | <u>245,936</u> | <u>278,080</u> |

4. Government grants

The charity received no government grants during the current or prior period.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

5. Total expenditure

| | Raising funds £ | Charitable activities £ | Support and governance costs £ | 2023 Total £ |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Administrators | - | - | 10,664 | 10,664 |
| Fundraising platform fees | 870 | - | - | 870 |
| Event costs | 1,213 | - | - | 1,213 |
| Consultancy | - | - | 850 | 850 |
| Fundraisers | 17,483 | - | - | 17,483 |
| Staff costs (note 7) | 18,710 | 50,257 | 42,637 | 111,604 |
| Recruitment | - | - | 3,420 | 3,420 |
| Advertising, marketing and PR | - | - | 1,592 | 1,592 |
| Raising awareness and campaigning | - | 122,126 | - | 122,126 |
| Computer and website | - | - | 4,611 | 4,611 |
| Legal | - | 18,754 | - | 18,754 |
| Accountancy | - | - | 5,045 | 5,045 |
| Charitable donations | - | 3,200 | - | 3,200 |
| Bank fees | - | - | 30 | 30 |
| Printing, postage & stationery | - | - | 368 | 368 |
| Memberships | - | - | 304 | 304 |
| Insurance | - | - | 478 | 478 |
| Travel and subsistence | - | - | 3,267 | 3,267 |
| Grants payable (note 8) | - | (2,144) | - | (2,144) |
| Sub-total | 38,276 | 192,193 | 73,266 | 303,735 |
| Allocation of support and governance costs | 12,162 | 61,104 | (73,266) | - |
| Total expenditure | 50,438 | 253,297 | - | 303,735 |

Total governance costs were £5,045 (2022: £5,075).

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

5. Total expenditure (continued)
Prior period comparative

| | Raising funds £ | Charitable activities £ | Support and governance costs £ | 2022 Total £ |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Administrators | - | - | 13,953 | 13,953 |
| Fundraising platform fees | 799 | - | - | 799 |
| Fundraisers | 8,750 | - | - | 8,750 |
| Raising awareness and campaigning | - | 141,696 | - | 141,696 |
| Computer and website | - | - | 2,839 | 2,839 |
| Legal | - | - | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Accountancy | - | - | 5,075 | 5,075 |
| Travel | - | - | 155 | 155 |
| Grants payable (note 8) | - | 32,144 | - | 32,144 |
| Sub-total | 9,549 | 173,840 | 28,022 | 211,411 |
| Allocation of support and governance costs | - | 28,022 | (28,022) | - |
| Total expenditure | 9,549 | 201,862 | - | 211,411 |

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

6. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trustees' remuneration | Nil | Nil |
| Trustees' reimbursed expenses | Nil | Nil |
| Independent examiner's fee: | | |
| ▪ Independent examination (including VAT) | 1,980 | 1,800 |
| ▪ Other services | 3,065 | - |
| | <u>3,065</u> | <u>-</u> |

7. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------|
| | £ | £ |
| Salaries and wages | 72,315 | - |
| Social security costs | 3,352 | - |
| Pension costs | 682 | - |
| Freelance staff | 35,255 | - |
| | <u>111,604</u> | <u>-</u> |

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and chief executive officer (2022: the trustees). The total remuneration and employee benefits of the key management personnel were £77,774 (2022: £nil).

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| | | No. |
| Average head count | <u>3</u> | <u>-</u> |

8. Grants payable

Grants payable were made to the following institutions:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Radnorshire Wildlife Trust | <u>(2,144)</u> | <u>32,144</u> |
| | <u>(2,144)</u> | <u>32,144</u> |

Included in prior year accruals were grant commitments of £5,845 to Radnorshire Wildlife Trust. This was an over-accrual by £2,144.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

9. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

10. Debtors

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| Gift aid | 5,581 | 32,811 |
| Prepayments | 393 | - |
| | <u>5,974</u> | <u>32,811</u> |

11. Creditors : amounts due within 1 year

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Trade creditors | 3,911 | 3,400 |
| Accruals | 3,517 | 10,944 |
| | <u>7,428</u> | <u>14,344</u> |

There are no grant commitments included within accruals (2022: grant commitments of £5,845 to Radnorshire Wildlife Trust).

12. Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Restricted funds £ | Unrestricted funds £ | 2023 Total £ |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Current assets | 58,726 | 197,034 | 255,760 |
| Current liabilities | - | (7,428) | (7,428) |
| Net assets at 31 March 2023 | <u>58,726</u> | <u>189,606</u> | <u>248,332</u> |

Prior year comparative

| | Restricted funds £ | Unrestricted funds £ | 2022 Total £ |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Current assets | - | 81,013 | 81,013 |
| Current liabilities | - | (14,344) | (14,344) |
| Net assets at 31 March 2022 | <u>-</u> | <u>66,669</u> | <u>66,669</u> |

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

13. Movements in funds

| | At 1 April 2022 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers between funds £ | At 31 March 2023 £ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Creative Assets | - | 59,451 | (725) | - | 58,726 |
| Total restricted funds | - | 59,451 | (725) | - | 58,726 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| General funds | 66,669 | 425,947 | (303,010) | - | 189,606 |
| Total unrestricted funds | 66,669 | 425,947 | (303,010) | - | 189,606 |
| Total funds | <u>66,669</u> | <u>485,398</u> | <u>(303,735)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>248,332</u> |

Purposes of restricted funds

Creative Assets

River Action conceptualised, funded, commissioned and executive produced a new animation series called This is Sh*t, working with lead animators from Shaun the Sheep and Fantastic Mr Fox, and voice overs from Stephen Fry, Sunetra Saker, Paul Whitehouse, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and others. The series will launch in July 2023 and will use humour to engage the public in supporting River Action's advocacy work including petitions and the Charter for Rivers.

Prior year comparative

| | At 29 June 2021 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers between funds £ | At 31 March 2022 £ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Wye Valley Citizen Scientists | - | 32,144 | (32,144) | - | - |
| Total restricted funds | - | 32,144 | (32,144) | - | - |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| General funds | - | 245,936 | (179,267) | - | 66,669 |
| Total unrestricted funds | - | 245,936 | (179,267) | - | 66,669 |
| Total funds | <u>-</u> | <u>278,080</u> | <u>(211,411)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>66,669</u> |

14. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the current year. In the prior year Charles Watson, founder and trustee, made donations to the charity of £138,889.

RIVER ACTION UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1194995

Accounts

Charity no. 1194995

River Action UK
Report and Unaudited Financial
Statements
31 March 2022

River Action UK

Reference and administrative details

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Charity number | 1194995 |
| Registered office and operational address | Pine House Chandlers Way Southend-on-Sea Essex SS2 5SE |
| Trustees | The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows: Marina Gibson appointed 1 January 2022 James Macpherson appointed 29 June 2021 James Wallace appointed 29 June 2021, resigned 16 May 2022 Charles Watson appointed 29 June 2021 |
| Bankers | Lloyds Bank Plc Lewisham London |
| Independent examiners | Godfrey Wilson Limited Chartered accountants and statutory auditors 5th Floor Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD |

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective from January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the Charity to advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, in particular in relation to rivers and other bodies of water.

Its activities in its first year of existence have included conducting extensive research into some of the major causes of river pollution, launching a number of public campaigns to expose polluters and to promote appropriate remedies and the raising of funds. Donations and gift aid of £278,080 were receivable in this period.

To fulfil these objectives the Trustees will continue to take the necessary steps to raise awareness on river pollution and apply pressure on industrial and agricultural producers to take greater responsibility for remedying the adverse environmental impact their supply chains are having on the health of our UK rivers.

The Trustees hold Unrestricted and Restricted Funds and all those Unrestricted Funds are available to meet the Charity's objectives.

The Trustees have complied with s17(5) of Charities Act 2011 and have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit by the Charity Commission when exercising relevant powers or duties.

Achievements and performance

Since its foundation in 2021, the Charity has had a productive and successful year. By combining world class private sector campaigning expertise (founder & chair Charles Watson was formerly CEO of some of the world's leading strategic communications agencies) with deep environmental expertise and best-in-class outsourced resourcing, River Action has become recognised as a unique and highly effective campaigning body within the wider environmental community. To date, a number of highly impactful and successful campaigns have been conducted to execute its stated objectives.

Headline achievements include:

- gathering an experienced and influential advisory board and an alliance of key rivers stakeholders to support the development of our campaigns;
- earning the trust of communities, key stakeholders from industry, conservation and government and positioning our small and agile Charity as a leading catalyst for rapid change through collaborative action;
- launching our first catchment specific campaign on the River Wye in England and Wales to expose the contribution the intensive poultry industry has been making to the river's severe environmental collapse and mobilise public demand for change;
- supporting communities wishing to protect their rivers by providing advice, funding, communications and advocating for change in how their rivers are protected and managed;
- convening groups of community stakeholders in the River Wye catchment including farmers, anglers, rowers, conservationists, developers and local government to discuss challenges and agree plans for protecting and restoring rivers;
- providing funding to community groups and citizen scientists to gather data as evidence of river pollution caused by farm nutrient run-off and resulting algal blooms;

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

- engaging positively with farming and food industry businesses to inform and influence change in industrial practices, an effort which led to a large producer admitting culpability for their part in polluting the River Wye;
- advocating major pollution mitigation measures with the launch of the “Plan to Save the Wye” which has been submitted to key stakeholders and government ministers with the widespread endorsement of local and national environmental and conservation NGOs;
- developing an increasing online presence and high quality and inspiring content with increasing followers and contributors to local catchment-based action and national public opinion. From a standing start, the number of followers for the charity’s various social media channels now number several thousand and total number of social media impressions for the charity’s posted content exceed 100,000; and
- conducting a nationwide campaign – “Give Us Back Our Rivers” - to restore the environmental protection budgets of the UK’s Environmental Protection Agencies, which received the public support of almost 60,000 petition signatures, as well as creating widespread awareness of the systematic budget cuts to environmental protection in recent years.

The combined impact of these achievements has been to establish the charity as one of the leading independent campaigning organisations focussed on combating the existential environmental threats to the UK’s rivers. They have also given a voice to our beneficiaries and helped them engage with the perpetrators of pollution in their communities and the statutory regulatory bodies responsible for enforcing policy. There is a long way to go before Britain’s rivers are fully protected and restored, however, River Action’s first year has built a platform from which we can build a highly agile organisation skilled and resourced to both lead (top down) the national debate on saving our rivers and to support (bottom up) increasing numbers of river catchments and their communities. Together we will help them to build resilience to climate change, reverse localised wildlife extinctions and clean the water that feeds and fuels the local economy.

The Charity has successfully raised funds both from individual donors to cover its core costs and through crowdfunding campaigns, to finance specific projects such as funding citizen science initiatives and the creation of communications content.

Financial review

During the period ended 31 March 2022 the Charity had incoming resources of £278,080, expenditure of £211,411 and reserves of £66,669, all of which were unrestricted.

Reserves

The Trustees will continue to monitor the level of reserves. As the Charity enters its second year of existence, the Trustees will be working with its accountants to develop a Reserves Policy, which will be presented in its next annual accounts after considering any long-term commitments, of which there are none at present.

Risk management

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been and continue to be reviewed and procedures established to mitigate those risks, which will be monitored on a regular basis by the Trustees.

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

At present the single major risk the Charity is exposed to will be a failure to raise adequate funds to cover the costs of the Charity's planned expansion. An interim CEO has been engaged to oversee this process and the risk is being monitored closely. The Trustees will not authorise any commitment to these expansion plans without having firm visibility of the successful raising of these funds.

The Charity's Chairman has also made a personal commitment to provide further funding of up to £100,000 in the event of any immediate funding shortfall.

Plans for future periods

Following this successful first year the Trustees have agreed to embark upon an ambition to expand significantly the Charity's scope of operations. These plans include the appointment of a CEO and small but talented team whose efforts will be leveraged through close partners; and a major fundraising drive and major expansion of campaigning activities.

A five-year strategy is being developed to guide our capacity-building and effectiveness of our work as a team and with collaborators to achieve our mission to protect and save rivers and wildlife in Britain. Three goals with associated objectives are being drafted at the time of writing (this is in draft form and may change further following Trustee approval):

Goal 1: Support local communities to restore and protect their rivers

Objectives:

- 1.1 Equip: Support local communities by providing a toolkit - that includes mentoring, guidance, funding, communication and advocacy - to mobilise catchment activism and river restoration, building on the success of and lessons learnt from our first campaign relating to the River Wye Catchment; and
- 1.2 Evidence: Working closely with citizen science groups and academic bodies, coordinating the collation and presentation of data to provide scientifically validated evidence of pollution levels in local rivers and their sources of origin.

Goal 2: Mobilise public demand to change policy and enforce protection of our rivers

Objectives:

- 2.1 Inform: Raise public awareness of river pollution and habitat loss via all communication channels and high quality and inspiring content; and
- 2.2 Pressure: Leverage public pressure on government and damaging industries through petitions and influencing consumer and voter behaviour.

Goal 3: Influence urgent Government policy and industry practice change

Objectives:

- 3.1 Advocate: Lead Government policy change to adopt more ambitious environmental targets for river quality and restoration and to increase resources to ensure effective regulation enforcement to protect rivers; and
- 3.2 Engage: Change the behaviour of the agricultural, water and other industries that cause river pollution to adopt nature and river-friendly practices that support the health of rivers and wildlife.

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

We will build on this year's successful River Wye campaign which has targeted pollution caused by the poultry farming, food processing and food retailing industries and the national failure of Government regulation. To achieve our strategy, we will replicate and scale our approach to locally-led conservation combined with national advocacy and communications by launching new campaigns, both catchment specific and national, across the nation. We will target other agricultural practices such as dairy production and intensive pig farming, biomass production for anaerobic digester consumption and non-environmentally compliant crop cultivation - as well as other industries such as the water industry and the devastating impact of sewage pollution in our rivers. In time we will consider targeting other industries that cause systemic damage to rivers.

This strategy is intended to result in systemic change across the country with local benefits to communities as Government agencies (e.g. Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, SEPA and DAERA) become sufficiently funded and start to enforce regulations and provide incentives to producers, processors, retailers and utilities that bring about urgent operational changes that help clean up our rivers and restore habitats.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered charity number 1194995. The Charity was established by initial gifts from Founder & Chair Charles Watson. The Charity actively fundraises and seeks to carry out the work desired through the careful stewardship of its existing resources and ad hoc contributions.

There must be at least 2 Trustees and new Trustees shall be appointed by a Trustees' Resolution passed at a special meeting called under Clause 9.3.1 of the original Foundation Constitution. New Trustees shall be selected with regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Charity. If a vacancy occurs this shall be noted in the Trustees' Minutes at their next meeting.

Procedures have not been adopted for the induction and training of Trustees but all ensure they continue to operate within current guidelines by discussing all issues arising as advised by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees hold at least two ordinary meetings each year.

The Trustees who served during the period are as set out on page 1.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

River Action UK

Report of the trustees

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the charity for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The members of the charity have no liability to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Independent examiners

Godfrey Wilson Limited were appointed as independent examiners to the charity during the period and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 15 July 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Charles Watson
Chair

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

River Action UK

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of River Action UK (the CIO) for the period ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 8 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO'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

Since the CIO's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

Godfrey Wilson Limited also provides bookkeeping services to the CIO. I confirm that as a member of the ICAEW I am subject to the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2016, which I have applied with respect to this engagement.

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 CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Date: 15 July 2022

Rob Wilson FCA

Member of the ICAEW

For and on behalf of:

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

River Action UK

Statement of financial activities

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

| | Note | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | 2022 Total £ |
|--------------------------------------|------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Income (and endowments) from: | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 2 | <u>32,144</u> | <u>245,936</u> | <u>278,080</u> |
| Total income (and endowments) | | <u>32,144</u> | <u>245,936</u> | <u>278,080</u> |
| Expenditure on: | | | | |
| Raising funds | | - | 9,549 | 9,549 |
| Charitable activities | | <u>32,144</u> | <u>169,718</u> | <u>201,862</u> |
| Total expenditure | 4 | <u>32,144</u> | <u>179,267</u> | <u>211,411</u> |
| Net gains / (losses) on investments | | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Net income / (expenditure) | | - | 66,669 | 66,669 |
| Transfers between funds | | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Net movement in funds | 5 | - | 66,669 | 66,669 |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total funds carried forward | | <u>-</u> | <u>66,669</u> | <u>66,669</u> |

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 12 to the accounts.

River Action UK

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2022

| | Note | £ | 2022 £ |
|----------------------------------------------|------|-----------------|---------------|
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors | 9 | 32,811 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | <u>48,202</u> | |
| | | 81,013 | |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year | 10 | <u>(14,344)</u> | |
| Net current assets / (liabilities) | | | <u>66,669</u> |
| Net assets / (liabilities) | 11 | | <u>66,669</u> |
| Funds | 12 | | |
| Restricted funds | | | - |
| Unrestricted funds | | | |
| General funds | | | <u>66,669</u> |
| Total charity funds | | | <u>66,669</u> |

Approved by the trustees on 15 July 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Charles Watson

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

River Action UK meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of provision of a specified service is deferred until criteria for income recognition are met.

d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities based on as follows:

| | 2022 |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Raising funds | 0.0% |
| Charitable activities | 100.0% |

i) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

j) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

k) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

l) Financial instruments

The trust only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

m) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

n) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

2. Income from donations and legacies

| | Restricted | Unrestricted | 2022 Total |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Donations | 26,299 | 218,970 | 245,269 |
| Gift aid | 5,845 | 26,966 | 32,811 |
| Total income from donations and legacies | 32,144 | 245,936 | 278,080 |

3. Government grants

The charity received no government grants during the period.

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

4. Total expenditure

| | Raising funds £ | Charitable activities £ | Support and governance costs £ | 2022 Total £ |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Administrators | - | - | 13,953 | 13,953 |
| Fundraising platform fees | 799 | - | - | 799 |
| Fundraisers | 8,750 | - | - | 8,750 |
| Raising awareness and campaigning | - | 141,696 | - | 141,696 |
| Computer and website | - | - | 2,839 | 2,839 |
| Legal | - | - | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Accountancy | - | - | 5,075 | 5,075 |
| Travel | - | - | 155 | 155 |
| Grants payable (note 7) | - | 32,144 | - | 32,144 |
| Sub-total | 9,549 | 173,840 | 28,022 | 211,411 |
| Allocation of support and governance costs | - | 28,022 | (28,022) | - |
| Total expenditure | 9,549 | 201,862 | - | 211,411 |

Total governance costs were £5,075

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

5. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

| | 2022 £ |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Trustees' remuneration | Nil |
| Trustees' reimbursed expenses | Nil |
| Independent examiner's fee: | |
| ▪ Statutory audit (including VAT) | 1,800 |
| ▪ Other services | - |
| | <u> -</u> |

6. Staff costs and numbers

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £nil.

| | 2022 No. |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Average head count | <u> -</u> |

7. Grants payable

Grants payable were made to the following institutions:

| | 2022 £ |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Radnorshire Wildlife Trust | <u>32,144</u> |
| | <u>32,144</u> |

8. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

9. Debtors

| | 2022 £ |
|----------|---------------|
| Gift aid | <u>32,811</u> |
| | <u>32,811</u> |

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

10. Creditors : amounts due within 1 year

| | 2022 £ |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Trade creditors | 3,400 |
| Accruals | <u>10,944</u> |
| | <u><u>14,344</u></u> |

Included within accruals are grant commitments of £5,845 to Radnorshire Wildlife Trust.

11. Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Restricted funds £ | Unrestricted funds £ | Total £ |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Current assets | - | 81,013 | 81,013 |
| Current liabilities | <u>-</u> | <u>(14,344)</u> | <u>(14,344)</u> |
| Net assets at 31 March 2022 | <u><u>-</u></u> | <u><u>66,669</u></u> | <u><u>66,669</u></u> |

River Action UK

Notes to the financial statements

For the period 29 June 2021 to 31 March 2022

12. Movements in funds

| | At 29 June 2021 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers between funds £ | At 31 March 2022 £ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Wye Valley Citizen Scientists | - | 32,144 | (32,144) | - | - |
| Total restricted funds | - | 32,144 | (32,144) | - | - |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| General funds | - | 245,936 | (179,267) | - | 66,669 |
| Total unrestricted funds | - | 245,936 | (179,267) | - | 66,669 |
| Total funds | - | 278,080 | (211,411) | - | 66,669 |

Purposes of restricted funds

Wye Valley Citizen Scientists Campaign to secure funding for citizen science groups across the Wye catchment. The funds secured the procurement of vital river pollution testing equipment and to hire an analyst to administer the initiative and to assist in the collation and analysis of the data compiled by the citizen scientist groups across the catchment.

13. Related party transactions

Charles Watson, a trustee and the founder of River Action UK, made donations to the charity of £138,889 during the period.