

Charity Number 1197038

**EAST GREENWICH LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC
Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

**Report & Financial Statements for
the Year ended 31st December 2023**

East Greenwich Legal Advice Clinic
Report & Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2023

Contents	Page
Legal & Administrative Information	1
Report of the Management Committee	2-4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7

Report of the Management Committee

The Management Committee presents its report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

Legal & Administrative Information

East Greenwich Legal Advice Clinic became a registered charity on 13th December 2021

Charity number 1197038

The charity also operates as EGLAC

Registered Office &
Correspondence Address

Christ Church Office
c/o The Forum at Greenwich
Trafalgar Road
London SE10 9EQ

Trustees:

Tim Cave (Chair)
Susan Hall
Katy Ridsdill-Smith (resigned in 2023)
Philip Croall (appointed Nov 2023)
Kathryn Shakespeare (appointed Nov 2023)
Gifty Okonkwo (appointed Nov 2023)

Independent Examiner

Beverley Campbell
BC Consultancy Services
15 Fairthorn Road
Charlton London SE7 7RL

Bankers

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

East Greenwich Legal Advice Clinic Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees present their report for the year ended 31st December 2023

Objectives and Activities

As stated in our governing document the primary objective of the CIO is the relief of financial hardship by the provision of free legal advice and assistance to persons resident or based in a Southeast London postcode who, through lack of means, would otherwise be unable to obtain such advice.

Main Activities

- We provide advice on various areas of law, principally: Family, Immigration, Welfare Benefits, Property (including Wills and Probate), Civil Litigation and Housing.
- We invite enquiries from individuals, charities and community groups, although due to our limited resources we will prioritise assistance to individuals. All of our advisers are volunteers, as are the other individuals who help to facilitate our clinic sessions.

Structure, Governance and Management

EGLAC was launched as part of National Pro Bono Week in November 2017 and was formally registered as a charity on 10th December 2021. We are governed by the regulations set out in the Foundation Model constitution and run by a voluntary Board of Trustees.

Trustees are encouraged to take an active role in enabling the organisation to fulfil its objectives. This allows trustees to get a clear understanding of what the charity does and the complexity involved in co-ordinating activities to respond to the needs of those who are struggling with the consequences of financial insecurity and debt. In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, regard is given to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity. All of the current trustees are experienced lawyers and four are also advisers, or former advisers, for the clinic.

The Board meets formally six times a year.

Public Benefit

In reviewing the scope of the activities delivered by the charity the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the purposes for which the charity has been established and the activities undertaken demonstrate how we meet the requirements of the test.

Policies and Procedures

EGLAC is a signatory to the Law Society's Pro Bono Charter and we strive to achieve best practice in our legal advice and assistance for individuals and organisations who cannot afford access to justice. We have policies and procedures in place to ensure that our practices are compliant with quality standards.

Risk Assessment

The trustees have a procedure in place to regularly review the risks – financial and non-financial – facing the organisation and the trustees are satisfied that appropriate measures to mitigate risk are in place. Internal controls over all forms of commitment and expenditure continue to be refined to improve efficiency. Processes are in place to ensure that performance is monitored and that appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed regularly, by both the executive management and the Board. A programme of monitoring is in place, derived from a comprehensive risk management review.

Activities and achievements

Objectives for year 2023

Our main objectives for the year were to:

- *Streamline the clinic's processes, led by the new Clinic Director;*
- *Obtain funding with a view to making the clinic sustainable in the long run, and to fund the role of the Clinic Director;*
- *Recruit some new volunteer lawyers so the clinic can help more clinics; and*
- *Develop relationships with other local agencies.*

During 2023, EGLAC fielded 775 enquiries from members of the public. Of these, 319 people were signposted to other services and 276 were given free legal advice on a wide range of issues by our volunteer legal advisers.

Our objective to streamline the clinic's processes has been achieved. The clinic's various policies have been reviewed and updated, data protection measures have been updated, and basic safeguarding training has been created for all the volunteers. Funding has been obtained to fund the role of the Clinic Director for a further 12 months. Several new volunteer advisers have been recruited. Relationships with agencies such as Plumstead Community Law Centre, Christians Against Poverty (Greenwich) and Citizens Advice Greenwich have been developed.

Objectives for the coming year

Our objectives for 2024 are to:

- *Develop relationships with law firms with a view to running further clinics;*
- *Obtain further funding for the Clinic Director role;*
- *Involve volunteers in more fundraising events; and*
- *Continue to develop relationships with other advice and support agencies.*

Financial Review

All funds raised by EGLAC are detailed in the accounts at the end of this report. The accounts provide a summary of financial activity over the last year. Funds are used to achieve the objectives summarised above and to develop EGLAC for the benefit of the community it serves.

Funds raised do not profit the trustees who form the organisation's management committee. No portion is paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to the charity's trustees.

Fundraising

We have continued to develop our fundraising programme. We use financial information and project plans to help strategise this. We operate a rolling programme of fundraising. This includes grant applications and fundraising events.

Reserves policy

The trustees have again reviewed the reserves requirement in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission and have reaffirmed that 3 months' running costs should be set aside or designated to safeguard activities in the event of delays in receipt of grants. The trustees will continue to review the appropriate level for the reserves in the coming year.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities and Corporate Governance

The trustees are responsible for their annual report and for the preparation of financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the incoming resources and application of the resources of the charity during the year, and of the state of affairs at the end of the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- *Ensure that suitable accounting policies are established and applied consistently;*
- *Make judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent;*
- *State whether the applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended accounting practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and*
- *Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue operations.*

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate systems and controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose the financial position of the charity 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 charity and for their proper application, as required by charity law, and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- *The charity is operating efficiently and effectively*
- *All assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied*
- *Proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity, or for publication, is reliable;*
- *The charity complies with relevant laws and regulations*

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 24th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:


 Tim Cave
 Chair, EGLAC

**Independent Examiner's Report to Trustees of
East Greenwich Legal Advice Clinic Charity No: 1197038**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 set out on pages 8-9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Beverley Campbell
BC Consultancy Services

Date: 30.09.2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
EAST GREENWICH LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC

CIO Number
1197038

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2023	To	Period end date 31/12/2023
------------------------	---------------------------------	----	-------------------------------

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Voluntary Income - Donations	9,001	-	-	9,001	1,100
Grants	9,840	4,500	-	14,340	1
Fundraising	2,205	-	-	2,205	-
Other Income	2,719	-	-	2,719	-
Interest	18	-	-	18	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	23,781	4,500	-	28,281	1,101
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	23,781	4,500	-	28,281	1,101
A3 Payments					
Salary Costs	10,041	4,500	-	14,541	-
Insurance	2,214	-	-	2,214	-
IT	183	-	-	183	-
Independent Examination	170	-	-	170	-
Cost of Fundraising	713	-	-	713	-
Publicity & Promotion	85	-	-	85	-
Subscriptions	127	-	-	127	-
Bank Charges	60	-	-	60	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	13,572	4,500	-	18,072	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	13,572	4,500	-	18,072	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	10,209	-	-	10,209	1,101
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	1,101	-	-	1,101	-
Cash funds this year end	11,310	-	-	11,310	1,101

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in Bank	1 208	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	11,310	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets				
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				
B5 Liabilities				
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Timothy Cave	TIMOTHY CAVE	24.09.24	