



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/10/22 Period start date
To 30/09/23 Period end date

Charity name: The Somerscience Trust

Charity registration number: 1198113

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To advance the education of the public in Somerset in science, technology, mathematics and engineering and to promote public engagement in all aspects of STEM developments for the public benefit.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The Somerscience festival was held successfully on 1 st May 2023. The work of the charity in the year was focussed around organising the programme and content, attracting funding, developing the promotional and communications campaign to ensure the festival's success, developing a safe event management plan and handling the logistics of mounting the festival across 12 venues before the festival; supervising and troubleshooting on the day of the festival; and evaluation of the festival against our charity objectives and the various objectives of grant funders, preparing written reports on such, as appropriate.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	At all times the trustees have been aware that our activities must be within the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	

Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The festival attracted 4802 visitors, with 178 STEM professionals from 55 different organisations participating and 80 volunteers officiating on the day. The festival demonstrated that there was a great appetite for engaging with STEM in South Somerset and proved to be an effective vehicle for outreach in a neglected area. From registration data, intercept and online survey, feedback walls, social media and email feedback, we have been able to establish that over 14,500 meaningful engagements between the STEM world and the Somerset public took place at the festival - 94% of visitors to the festival felt it gave them a better understanding of STEM, 87% a better understanding of STEM careers and 98.8% of visitors reported positive or very positive attitudes towards STEM after the festival, up from 77% prior. Qualitative feedback was overwhelmingly positive with word-cloud analysis highlighting "interesting", "Informative", "fun", "engaging", "fascinating", "intriguing" and "educational" as most often used words to describe the festival experience. Strong relationships have been formed with our contributing organisations, and channels who promoted the festivals such as the Education Business Partnership, Somerset tourism portal, SW Careers Hub, STEM professional organisations, STEM Ambassadors and Town and County Councils and the volunteer network who collectively contributed over 2500 hours of free time and expertise. Thus the festival provided a focal point for both STEM professional and local resident community cohesion.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>Three of our objectives were fully met: afford a minimum of 5000 engagements by young people from South Somerset (we tallied at least 14,500 engagements); recruit at least 50 contributing organisations and 100 discrete activities (we had 55 organisations with 85 billed activities of which many were multi-faceted so easily exceeding the 100 aimed for); establish in year 1 a baseline of visitor numbers and profile from which to build year on year.</p> <p>There were two further objectives which we deemed partially met: achieve a quality experience for participants and visitors (although 100% of participants were happy with the quality and number of interactions they had had and the level of engagement with the audience, and 85% of visitors would recommend the festival to their network, there were some minor issues reported regarding the availability of enough food outlets, toilet facilities and the free shuttle bus timetable, all of which will be addressed by changes to the next festival's setting); and effect positive change on attitudes towards STEM and STEM careers from visitors leading eventually to an increase in STEM uptake (whilst initial feedback was positive, only time will tell as regards outcomes linked to attainment and destinations for young people).</p>
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>We aimed to raise sufficient funds to cover the cost of the festival being free to all visitors and participants. Effective financial management and negotiation, as well as our success at achieving goodwill, grants and sponsorships, has meant that we ended the year with a budget surplus which provides the basis for confidence that we can fund next year's festival and so have a sustainable event.</p>
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>At the end of each financial period, including 30/09/23, Somerscience conducts a thorough review of its financial position to assess its overall fiscal health and make informed decisions for the future. This review involves a comprehensive analysis of our financial statements, including the balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement, among others. The purpose of this review is to:</p> <p>Evaluate Financial Performance: We examine our financial performance over the period to determine how well we have utilized our resources in achieving our mission. We assess key financial indicators such as revenue, expenses, and net assets to understand the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations. This analysis helps us identify areas of strength and areas that require improvement, enabling us to make informed decisions to optimize our financial performance.</p> <p>Ensure Compliance: We review our financial position to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and accounting standards. This includes assessing our adherence to legal and regulatory requirements related to financial reporting, tax obligations, and governance. By ensuring compliance, we maintain the trust and confidence of our stakeholders, including donors, partners, and the broader public.</p> <p>For the year ending 30/09/23, the trustees of The Somerscience Trust found that the financial performance and compliance were in line with expectations.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>At The Somerscience Trust, we believe in transparency and accountability in our operations, including the management of reserves. We maintain reserves for the following reasons:</p> <p>Financial Stability: Reserves act as a financial safety net, providing a cushion to navigate unexpected challenges or economic fluctuations. They help us weather unforeseen events such as economic downturns, changes in donor funding, or emergencies that could impact our ability to carry out our programs and services.</p> <p>Program Continuity: Reserves enable us to sustain ongoing programs and services during periods of uncertainty or when there</p>

		is a delay in anticipated funding. By having reserves in place, we can ensure that critical activities, such as providing aid to beneficiaries or conducting research, can continue uninterrupted even if there are temporary fluctuations in revenue.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£11,409.76
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The Charity will need to continue to raise grant income to meet the costs of running the festival. We are confident we can achieve this as we now have a one year (and successful) track record.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Grant income from trusts and foundations. Corporate Sponsorship of the Somerscience event.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	We have limited reserves each year and therefore we keep these in a savings account. At present there is no need to have a social investment policy.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The Principal risk is the inability to raise sufficient funds to run the Somerscience event. We also have a key person risk: Colleen Bower, who is the founder of the Somerscience festival, is integral to the success of the event; however she has built up a team around her to mitigate this risk.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Every trustee must be appointed for a term of 2 or 3 years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees, apart from the founding trustees. Trustees other than founding trustees, were selected and approved at the Trustee meeting on 19/05/22 based on their skills, knowledge and experience, and expertise in aspects of STEM and/or outreach events.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Somerscience Trust
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1198113
Charity's principal address	23, Priorygate Court Castle Cary Somerset BA7 7HT

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Teresa Colleen Bower	Chair		
2	Simon Connell	Treasurer		
3	Chris Budd	Safeguarding Lead		
4	Gavin Costigan			
5	Alan Champneys			
6	Wendy Adams			
7	Lucy Smith			
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

N/A

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Teresa Colleen Bower	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	26/11/2023	

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOMERSSCIENCE TRUST

I report to the charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Somerscience Trust for the period ended 30 September 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act), as amended by s.145 of the Charities Act 2011) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under the company law and is eligible for independent examination; it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required by audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

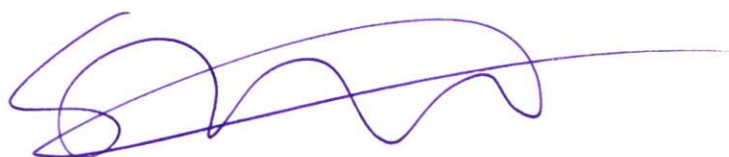
Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

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



Steven Baptiste

Linden Accountants, Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier Street, St Werburghs, Bristol, BS2 9LB

Date: 07 March 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Somerscience Trust

Charity No
Company No

1198113
CE028489

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/10/2022

To

30/09/2023

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					
Charitable Activities	400	2,000	-	2,400	-
Corporate Donations	500	-	-	500	-
Grants	5,150	25,000	-	30,150	-
Sponsorship	990	4,950	-	5,940	2,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	7,040	31,950	-	38,990	2,000
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	7,040	31,950	-	38,990	2,000
A3 Payments					
Charitable Activities	1,890	21,611	-	23,501	500
Separate Material Expense Items	7,743	-	-	7,743	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	9,633	21,611	-	31,243	500
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	9,633	21,611	-	31,243	500
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,593	10,339	-	7,747	1,500
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Cash funds this year end	- 1,093	10,339	-	9,247	1,500

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 at bank and in hand	- 1,093	10,339	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	- 1,093	10,339	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Prepayments	273	1,890	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Deferred Income	Restricted	500	
	Accruals	Unrestricted	540	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	