

**Registered number: 12935802**  
**Charity number: 1196714**

**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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<b>Trustees</b>	Brian Duffy Ruth Benford David Gandy John Hannah Terence Parris Mary Portas (resigned 5 October 2023) Johnathan Joseph
<b>Company registered number</b>	12935802
<b>Charity registered number</b>	1196714
<b>Registered office</b>	Aurum House 2 Elland Road Braunstone Leicester LE3 1TT
<b>Company secretary</b>	Daniela Pulido-Lopera (Appointed 15/05/2023) Patricia Kendall (Resigned 15/05/2023)
<b>Independent auditor</b>	Crowe U.K. LLP Black Country House Rounds Green Road Oldbury West Midlands B69 2DG
<b>Bankers</b>	Barclays Bank UK plc 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
<b>Solicitors</b>	Slaughter & May One Bunhill Row London EC1Y 8YY

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**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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**Introduction**

The Watches of Switzerland Group Foundation (The 'Foundation') has experienced an impactful year in FY23, building on the momentum of its inaugural year in FY22. This year The Foundation distributed £1.64million to charities of which £0.7million was donated to the Watches of Switzerland Group US Foundation (the 'US Foundation') to be distributed to US charities.

In FY23 The Foundation focused on continuing to strengthen its partnerships with key strategic charity partners that help The Foundation advance its purposes. Following significant impact towards funding of projects supporting poverty relief, the Trustees thoroughly reviewed funding allocations to date and determined a pivotal need to augment investment in Education as this was one of the least funded areas in relation to the Foundation's purposes. This commitment materialised through the strengthening of the partnership with The Prince's Trust – which was developed throughout FY23 and confirmed at the start of FY24.

The Watches of Switzerland Group PLC (WOSG PLC) has always placed great importance on giving back to the communities within which its colleagues live and work. Supporting these communities is an important part of the Group's culture, some of the Company's core values are 'We Do The Right Thing Always' and 'We Care for Our Communities' alongside focusing on charities where long-standing personal relationships and partnerships are developed to enable collaboration and to create change. For this reason, The WOSG PLC established the Foundation.

In the last quarter of the reporting period, the Trustees made the decision to appoint a Head of Foundation (employed by The Watches of Switzerland Company Limited, a subsidiary of WOSG PLC - together the 'Group') to focus on implementing governance structures and to support the management of the partnerships developed. The appointment of the new head of the Foundation took place on 17th April 2023, who was appointed as Company Secretary on 15th May 2023.

Whilst the Foundation operates independently from the Group it relies upon the Group for the outsourcing of various functions to enable it to manage its activities including reliance on financial controls to ensure the proper use of the Foundation's assets.

**Purposes**

As set out in the Foundation's Articles of Association, the Foundation's objects are to advance, promote or carry out such Charitable Purposes (being those purposes which are charitable under the law of England and Wales from time to time) as the Trustees in their absolute discretion think fit. For the avoidance of doubt, the Foundation will not advance, promote or carry out any purpose that is not such a Charitable Purpose. The Foundation has developed its own Charitable Purposes which aims to further enhance the Group's previous charitable initiatives. We consider some of our partnerships with charities to be strategic partnerships which are defined as continual projects, and / or will receive an investment of over £200,000 and are likely to be partners for a minimum three-year period. It is intended that the beneficiaries of the Foundation will be members of the local communities served by the Group and that the Foundation will, in particular, pursue the following charitable purposes:

- the prevention or relief of poverty;
- the advancement of education; and
- the relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

The Charitable Purposes have been identified because they can be closely linked to the charities which have been supported by the Group before the registration of the Foundation as a charity and continue to be of interest to the Group.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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The Foundation is a grant making charity and supports purposes which are within those listed in the Charities Act 2011. The Foundation does not currently respond to requests from other charities but instead selects strategic partners or projects that will directly impact the communities within which the Group's stakeholders live and serve.

The Foundation operates as an independent organisation separate from the Watches of Switzerland Group and our Trustees are original thinkers, who approach all proposals with intrigue, open minds and are not beholden to anyone. In FY23 all meetings were held at The WOSG PLC's London offices, excluding one virtual meeting in July 2023.

**Strategic Partnerships**

**1. Food Bank Network**

In response to the growing food poverty crisis caused by the impact of the pandemic, the Group launched a Food Bank programme in June 2020. The Foundation has been evolving this work as the need for emergency food provision increases. Food bank partners reported an overall 37% increase in service users.

In FY23 the Foundation has continued to strengthen its partnerships with foodbanks by providing advice, volunteers and other voluntary support as well as financial support. Overall, the food bank network spans 11 food banks with five key strategic hubs in Euston, Leicester South, Glasgow Southeast, Manchester Central and Newcastle. Our funding has supported the set up of mobile pantries, food vouchers, Christmas hampers, the move to new premises and even new vans to help distribute emergency food and collect important food deliveries.

**2. Fuel Bank Foundation**

Since its registration, the Foundation has embarked upon a strategic partnership with the Fuel Bank Foundation. This partnership came about as a direct result of the Group supporting a network of food bank partners who share ideas and thoughts and where fuel poverty was prioritised.

In FY23 the Foundation continued to support the Fuelbank, the donation helped fund eight existing Fuelbank centres, as well as the opening of twelve new centres. The Foundation's funding also helped the foodbank support 17370 people to access emergency fuel.

**3. The Prince's Trust**

To date the Foundation has donated monies towards core education programmes and a digital education hub which support young people in developing resilience and key skills. This is a continuation from the pre-existing partnership the Group had with the charity since 2013 which has supported over 6000 young people through education programmes.

In FY23 The Foundation spent time developing a higher value education partnership that was confirmed after the period of this report. This is a key strategic partnership for the Foundation as it moves to augment its funding in Education.

**4. Crisis**

In December 2021, the Foundation began its partnership with Crisis by supporting the Crisis at Christmas campaign and helping Crisis provide service users with somewhere safe to stay over Christmas. The Foundation has continued to support Crisis through the funding of clinical psychologists and continued support of their Christmas campaign. In FY23 this helped Crisis to support 451 guests in Christmas hotels. The Foundation will continue to support Crisis and develop our partnership in FY24.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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**5. US Foundation**

The Foundation made a £0.7million donation to the US Foundation during the reporting period. The US Foundation Steering Committee selected strategic US based charity partners and made donations too:

- Habitat for Humanity - The US Foundation is working in partnership with Habitat for Humanity to work towards a world where everyone has a decent place to live. With their donation, the US Foundation supported the build of three new homes for families who otherwise wouldn't have been able to own their own home.
- The Prince's Trust USA – The US Foundation is working in partnership with the Prince's Trust USA to ensure marginalised young people have access to education through the funding of their Enterprise Challenge in schools. The partnership has supported 60 middle school students in the Bronx and Brooklyn to date through the pilot of the programme.
- Foodbank Partners – The US Foundation is working in partnership with its foodbank partners to relieve poverty in communities across New York, Las Vegas and Florida. The US Foundation's biggest foodbank partner is Feeding South Florida who have been able to support 28,554 people to access emergency food across communities in South Florida through the US Foundation's funding.

**Public Benefit**

As a charity, the Trustees recognise their legal duty to report on the Foundation's public benefit in their Annual Report and to clearly demonstrate that the Objects of the Foundation are for the public benefit, in recognition that being a registered charity is a privilege, not a right. The Trustees assert that the charity is compliant with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, having due regard for the public guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees acknowledge and accept that there exists a kind of covenant between charities and society: charities bring public benefit and, in their turn, are accorded high levels of trust and confidence, as well as the benefits of charitable status.

**Volunteers**

The Trustees operate on a voluntary basis within the Foundation. The Head of The Foundation is employed by the Group but seconds 80% of their time to focus on Foundation duties. Other Group colleagues support the Foundation and do not receive any separate payment.

**Achievements**  
**FY23 saw**

- Appointment of a new Company Secretary and Head of the Foundation.
- Implementation of new processes and due diligence e.g. Grant Making Policy and new Risk Register
- Reviewed strategic direction for the Foundation, bringing a bigger focus to funding education projects
- Continued development of strategic partnerships with
  - o The Foundation's Foodbank Network
  - o Crisis
  - o the Prince's Trust,
  - o the Fuel Bank Foundation
  - o the US Foundation

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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- Increased engagement with Group colleagues with a 13% increase in volunteering hours vs FY22.
- Re-established the Foodbank network to better understand collective challenges and provide more focused support outside of financial donations

**Future Plans**

The Foundation plans to:

- to support communities and colleagues in locations within which the Group operates
- Augment our support across education and economic growth
- In conjunction with the Group play a role in encouraging other like-minded businesses to participate in charitable activities
- Continue to drive participation in the facilitation of volunteering opportunities for colleagues of the Group
- Support opportunities that arise during the course of the year that support the Charitable Purposes and objectives of the Foundation

**Thanks**

We are grateful to the Trustees of the Foundation for agreeing to be part of this journey and for wanting to make a difference, their support, their time, expertise and continued enthusiasm over the period. We also wish to thank the Board of Watches of Switzerland Group PLC for their generous donation to support the Foundation.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees of The Watches of Switzerland Group Foundation (the 'Foundation or Charity') present their Annual Report & Accounts for the financial year ended 30 April 2023, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 of the Accounts and comply with the Charity's governing document, applicable law, and the Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', 2015.

The Trustees' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines set out by the Charity Commission in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and the Charity Governance Code.

**Structure of Company and Governing Document**

The Watches of Switzerland Group Foundation is a company limited by guarantee, without share capital and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 7 October 2020, as amended by a Board Resolution 27 October 2021. The Company was registered as a charity on 22 November 2021. The Objects of the Foundation are set out in this report.

**Organisation**

The Trustees have delegated the following responsibilities to employees of the Group, for which no charge has been incurred by the Foundation in connection with services provided:

- research and investigate charitable causes and organisations, with the goal of identifying opportunities that align with the Foundation's mission/vision
- liaising with grant applicants and monitor the performance of grants to ensure that the Foundation's funding is being directed towards areas with demonstrated gaps and opportunities
- maintaining the Foundation's records and information systems;
- acting as the main point of contact for the Foundation for all stakeholders; and
- managing the financial affairs of the Foundation.



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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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**Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees**

The appointment of trustees is governed by the Articles of Association and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Foundation, the Watches of Switzerland Company Limited and the Watches of Switzerland Group PLC, under which new trustees may be appointed by the existing trustees. There must at all times be a minimum of three trustees, the majority of whom must be independent. None of the Trustees are remunerated in respect of their services as a trustee.

All Trustees are appointed based on their experience, skills and empathy with the Foundation's vision.

**Trustee Induction and Training**

The Trustees of the Foundation are provided with further guidance and training notes as required and are reminded of their responsibilities as Trustees as appropriate. Trustees have all received training since the Foundation received charitable status in 2021. They are reminded of their responsibilities regularly with support from the company secretary.

The Trustee Board works to ensure compliance with its legal duties to:

- (i) Act in the interests of the Foundation and its beneficiaries.
- (ii) Protect and safeguard the assets of the Foundation.
- (iii) Act with reasonable care and skill.
- (iv) Ensure the Foundation is accountable.

In addition, the Trustee Board:

- (i) Where appropriate manages any conflicts of interest
- (ii) Reviews the financial position of the Foundation at each meeting
- (iii) Takes appropriate advice, from third parties, when it needs to.

**Risk Management**

At each meeting the Trustees review the financial position of the Foundation taking into consideration the closing bank balance. The Foundation relies on key financial controls of the WOSG as described in the Annual Report and Accounts 2023 which can be found on the Group's corporate website [www.thewosgroup.com](http://www.thewosgroup.com).

Since the appointment of the Head of the Foundation, a monthly review of accounts takes place which will now include a review of the newly implemented risk register. This was implemented after the end of the reporting period FY23.

The Foundation is a grant-maker, which also reduces the overall level of risk.

The Trustees believe that the key risk facing the Foundation is that the Watches of Switzerland Group ceases to donate any further funds to the Foundation.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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**Fundraising Statement**

During the year the Foundation did not undertake any public fundraising activity, nor does it employ commercial third parties to undertake fundraising on their behalf.

**Grant Making and Grant Making Policy**

The Trustees only award grants to registered charities. This year the Foundation has implemented a new Grant Making Policy to streamline due diligence. To be eligible for funding from the Foundation, organisations applying for funding must meet the following criteria:

- Be a registered charity in England, Wales or Scotland. (The only exception to this, is the donation to the US Foundation, which is registered in Delaware, US)
- Pass the Foundation's due diligence (charities commission 'know your partner' guide)
- Demonstrate alignment with the Purpose and objects of the 'Foundation', supporting the advancement of at least one or more of our purposes.
- Comply with all legal and ethical requirements related to the proposed project
- Be serving communities local to those served by the Watches of Switzerland Group PLC.

In addition to the above, it is preferred that the proposals submitted by organisations meet the below criteria:

- Ask for no more than 16% of unrestricted funds. This is in relation to the overall financial ask.
- Offer opportunities for colleague engagement

By adhering to these principles and procedures, The Foundation aims to maximise the positive impact of its grant funding on the communities and causes supported. During the year no grants were made to charities that were not registered. The Grant Making policy was implemented after the end of the reporting period FY23, but before the publication of this report.

**Funding priorities**

The Foundation's grant-making is focused on supporting communities and colleagues in locations within which The Group operates.

In considering requests for support, the Foundation considers projects that:

- are managed competently, with clear accountability, cost effectiveness, strong leadership and creativity;
- provide measurable impact
- are located in a community where Group colleagues live and work; and
- have the potential to offer volunteering opportunities for the Watches of Switzerland Group colleagues.

The Foundation aims to make grants to recipients where long-term strategic partnerships can be developed and grants can be focused on specific projects which the Trustees believe will ensure sustainability of activities. Grant partners provide feedback and updates to the Trustees.

Once grants have been made, where possible, Group colleagues are encouraged to participate in volunteer opportunities with the charities. The Group supports this volunteering through a range of programmes and policies which are designed to leverage the impact of grants made by the Foundation.

Trustees will not consider grants to projects that discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

The Foundation operates independently from the Group. To ensure that they act lawfully at all times, the Trustees are encouraged to take advice from the Secretary of the Foundation, when appropriate. As the Foundation has no employee's, work is carried out by Group colleagues, referred to as Foundation Volunteers.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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This staff time is donated by the Group and has been recognized as a donation in kind in the Financial Statements.

The Foundation complies with all relevant laws regarding charitable donations and charity beneficiaries in all countries where it is active.

**Related parties**

In order to support the Watches of Switzerland Group PLC's (WOS Group PLC) standing, as a responsible company listed on the London Stock Exchange, the strong philanthropic legacy of the luxury watch industry and the Group's increasing focus on its ESG agenda, The Watches of Switzerland Group Foundation was established.

The Watches of Switzerland Company Limited (the "Company") is the UK trading entity of the Group. The Company has entered into a trademark license agreement with the Foundation, pursuant to which the Company has granted the Foundation the right to use the Watches of Switzerland brand. All donations, volunteer and management services are provided to the Foundation through the Company.

Both the Company and The WOSG Group PLC are parties, with the Foundation, to a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") which details these arrangement and outlines their contractual relationship.

Currently the Foundation donates money to the US Foundation – the donation is made for onward distribution to chosen US charities. There is a MOU between the Foundation and the US Foundation which defines the contractual relationship and ongoing commitments.

**Financial Review**

A summary of the FY 2023 results can be found on page 15 of this report and financial statements.

During the year ended 30 April 2023, total income amounted to £1.5million from the WOSG PLC. The Trustees committed to grants of £1.64million to various charities during the year. This includes a £0.07million donation to the US Foundation. The Foundation incurred costs of £0.03 million. This resulted in a net expenditure and movement in funds for the year of £0.16million.

The balance sheet shows total funds of £2.95million.

The financial activities of the Foundation for the year under review and the financial position at the Balance Sheet date are set out in the Accounts. The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) is set out at page 15. The Trustees are satisfied with the financial position of the Foundation.

**Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have decided that holding reserves is unnecessary due to the Foundation having no day-to-day administration expenses or long-term commitments. As such no Reserve Policy is thought to be appropriate at present.

**Going Concern**

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The Trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these financial statements. As the Foundation has net assets and expects this to continue for a minimum of 12 months from the date of signing the accounts the Trustees of the Foundation have concluded there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Foundation to continue as a going concern.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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**DECLARATIONS**

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the company The Watches of Switzerland Group Foundation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these 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 judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company 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 charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**Disclosure of Information to Auditor**

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

  
**Brian Duffy**  
Chair of Trustees

Date: 18/01/2024

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**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**

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**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Watches of Switzerland Group Foundation (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 April 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, 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 charitable company's affairs as at 30 April 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure 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 Companies Act 2006.

**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 charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, 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 charitable company'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.

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**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP  
FOUNDATION (CONTINUED)**

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**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 contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic report.

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP  
FOUNDATION (CONTINUED)**

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**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 the Trustees 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the company operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Companies Act 2006 and Charities SORP.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals and reviewing accounting estimates for biases.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

These inherent limitations are particularly significant in the case of misstatement resulting from fraud as this may involve sophisticated schemes designed to avoid detection, including deliberate failure to record transactions, collusion or the provision of intentional misrepresentations.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP  
FOUNDATION (CONTINUED)**

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**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Kerry Brown (senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**Crowe U.K. LLP**

Statutory Auditor

Black Country House

Rounds Green Road

Oldbury

West Midlands

B69 2DG

Date: 23 January 2024



**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations	3	1,513,170	1,513,170	4,519,875
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,513,170</b>	<b>1,513,170</b>	<b>4,519,875</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities	5	1,673,322	1,673,322	1,407,913
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,673,322</b>	<b>1,673,322</b>	<b>1,407,913</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(160,152)</b>	<b>(160,152)</b>	<b>3,111,962</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Total funds brought forward		3,111,962	3,111,962	-
Net movement in funds		(160,152)	(160,152)	3,111,962
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>2,951,810</b>	<b>2,951,810</b>	<b>3,111,962</b>

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 18 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 12935802**

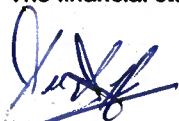
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 30 APRIL 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		2,969,058	3,120,962
		<u>2,969,058</u>	<u>3,120,962</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(17,248)	(9,000)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>2,951,810</u>	<u>3,111,962</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>2,951,810</u></u>	<u><u>3,111,962</u></u>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	11	-	-
Unrestricted funds	11	2,951,810	3,111,962
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>2,951,810</u></u>	<u><u>3,111,962</u></u>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



**Brian Duffy**  
**Chair of Trustees**  
**Date: 18/01/2024**

The notes on pages 18 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

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**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities	<b>(151,904)</b>	<b>3,120,962</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>(151,904)</b>	<b>3,120,962</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b>3,120,962</b>	<b>-</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>2,969,058</b>	<b>3,120,962</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 18 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

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**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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**1. General information**

The Watches of Switzerland Group Foundation is a company limited by guarantee (registered number: 12935802) which is registered in England and Wales. It registered as a charity on 22 November 2021 and its charity registration number is 1196714. The registered office is Aurum House, 2 Elland Road, Braunstone, Leicester, LE3 1TT.

**2. Accounting policies**

**2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Watches of Switzerland Group Foundation 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.

**2.2 Going concern**

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The Trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these financial statements. As the Foundation has net assets and expects this to continue for a minimum of 12 months from the date of signing the accounts the Trustees of the Foundation have concluded there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Foundation to continue as a going concern.

**2.3 Income**

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

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**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.4 Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**2.5 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and 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.

**2.6 Liabilities and provisions**

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

**2.7 Financial instruments**

The charity 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.

**2.8 Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

**3. Income from donations**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Donations	1,500,000	1,500,000
Donation in kind	13,170	13,170
	<u>1,513,170</u>	<u>1,513,170</u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Donations	4,500,000	4,500,000
Donation in kind	19,875	19,875
	<u>4,519,875</u>	<u>4,519,875</u>

**4. Analysis of grants**

	<b>Grants to Institutions 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Grant making	1,640,921	1,640,921

	<i>Grants to Institutions 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Grant making	1,375,000	1,375,000

**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

**Grants were made to the following charities:**

	<b>2023</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2022</b> <b>£</b>
Food Banks	440,000	475,000
Fuel Bank Foundation	300,000	200,000
Crisis UK	125,000	175,000
Children with Cancer UK	25,000	-
Melanoma UK	25,000	-
St Mary's PCC, Primrose Hill	25,000	-
Watches of Switzerland Group US Foundation	700,921	-
The Prince's Trust	-	325,000
The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice Glasgow	-	100,000
British Red Cross	-	100,000
	<b>1,640,921</b>	<b>1,375,000</b>

**5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Charitable activities	1,673,322	1,673,322

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Charitable activities	1,407,913	1,407,913

**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

**6. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2023 £</b>	<b>Grant funding of activities 2023 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Charitable activities	13,170	1,640,921	19,231	<b>1,673,322</b>

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2022 £</b>	<b>Grant funding of activities 2022 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Charitable activities	19,875	1,375,000	13,038	<b>1,407,913</b>

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Activities 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Insurance and other support costs	7,531	<b>7,531</b>
Auditor Fees and Accounts Preparation	11,700	<b>11,700</b>
	<b>19,231</b>	<b>19,231</b>

	<b>Activities 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Insurance and other support costs	4,038	<b>4,038</b>
Auditor Fees and Accounts Preparation	9,000	<b>9,000</b>
	<b>13,038</b>	<b>13,038</b>



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**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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**7. Auditor's remuneration**

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an auditor fee of £9,900 (2022 - £9,000).

**8. Staff costs**

During the year support was provided by Watches of Switzerland Group plc. The cost of this has been calculated at £12,997 (2022: £14,675). £5,547 (2022: £Nil) was recharged to Watches of Switzerland Group plc and £7,450 has been recognised as a donation in kind.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise Trustees and the Senior Management Team. No employee benefits were paid to key management personnel directly through The Watches of Switzerland Group Foundation during the year (2022: £Nil). However of the support noted above £12,997 (2022: £14,675) related to services provided by key management personnel.

**9. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022: £Nil).

During the year ended 30 April 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2022: £Nil).

**10. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	<u>17,248</u>	<u>9,000</u>

**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

**11. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 May 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 30 April 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General funds	3,111,962	1,513,170	(1,673,322)	2,951,810

**Statement of funds - prior year**

	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 30 April 2022 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General funds	4,519,875	(1,407,913)	3,111,962

**12. Summary of funds**

**Summary of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 May 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 30 April 2023 £
General funds	3,111,962	1,513,170	(1,673,322)	2,951,810

**Summary of funds - prior year**

	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 30 April 2022 £
General funds	4,519,875	(1,407,913)	3,111,962

**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

**13. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current year**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Current assets	2,969,058	2,969,058
Creditors due within one year	(17,248)	(17,248)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,951,810</b>	<b>2,951,810</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Current assets	3,120,962	3,120,962
Creditors due within one year	(9,000)	(9,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,111,962</b>	<b>3,111,962</b>

**14. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities**

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(160,152)	3,111,962
Increase in creditors	8,248	9,000
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(151,904)</b>	<b>3,120,962</b>

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**THE WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP FOUNDATION**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

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**15. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand	2,969,058	3,120,962
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2,969,058</b>	<b>3,120,962</b>

**16. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 May 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 30 April 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	3,120,962	(151,904)	2,969,058
	<b>3,120,962</b>	<b>(151,904)</b>	<b>2,969,058</b>

**17. Related party transactions**

During the year, the charity received donations totalling £1,500,000 (2022: £4,500,000) from Watches of Switzerland Company Limited of which the Trustee Brian Duffy is a director.

The charity benefits from certain staff time and rent donated by Watches of Switzerland Group plc of which the Trustee Brian Duffy is a director. During the year staff time and rent totalling £13,170 (2022: £19,875) was donated to the charity.

During the year, staff time totalling £5,547 (2022: £Nil) was recharged from Watches of Switzerland Group plc of which Trustee Brian Duffy is a director. At the year end, a balance of £5,547 is in creditors owed to Watches of Switzerland Group plc.

During the year, the Foundation made grants totalling £700,921 (2022: £Nil) to the US Foundation.