

# UK-China Transparency

Charity registration number: 1201902

## Review of the year

Over the past year, UK-China Transparency (UKCT) has significantly expanded its operational capacity, doubling paid staff, increasing research output, and broadening its advocacy, education, and outreach activities. In response to this growth, UKCT has formalised quarterly subscriber communications, enhanced its digital presence, launched a Substack, and strengthened cybersecurity infrastructure. The charity has modest operating costs relative to comparable organisations, but will be seeking increased donor support to maintain sustainability and expand its work.

UKCT has restructured its work around five core research programmes: **Repression and Surveillance**, **Strategic Technology**, **Influence and Engagement**, **Cyber and Data**, and **Labour Exploitation**. These programmes provide a framework for fundraising, specialisation, and long-term strategic development.

Recent work under the **Repression and Surveillance** programme includes a major report on academic freedom within UK China Studies, based on survey data from fifty academics. The findings indicate systemic issues of intimidation, self-censorship, and career risk. The report influenced national debate and coincided with new regulatory guidance recommending the reduction or termination of Confucius Institute and China Scholarship Council arrangements. UKCT's findings received widespread media coverage and prompted engagement with government bodies and foreign missions.

Under **Strategic Technology**, UKCT continues investigating the sale of Imagination Technologies and the acquisition of Plessey Semiconductors, while monitoring Chinese involvement in UK defence, semiconductor supply chains, venture capital, and STEM research. Forthcoming work will analyse Chinese student participation in sensitive academic fields and potential weaknesses in UK investment security controls.

The **Influence and Engagement** programme produced a major report on Chu Ting Tang OBE, exposing extensive United Front connections. This work coincided with the introduction of the UK's Foreign Influence Registration Scheme, whose effectiveness UKCT continues to scrutinise. Parallel research now focuses on subnational diplomacy, party-to-party relations, and Chinese think tanks.

The **Cyber and Data** programme maintains the UK's most comprehensive log of PRC cyber operations and is expanding into investigations of academic cyber collaboration risks. The **Exploitation and Crime** programme is emerging as a national leader in research on Chinese organised crime and labour exploitation.

UKCT's **Education portfolio** is rapidly expanding through commercial partnerships, delivering tailored training to government, defence, academia, and industry on CCP

political warfare and influence methods, including scenario-based exercises.

UKCT's outreach now spans government, parliament, media, NGOs, and international partners. New relationships have been formed within the Cabinet Office, Treasury, Defence, DBT, FCDO, NCA, and education bodies, while parliamentary engagement now includes 45 MPs and peers, with strongest traction on education and China studies. Cooperation with aligned NGOs and think tanks continues, including joint work on electronic vehicle security. Media outreach has grown to 83 contacts with regular national coverage. Internationally, diplomatic connections now include EU, US, Australia, Poland, Taipei, and Latin America, supporting longer-term collaboration despite funding constraints.

With governance strengthened by new trustees and plans underway for long-term strategy development, UKCT is positioning itself as a leading independent authority on UK-China relations, while appealing for continued financial support to sustain its growing impact.

## Governance

The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees. Its charitable objects are the following:

- For the public benefit the advancement of education, training and research in the relationships between China and the UK in education, business and culture and in good governance, ethics and transparency in such relationships;
- The promotion of human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) throughout the world by all or any of the following means:
  - Research into human rights issues;
  - Raising awareness of human rights issues;
  - Promoting public support for human rights;
  - Promoting respect for human rights among individuals and corporations.

The charity addresses its purpose by carrying out specific research projects and disseminating appropriate publications. It also organises events and provides informal advice (for example to the press) based on its research. The Trustees and executive staff pay careful attention to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

During the year, the Trustee board was strengthened and broadened by the appointment of three new trustees with a range of expertise. As a result, the Director was able to stand down as a Trustee, in line with charity best practice.

UKCT relies on the advice of a network of academics, technical experts, and community leaders. We very much appreciate the expert input that all our advisors provide.

## Trustees

Martin Rowland Village	Chair
Samuel Harry Williams-Dunning	Director (stood down as Trustee 2 December 2025)
Sir Bernard Walter Silverman	Treasurer
Bryn Ivor Harris	Trustee (from 2 December 2025)
Andrew Pirie Stuart Robinson	Trustee
Andrew John Whiteside	Trustee (from 2 September 2025)
Haoyu Zhang	Trustee (from 2 December 2025)

## Financial and risk review

Over £50,000 was raised from individual donations (including Gift Aid) and, in addition, an unrestricted grant of £4,000 was received from the Injustice Foundation. We are extremely grateful for all this support.

The charity now employs a Director (40% full time) and a Deputy Director (70% full time). During the year, there was considerable investment in building a secure IT infrastructure and website, and this is reflected in the office expenses reported

At the end of the year, the Charity's assets stood at over £46,000. The Trustees have decided to hold £20,000 as reserves, with the remainder committed against current salaries and research projects. The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis. All funds and donations are unrestricted and there are no assets and investments. All funds are held in the Charity's bank account. The full receipts and payments accounts are attached.

Because of the conservative approach taken to the charity's activities, there is no material uncertainty about the charity continuing as a going concern. Apart from the tight fiscal control used to avoid financial risk, care is taken over any risk (reputational or legal) of overstepping the Charity's research and educational objectives. In particular any publications are carefully reviewed to ensure that all statements are evidence-based, as well as falling within the charity's objects. Evidence is put into the public domain where possible. Legal advice is also sought where appropriate.

## Declaration

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

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

<b>MARTIN VILLAGE</b>	<b>BERNARD SILVERMAN</b>
Martin Rowland Village, Chair	Bernard Walter Silverman, Treasurer
15 January 2026	15 January 2026

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	1-Jan-25	To	31-Dec-25
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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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Bank interest	76	-	-	76	53
Donations	49,797	-	-	49,797	37,679
Events and services	1,150	-	-	1,150	2,235
Gift Aid	2,750	-	-	2,750	3,792
Grants	4,000	-	-	4,000	5,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>57,773</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,773</b>	<b>48,759</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales: none</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>57,773</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,773</b>	<b>48,759</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Bank charges	60	-	-	60	60
Employment	32,532	-	-	32,532	9,827
Events	-	-	-	-	1,488
Insurance	722	-	-	722	658
Legal and Professional advice	1,125	-	-	1,125	2,273
Office expenses (including IT and website)	10,600	-	-	10,600	2,025
Research	225	-	-	225	958
Travel and Subsistence	4,066	-	-	4,066	789
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>49,329</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,329</b>	<b>18,078</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases: none</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>49,329</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,329</b>	<b>18,078</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>8,444</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,444</b>	<b>30,681</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>37,749</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,749</b>	<b>7,068</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>46,193</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>46,193</b>	<b>37,749</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Current and future projects	26,193	-	-
	Reserves	20,000	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>46,193</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	None	-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	None		-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	None		-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	None		-	
	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
UK China Transparency

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1201902

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

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 (other than that disclosed below \*) 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.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Paul O'Brien

Date:

15/01/2026

Name:

Paul O'Brien

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

ICPA

Address:

34 King James Close

Fordham, Ely

CB7 5SA

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**