



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date					Period end date		
From	01	10	2024	To	30	09	2025		

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name The Somerscience Trust

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1198113

Charity's principal address 12 Westrow Road

Southampton

Postcode

SO15 2LY

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	Alan Champneys	Chair	Continuous as Trustee. Chair from July 2025	-
2	Gavin Costigan	Secretary & Treasurer	Continuous as Trustee. Secretary & Treasurer from July 2025	-
3	Christopher Budd	Safeguarding lead	Continuous	-
4	Darren Wilson	Trustee	Continuous	-
5	Lucy Smith	Trustee	Continuous	-
6	Teresa Colleen Bower	Trustee & Chair	Until April 2025	-
7	Simon Connell	Trustee & Treasurer	Until June 2025	-
8				
9				
10				
21				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountants	Linden Accountants Ltd	Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier Street, St Werburghs, Bristol, BS2 9LB

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

None - The Charity has no staff

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

With the exception of the Founding Trustees, trustees are appointed by a properly constituted meeting of the Trustee Board. They are appointed for a three year term, which is renewable twice.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

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 undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

<p>The Somerscience Trust organised an annual family science festival on 5 May 2025. This is the primary mechanism that the Somerscience trust uses to deliver public benefit, in accordance with it's charitable objects.</p> <p>The 2025 festival attracted 5000 visitors. The primary demographic was children attending with their families.</p> <p>In the post-event survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of visitors rated the festival between Good and Excellent – an improvement compared to 2024. • 96% of visitors would recommend the festival to their network. • 88% of visitors gained more interest in STEM after the festival. • 59% gained more interested in a STEM career. • 91% felt the festival had a positive impact on their belief that STEM is relevant to their daily life. <p>At least 90% of professional contributors reported Good or Excellent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of interactions they had with target audience. • The level of engagement from the audience. • The quality of interactions had. • Number of visitors (51% rated this as excellent) <p>We are bringing STEM to the local rural population and developing inspiration and a sense of the future possibilities for careers, learning and wellbeing.</p>
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Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

<p>All trustees, implementation team members and event assistants on the day are volunteers and we could not offer this festival as a free benefit to the public without their generous contribution of time and expertise.</p> <p>The Somerscience Trust does not give out grants, nor are its finances sufficient to hold investments.</p>
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Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

We had 6 objectives for this festival round:

1. Afford a minimum of 20,000 engagements by young people from South Somerset. Fully met. Demographic data suggests that 26% of attendees were under the age of 18 (around 1250). 20,000 engagements from this group would require an average interaction with just 16 of the 68 activities on offer.
2. Recruit at least 80 contributing organisations and 100 discrete activities. Partly met. We had enquiries for closer to 80 organisations, however with the available space and the nature of the activities, the number of organisations was restricted to 60. Of which, 53 were present at the festival.
3. Achieve a quality experience for participants and attendees. Fully Met. 100% of visitors completing the survey rated the quality of the event between 'Good' and 'Excellent'. Contributors gave the festival an average rating of 8.52/10 in terms of meeting expectations.
4. Build on the baseline of visitor numbers and demographic profile achieved in the first year. Partly met. Although visitor numbers remained around 5000, for the scale and nature of the event this year, that considered a good number and was matched well with the activities and event space available.
5. Effect positive change on attitudes towards STEM and STEM careers from visitors leading eventually to a quantitative increase in STEM uptake at choice points and after-school clubs. Partly met. 59% of attendees said the festival made them more likely to consider studying or working in a STEM field. Post festival, 'Very Positive' attitudes to STEM became 59%, an increase of 38%. No work has yet been done on tracking changes to uptake of STEM qualifications or destinations, given this is only year 3 of Somerscience. One to monitor in future years.
6. Positively impact the learning and specific skills development of the apprentice project team. Fully met. The experience gained by the apprentice project team has been invaluable and has led to a more structured and repeatable process to be developed. Thereby improving the sustainability of the festival over the long term, removing reliance on individuals. Key skills learned include Stakeholder Management; Communication; Leadership; Design (2D modelling) and Scheduling/Time management.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

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:

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.

Programme Continuity: Reserves enable us to sustain ongoing programs and services during periods of uncertainty or when there 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.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None – Positive Balance at year end of £7055.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Income is raised each year through a mixture of grants, donations and sponsorship. Grant income comes from trusts and foundations. Corporate Sponsorship of the Somerscience festival comes from companies mainly in the Somerset region.

We spend this money on delivering the annual Somerscience festival.

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.

Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Gavin Costigan

Position (eg Chair, Secretary, etc)

Secretary & Treasurer

Date

10/05/2026



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
The Somerscience Trust

No (if any)
1198113

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/10/2024	To	Period end date 30/09/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Charitable activities	-	-	-	-	6,000
Corporate Donations	-	1,000	-	1,000	2,200
Grants	-	22,500	-	22,500	15,350
Sponsorship	-	6,500	-	6,500	650
Other income	4	-	-	4	150
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	4	30,000	-	30,004	24,350
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4	30,000	-	30,004	24,350
A3 Payments					
Charitable activities	-	12,105	-	12,105	16,637
Separate Material Expense Items	-	15,515	-	15,515	12,295
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	27,620	-	27,620	28,932
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	27,620	-	27,620	28,932
Net of receipts/(payments)	4	2,380	-	2,384	- 4,582
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	4,664	-	4,664	9,246
Cash funds this year end	4	7,044	-	7,048	4,664

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		4	7,044	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4	7,044	-
	(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		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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	
	Gavin Costigan	Gavin Costigan	27/02/2026	

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

I report to the charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Somerscience Trust for the period ended 30 September 2025.

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.

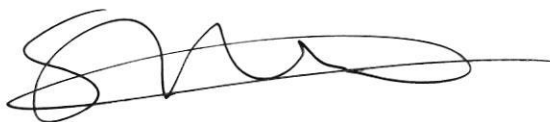
Independent examiner's statement

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: 30 March 2026