

**Sussex Search and Rescue**  
**(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

**Trustee Annual Report and Accounts**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**(Charity Registration No. 1204106)**

## Reference and Administrative Details

**Charity number** 1204106

**Trustees** The trustees who served during the year of this report were as follows:

Daniel Wood	Chair (Elected 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2024)
Paul Wilman	Secretary (Elected 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2024)
Sarah McCarthy	Treasurer (Elected 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2024)
Alastair Hornby	Trustee (Coopted 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2024)
Jackie Deacon	Trustee (Coopted 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2024)
John Griffiths	Chair (Resigned 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2024)
Simon Bennett	Secretary (Retired 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2024)
Christopher Peacock	Treasurer (Retired 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2024)
Andy Nixon	Secretary (Retired 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2024)

**Bank** Lloyds Bank plc

**Registered Office** C/o Haywards Heath Police Station  
Bolnore Road  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex  
RH16 4BA

## **Structure, governance and management**

After a consultation and following a motion approved by its members at a special general meeting held in 2023, Sussex Search and Rescue changed its legal structure and was registered with the Charities commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

It was agreed that moving from an unincorporated charity to a CIO was more appropriate given the organisation's growth in size and complexity.

With reference to the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (FRS 102), as the charity's purposes and beneficiary class remain unchanged this restructure will be treated as a merger of the two organisations.

Unincorporated Charity – Sussex Search and Rescue, 1097190  
and the

CIO – Sussex Search and Rescue, 1204106

The financial accounts have been prepared to reflect this requirement of the SORP.

The restructured charity is governed by a constitution, which has been adopted by the voting members. The board of Trustees are elected by the members with overall management for the charity. They will hold office for two years, with the provision to be reappointed for a second term.

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM), the trustees appoint, in consultation with the membership a Management Committee who aid with the day-to-day management of the charity. Delegation to the Management Committee is defined by a terms of reference document for the Management Committee.

The charity works in partnership with Sussex Police and all members are police vetted before being accepted as operational within the team. This vetting is renewable every three years.

The charity remains a full member of the wider national network of the Association Lowland Search and Rescue.

## **Objectives and activities**

- To preserve life and relieve suffering and distress among persons who are missing or endangered through misadventure, accident or

natural hazard by the provision of a trained search and rescue capability to assist Sussex Police and other agencies.

- To raise awareness of the plight of vulnerable missing people so that the causes and behaviours associated with missing person cases may be better understood and recognised for the benefit and protection of those who may be at risk.
- To promote research into the science and practice of search and rescue and to disseminate the knowledge gained.

The trustees have continued with their duty having due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

## Achievements and performance during the year

### 2024 Statistics



## Operational achievements

The Chief Constable Jo Shiner, continues as our Patron. The trustees and team fully appreciate the confidence and support of the Chief Constable and her recognition of the importance of the team in her force's work to locate vulnerable missing people.

Total number of call outs reduced in 2024 to 37, these were primarily in Sussex but also, as usual, included assists with other neighbouring counties as requested.

The split of call outs across the county included:

- West (A24) 4
- Central (A23) 11
- East (A22) 18
- Surrey Assists 4

Several of these were multiple day searches which adds a level of complexity for search planning and physical and mental demand on our volunteers.

One notable search of this year was when one of our newly qualified search technicians was on route to an assist call out and identified the misper while on route to the rendezvous point.

We remain an active member of the Sussex Resilience Forum, which held regular meetings throughout the year and we were recognised as one of the key resources which could be deployed should the need arise.

As a member of the Association of Lowland Rescue, we annually provide them and to the police, statistics on all incidents attended, these are built up nationally with the intention of improving search planning for future incidents.

## **Membership**

The member volunteers continued to commit to several thousand of registered hours in 2024, with unquantified unregistered hours, highlighting that their commitment and dedication continues to be the greatest asset of the organisation.

The team membership numbers at the end of year were at 67 which included

- 53 operational members
- 8 non-operational members
- 6 support members

During the year the Inflow included thirteen new members under training, who have all now qualified and are operational as licenced search technicians.

Sadly, the team saw eight retirements during the year, with one then fortunately deciding to rejoin the team and one member moved to a support role.

We had a great PR opportunity in 2024 when one of our members was interviewed and filmed for a short piece based around women in Search and Rescue which then aired on Meridian News.

Following on with the considerations and feedback from the members attitude survey in 2023, it was agreed by the committee that a number of social events could be beneficial to team morale and cohesion and a quarterly event was held for team members and their families.

## **Training**

The training team ensured the invaluable training sessions continued and we were able to put on regular training exercises in various disciplines required to keep the team competent.

Alongside the main search training nights, our specialised capabilities also had their monthly trainings sessions.

Sonar, Water, and Advanced Medical trainings.

Qualifications during 2024 included:

- 13 new search technicians recruited and qualified
- 6 members attended a Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) training course and qualified as TRiM Practitioners
- 1 member requalified as an Outreach rescue Water Instructor
- 4 water team members qualified to MOD2 – Flood First Responders
- 1 Search Manager qualified as an Incident Commander

## **Financial review**

Following the change of status of the organisation and the setup of the new CIO, all physical assets of the previous unincorporated organisation were transferred as per the approval of the members and the charities commission. This included an initial cash transfer into the CIO bank account, some funds have remained in the unincorporated organisation while it is closed down and all remaining payments and receipts are moved to the CIO. The final transfer will be completed in the early part of 2025.

The charity finished the year in a healthy financial position with £53k of unrestricted reserves which are held in order to fulfil future charitable aims and objectives, build a designated fund towards future replacement of the control vehicles and to be sufficient to cover a minimum of 12 months operational expenditure.

In 2024 the organisation was successful in securing £14.4k in grant funding. Four restricted grants were received from the Ernest Kleinwort

trust, Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation, Sussex Resilience Forum and Thales Community Funds for various equipment and trainings for the team and two unrestricted grants from the Grace Trust and the Chalk Cliff Trust.

Income from 20 fundraising activities, community talks and events raised £13.8k which included funds of £6.6k from a new event, where we were nominated as their Charity of the year.

Team members excelled themselves yet again with the extra time and effort put in to attend these activities.

## **Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



.....

Paul Wilman

Secretary

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025





Bringing the missing home

# SUSSEX SEARCH AND RESCUE -1204106

## Receipts and payments account for the period July 2023 to December 2024

	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations	20,263	6,492	26,754	-
Training Courses	-	-	-	-
Interest Received	-	-	-	-
Transfer of Funds - SuSAR 1097190	5,000	-	5,000	-
VAT Refund	-	-	-	-
<b>Asset and investment sales</b>				
Sale of assets	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>25,263</b>	<b>6,492</b>	<b>31,754</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>25,263</b>	<b>6,492</b>	<b>31,754</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Operational equipment	2,736	492	3,228	-
Vehicle repairs, maintenance and fuel	3,063	-	3,063	-
Member training	1,532	-	1,532	-
Fundraising equipment & Marketing	96	-	96	-
Insurance	3,217	-	3,217	-
Other expenditure	377	-	377	-
	11,022	492	11,513	-
<b>Asset and investment sales</b>				
Purchases of assets	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>11,022</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>11,513</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts (payments) for the year</b>	<b>14,241</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>20,241</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds in the year</b>				
Cash funds at previous year end	-	-	-	-
Net income (expenditure) for the year	14,241	6,000	20,241	-
<b>Cash funds at year end</b>	<b>14,241</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>20,241</b>	<b>-</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2024

	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Operations account	14,241	6,000	20,241	-
	-	-	-	-
	14,241	6,000	20,241	-
<b>Net assets and liabilities</b>	<b>14,241</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>20,241</b>	<b>-</b>

**Assets retained for the Charity's  
own use.**

**Fund to which  
Asset Belongs**

**Cost 2024  
£**

Vehicles	Unrestricted	56,651
Computer Equipment	Unrestricted	11,864
Radio Equipment	Unrestricted	2,729
Radio Equipment	Restricted	25,736
Medical Equipment	Unrestricted	3,643
Medical Equipment	Restricted	1,555
SAR Equipment	Unrestricted	4,985
Water Equipment	Restricted	18,565
Water Equipment	Unrestricted	4,820
Sonar Equipment	Restricted	7,566
Other Equipment	Unrestricted	1,180
		<u>139,296</u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:

Date: 12th February 2025



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**Sarah McCarthy**  
Treasurer



.....  
**Daniel Wood**  
Chairman



.....  
**Paul Wilman**  
Secretary

**Sussex Search and Rescue**  
**Financial Statements for the period**  
**1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024**

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of the Sussex Search and Rescue.

This report on the financial statements of the Sussex Search and Rescue for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on the following pages is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with s145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and the examiner**

As trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; and consider that the audit requirement of s144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under s145 of the Act, state on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charities Commissioners under s145(5)(b) the Act, and state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiners' report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions under s145(5)(b) of the Act .

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an 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 examiners' statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and
  - to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and regulationshave not been met, or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Bytheway and Co.*

**Bytheway & Co Chartered Certified Accountants**  
**Heame House**  
**23 Bilston Street**  
**Sedgley**  
**Dudley**  
**DY3 1JA**