



BLUE BEAR FREEDOM UK - 1200131

Annual Report 2023.

**Trustees Annual Report for the year ending
31st December 2023**



Blue Bear Freedom UK

Charity number: 1200131

13 Tombland House, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 1HF

Introduction

This is the first annual report for Blue Bear Freedom UK (BBF UK), an anti-trafficking organisation registered with the Charities Commission of England and Wales on Friday the 19th of August 2022.

BBF UK is the principal beneficiary of The Justice Business CIC, a Social Enterprise which trades as Blue Bear Coffee Co, registered with Companies House in England and Wales on 27th September 2018.

Prior to the registration of BBF UK, Blue Bear Coffee Co. (BBCC) used the sale of ethically sourced coffee beans as its principal means of producing sustainable funding for established charitable organisations engaged in the fight against human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

The work and regular activities of BBCC and BBF UK can be followed by visiting our website and social media pages:

Website: <https://bluebearcoffee.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bluebearcoffeeco/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheJusticeBusiness/>

The annual reports for Blue Bear Coffee Co. are available by visiting: <https://bluebearcoffee.com/transparency/>

Blue Bear Coffee Co's annual accounts are available by visiting:

<https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/11592634>

The purpose of this report is to outline the activities of BBF UK and how it has exercised its charitable status pursuant to our mission statement, which was agreed upon in our first trustee meeting on January 22nd, 2022:

‘We exist to protect, equip and empower children effected by human trafficking, and to raise awareness to the injustice of modern slavery and exploitation.’

2022

In 2022, prior to the registration of Blue Bear Freedom UK, a group of trustees were identified, each with a clear passion for justice and professional experience across children's education, safeguarding, modern slavery legislation and law enforcement.

Board of trustees:

- Bryn Frere-Smith
- Andrew Frere-Smith
- Charlotte Pascal
- Kerry Brighthouse
- Rossie Gillum
- Anna Dean

On the 13th of January we met and decided upon the direction of the year, to establish registration with the UK Charities Commission, open a bank account and launch a website.

The registration with the Charities Commission was completed on 19th August 2022.

Bankers:

Charitable Aid Foundation (CAF)

25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.

Website:

www.bluebearfreedom.org

Over the course of 2022 we held several fundraising events, including our inaugural Blue Bear Freedom Ride (Fig 1 – see below Appendices), a cycling event across Norfolk alongside numerous fundraising dinners, and speaking events. BBF UK activities and profits from BBCC allowed us to donate £7000 (from BBCC) to Score International, a US charity that provided the recipient account for Lily House, an aftercare shelter an hour's drive from Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. Funds from BBCC and BBF UK sponsored the wrap-around care of two girls who entered their shelter, sponsoring the costs of their accommodation, healthcare and education for a full year.

£2957.28 of the year's fundraising total was retained for the opening of BBF UK's bank account.

Finances from BBCC 2022 financial year are available at: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/11592634/filing-history>

2023

In the Spring of 2023, organisation Founder Bryn Frere-Smith returned to the Dominican Republic to visit Lily House and meet with leaders in the anti-trafficking field who worked across positions in government and the NGO sector in the Dominican Republic. The trip was intended to see if Blue Bear could launch a coffee shop in the Dominican Republic to provide sustainable source of fundraising, safe jobs for survivors and awareness raising to the issue of human trafficking on the island. After meeting with both experts and survivors it became clear that a more direct route to protecting and empowering children would be to fund their immediate and longer-term needs, increasing their protection from re-exploitation. This meant partnering with effective aftercare shelters and developing a fund for girls seeking further education.

In addition to the support we had committed to give the Lily House shelter, we were also able to supply them with a gift of 50 bags of Blue Bear coffee beans to be sold as a way of raising money and awareness for our joint cause. (Fig 2)

In May 2023 BBF UK were represented by two young survivors who attended a large international anti-trafficking conference held in Punta Cana to share their stories. (Global Freedom from Slavery Forum). (Fig 3)

The trustees remained busy in the UK raising money and awareness. We attended a large cycle event and a Triathlon in Norfolk over the summer to sell coffee and share about the work of Blue Bear Freedom UK. (Fig 4)

Students from Christchurch Winchester raised £1000 for BBF UK, swimming the 21-mile distance between Dover and Calais in their local swimming pool.

In August 2023 BBCC opened its first coffee shop in the heart of Norwich in an old, listed former jewellers directly opposite the Cathedral. Having a physical space to base the Social Enterprise and Charity from has allowed us to grow our presence in the local area and form new partnerships with local customers and businesses. (Fig 5)

Claire, an employee of the Mortgage Advisory Bureau (next door neighbours) went on to run the Bristol half Marathon on behalf of BBF UK raising £670.

Later in the year staff from ASI recruitment conducted a sponsored Hot Wing Eating competition which raised a further £1000. (Fig 6)

In October, Bryn was invited to give a Keynote address at the Inaugural Unseen Business Awards ceremony held at oval cricket ground in London, sharing a stage with a representative from Tony's Chocolonely and Tesco. (Fig 7)

Towards the end of 2023 we began conversations with The Brave Bear Trust regarding a move to absorb and continue their work within the auspices of BBF UK. The Brave Bear Trust (1191986) is a charity which aims to educate Key Stage 2 age children to the realities of modern slavery in an age-appropriate way. The Brave Bear Trust is based around a children's story book about a teddy bear character called Brave and was part inspired by the origin story of Blue Bear Coffee Co. Bryn Frere-Smith, BBCC Founder is also a trustee of The Brave Bear Trust. The merger is planned to take place in 2024.

In total, over the course of the first financial year, BBF UK raised £16,171 through a combination of BBCC profits and donations to our freedom fund which will be administered in the form of grants and programmes pursuant to our cause over the following 12 months.

Almost all of the charity's operating expenses were funded by BBCC, allowing 100% of the money donated to BBF UK to be used in direct support of children effected or at risk of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and modern slavery. Please see accompanied accounts.

Sincerest wishes,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'B. Frere-Smith', written in a cursive style.

Bryn Frere-Smith

Chairman of Blue Bear Freedom UK

Appendices



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Blue Bear Freedom (UK)

1200131

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

1st January 2023

To

31st December

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					
Stripe donations	7,036	-	-	7,036	-
Other donations	9,126	-	-	9,126	-
Interest	9	-	-	9	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	16,171	-	-	16,171	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	16,171	-	-	16,171	-
A3 Payments					
Stripe fees	247	-	-	247	-
Bank charges	70	-	-	70	-
Donation to Lily House	1,666	-	-	1,666	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,983	-	-	1,983	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,983	-	-	1,983	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	14,187	-	-	14,187	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	14,187	-	-	14,187	-

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		14,188	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,188	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		A. Frere-Smith	A. Frere-Smith	27th August 2024