

ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE

England & Wales · Charity number 205913

Details

Other names	LONDON ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND, SURREY ASSOCIATION FOR THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE BLIND
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	00026688
Registered	1962-09-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	RNIB Grimaldi Building 154A Pentonville Road London N1 9JE
Phone	0303 123 9999
Email	helpline@rnib.org.uk
Website	www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE BETTER EDUCATION, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT AND WELFARE OF BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PEOPLE, AND GENERALLY TO WATCH OVER AND PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PEOPLE AND TO PREVENT BLINDNESS

Activities: Action for Blind People support blind and partially sighted people in the United Kingdom. This can mean helping them to find or keep a job, deal with housing issues, helping them to go on holiday, providing sports clubs for visually impaired children, and other services for visually impaired children and their families or providing vital information in the heart of communities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Amateur Sport, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£5,863,000	£5,863,000	£0	0
2024-03-31	£5,892,000	£5,892,000	£0	0
2023-03-31	£3,296,000	£3,296,000	£0	0
2022-03-31	£7,038,000	£7,038,000	£0	0
2021-03-31	£5,679,000	£5,679,000	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANNA MARGARET TYLOR		2025-02-10
Alice Collins		2022-12-01
James Alan Harra		2025-07-12
Mary Elliott		2025-07-12

Linked charities

- MARIE LOHR APPEAL (205913-1)
- L R WARRENS BEQUEST (205913-2)
- W A GILLIGAN TRUST FUND (205913-3)
- A N MILNER BEQUEST (205913-4)

ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE

England & Wales - Charity number 205913

Accounts

Action for Blind People

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Registered charity numbers: 205913 (England and Wales)

SC040050 (Scotland)

1203 (Isle of Man) -Deregistered 30/05/25

Company numbers: 00026688 (United Kingdom)

Action for Blind People annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Trustees' Report

The Trustees, who are also directors (for the purposes of Company Law) of Action for Blind People ("Action") present their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in compliance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, Action's governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01 January 2019). The Reference and Administrative Details also form part of this report.

In accordance with the small company exemptions in the Companies Act 2006, the Trustees have limited their report and not produced a strategic report.

Structure and governance

(a) Structure

Action is a charitable private company limited by guarantee. It was founded in 1857 and was incorporated as a company in 1888. It is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association.

A Deed of Transfer between Action and Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) was agreed in March 2017 and 1 April 2017 and saw the transfer of the majority of all activities, people, assets and liabilities to RNIB Group. The aim of the reorganisation was to better enable RNIB to provide support and services to all its beneficiaries and to reduce the cost and administrative burden of operating separate charities.

Action remains as a non-operational entity and the former Action Board resolved to amend its Articles of Association to reflect a Board comprising of a minimum of three Trustees from 1 April 2017. During the year, income and expenditure related to donors linked to Action has been recognised within Action. At the time of signing the financial statements the five Action Trustees in position are Alice Collins, Martin Davidson, Anna Tylor, James Harra and Mary Elliott. All of whom also sit on the RNIB Board. RNIB is the sole corporate member of Action and appoints all Action Trustees to oversee the remaining business of Action. On the 30 May 2025, Action for Blind People was de-registered as a charity in the Isle of Man due to the lack of activity being carried out in the Isle of Man.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure and governance (continued)

(a) Structure (continued)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Action for Blind People for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

(b) Board

Five Trustees currently sit on the Board of Trustees. Further details are in the 'Reference and Administrative details' section on page 22

RNIB's organisational strategy is agreed annually by its Board and is adopted by all companies within the group of companies, including Action. Day to day management of Action is delegated to the CEO of RNIB and his staff. All support functions are also provided by RNIB, including finance/payroll, HR, company secretarial, and legal. Action has at least one Board meeting per year, with other meetings scheduled as required.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure and governance (continued)

(b) Board (continued)

All members of Action's Board of Trustees are also members of the RNIB Board. RNIB Trustees are selected for their skills and experience as part of a competitive recruitment process. Once a Trustee has been appointed, they will undertake a robust induction process which includes meetings with senior staff of RNIB and are offered additional training as required.

Trustees of Action are generally appointed for a three-year term which can be renewed once. In exceptional circumstances, Trustees may be renewed for further terms of a year at a time, up to a maximum of nine years. RNIB carries out an annual process to appraise the performance of its Trustees.

Trustees do not exercise a management function but are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the management of Action. Trustees give their time freely and no remuneration is paid, except for direct reimbursement of travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses where necessary.

The Board of Action delegates authority to the committees of the Board of RNIB to scrutinise and discuss such matters pertinent to Action as are within their particular terms of reference. These committees meet quarterly, and each is made up of members of the Board of RNIB as well as up to two non-Trustee committee members. Relevant discussions of these committees would be reported to the Board of Action at its next meeting. The committees likely to consider business pertaining to Action are as follows:

- **Audit, Risk, and Assurance Committee** – overseeing, monitoring, and reporting on the audit, risk and assurance arrangements of the RNIB group of companies.
- **Finance and Investment Committee** – overseeing and monitoring the financial performance and sustainability of the RNIB group of companies.
- **Governance, Nominations, and Remuneration Committee** – ensures high standards of governance across the RNIB group of companies; overseeing the appointment of Trustees and other non-executives including advising the Board of RNIB on appointments to the Board of Action; and setting remuneration for staff.
- **Fundraising and Public Engagement Committee** –overseeing the delivery of RNIB's public engagement strategy, including fundraising and campaigning. Oversees RNIB's fundraising and public engagement strategy, ensuring income generation, public awareness and services are effective and compliant. The committee provides strategic oversight of fundraising activities, donor stewardship, campaigns, customer service and public communications.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure and governance (continued)

(b) Board (continued)

- **People, Culture and Safeguarding Committee** – Ensures RNIB fosters an inclusive culture and maintains effective safeguarding practices for all who interact with RNIB group of companies. The committee oversees safeguarding policies, staff well-being, workplace culture, and RNIB's commitments to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charity Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit".

Risk management

The risk management process is handled by RNIB on behalf of the Trustees. Trustees are confident that appropriate mitigation measures and controls are in place for the key group risks which are Finance, Strategy, Planning and Delivery, People, External Environment, Safeguarding and Regulatory risk and Technology, data and digital. More can be found on the risks and mitigations within the RNIB financial statements.

Objectives, Activities, and Performance

Action exists as a non-operational charity to receive donations and legacies, which will be transferred to RNIB for use in the delivery of services in the United Kingdom.

Financial review

Income of £2,818k (2024: £3,159k) from donors linked to Action has been recognised in Action during the year, along with legacy income of 3,045k (2024: £2,733k). Action is recognising a gift of £5,853k (2024: £5,882k) to its parent charity RNIB in accordance with the 2017 Deed of Transfer.

Action is a non-operational entity. Donations and legacies it receives are transferred to RNIB, and therefore the Statement of Financial Activities includes no substantive operational costs. Income received has been credited to the appropriate income category in the SoFA and then gifted to RNIB for use in the delivery of services in United Kingdom.

There is a more detailed analysis of income and expenditure in notes 2 to 9 of the financial statements.

Reserves policy

As at 31 March 2025 Action has no need for reserves and exists only to raise income, which is then transferred to RNIB, once costs are deducted.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of policy on fundraising

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires us to make a statement regarding fundraising activities. We do not undertake any fundraising activities, under the terms of the Association Agreement with RNIB, with effect from 1 April 2009 (revised in July 2014 and September 2015), donations and legacies received in Action's name are transferred to RNIB.

We do not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators or, indeed, any third parties to solicit donations. We are therefore not subject to any regulatory scheme or relevant codes of practice; nor have we received any complaints in relation to fundraising activities nor do we consider it necessary to design specific procedures to monitor such activities.

Provision of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are a Trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- each Trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees' report including the strategic report was approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue 4 September 2025

Signed on behalf of the Board



Alice Collins, Trustee
15 October 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charitable Company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, as amended.

We have audited the financial statements of Action for Blind People ("the Charitable Company") for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remain independent of the Charitable Company in accordance with the ethical requirements relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

Conclusions related to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other Companies Act 2006 reporting

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of Company Law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report, which are included in the Trustees' Report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charitable Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatement in the Trustee's report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Charitable Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Non-compliance with laws and regulations

Based on:

- Our understanding of the Charitable Company and the sector in which it operates;
- Discussion with management and those charged with governance; and

Obtaining and understanding of Charitable Company's policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations; We considered the significant laws and regulations to be Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 .

The Charitable Company is also subject to laws and regulations where the consequence of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amount or disclosures in the financial statements, for example through the imposition of fines or litigations. We identified such laws and regulations to be employment law, data protection and health and safety legislation.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- Review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

- Review of correspondence with regulatory authorities for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Review of financial statement disclosures and agreeing to supporting documentation; and
- Discussion with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Fraud

We assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiry with management and those charged with governance regarding any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Obtaining an understanding of the Charitable Company's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud; and
 - Internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud.
- Review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Discussion amongst the engagement team as to how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements; and
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
- Assessing the design and implementation of controls and procedures relevant to the preparation of the financial statements and the detection and prevention of irregularities and fraud.

Based on our risk assessment, we considered the areas most susceptible to fraud to be management override of control and revenue recognition .

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- Testing a sample of journal entries throughout the year, which met a defined risk criteria, by agreeing to supporting documentation;
- Assessing significant estimates made by management for bias, including the legacy accrual, 5% estimate of legal fees in legacies, allocation of costs, impairment of assets;
- Procedures to verify the completeness of donation and legacy income, as well as the completeness and valuation of the year end legacy accrual; and
- Reviewing reconciliations for donation income in the year, matching income per third party sources, bank and the general ledger.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Financial Reporting Council's ("FRC's") website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charitable Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the Charitable Company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charitable Company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charitable Company, the Charitable Company's members as a body and the Charitable Company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

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Jill Halford (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of BDO LLP, statutory auditor
London

17 October 2025

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2025 (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Notes	Unrestrict ed Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Unrestri cted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Income from							
Donations		2,818	-	2,818	3,159	-	3,159
Legacies		3,045	-	3,045	2,733	-	2,733
Total income		5,863	-	5,863	5,892	-	5,892
Expenditure							
Governance costs	2	10	-	10	10	-	10
Total expenditure	2	10	-	10	10	-	10
Net income before gift to RNIB		5,853	-	5,853	5,882	-	5,882
Gift to RNIB		(5,853)	-	(5,853)	(5,882)	-	(5,882)
Net expenditure after gift to RNIB		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		-	-	-	-	-	-

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2025 (incorporating an income and expenditure account) (continued)

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

There are no material differences between the net deficit for the year and the historical cost equivalents.

The notes that follow form part of the financial statements.

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	2,350	3,019
Cash at bank and in hand		5	14
Total current assets		2,355	3,033
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(2,355)	(3,033)
Net current assets		-	-
Total assets less current liabilities		-	-
Funds			
Restricted income funds		-	-
Unrestricted income funds		-	-
Total funds		-	-

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 4 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Alice Collins, Trustee

15 October 2025

The notes that follow form part of the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of these financial statements are as set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

1.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, as modified by the recognition of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also conform to the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and the Companies Act 2006.

A cash flow statement has not been prepared on the grounds that the company is exempt from preparing such a statement under FRS102 as a wholly owned subsidiary of RNIB.

1.2 Going concern

Action will remain as a non-operational company and a going concern for the foreseeable future in order to accept potential future legacy gifts and fundraised income.

The Trustees have reviewed the use of the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. It was noted that Action has a very low fixed costs base and, at the point of signing, substantial more income than this level of cost has been received so far in the 2025/26 financial year. As such the Trustees note that Action will remain able to pay its debts as they fall due and therefore the ongoing use of the going concern basis of accounting remains appropriate.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

1.3 Company status

Action is a company limited by guarantee. The members of Action during the year were the Directors and Royal National Institute of Blind People (“RNIB”) as the corporate member.

In the event of Action being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the general objectives of Action and which have not been designated for other purposes. Restricted funds comprise income received with special conditions attached. The directors do not envisage that Action will retain any funds, given the decision to transfer all activities and surplus to RNIB, effected in 2017.

1.5 Income

Following the transfer of all assets, liabilities and activities to RNIB on 1 April 2017, Action has since acted as a non-operational charity, receiving income in the form of donations and legacies, and passing directly on to RNIB within the terms of any restrictions. Income arises solely within the United Kingdom.

Donations: under the terms of the Association Agreement, with effect from 1 April 2009 (revised in July 2014 and September 2015), RNIB assumed responsibility for fundraising on behalf of Action.

Legacies: Pecuniary legacies are recognised when probate is in place. Residuary legacies are recognised when probate is granted, a copy of the will has been received to confirm Action’s entitlement, and there is sufficient information to value them. In practice this is usually when the assets and liabilities statement is received. Reversionary interests involving a life tenant and contentious legacies are not recognised.

1.6 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is accounted for as a part of the cost to which it relates.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to ensuring the public accountability of Action and its compliance with regulation. These costs include external audit expenses as per note 2.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

1.7 Debtors

Debtors are stated after provision for impairment.

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash held in bank current accounts.

1.9 Creditors

Creditors are recognised where there is a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 Taxation

Action is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profit from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried out in furtherance of Action's primary objectives, if these profits are applied solely for charitable purposes.

1.11 Accounting estimates and judgements

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to make estimates and judgements. The following judgement was identified:

Legacy income accrual

Legacy income is recognised in accordance with the income recognition policy detailed in 1.5 above. In calculating the level of legacy accrual, management is required to exercise estimation and judgement, particularly in determining the amount and probability of receipt.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

2. Net result for the year

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
This is stated after charging:		
Auditors' remuneration	10	10

The amount stated above relating to auditor' remuneration is exclusive of VAT.

Turnover arises solely within the United Kingdom.

3. Taxation

Action for Blind People is a registered charity and accordingly is not liable to tax on its charitable income or on any realised chargeable gains when applied for charitable purposes.

4. Employees

Action has no employees (2024: none). The administration of Action is undertaken by staff from RNIB.

5. Trustees' expenses and related party transactions

Emoluments

None of the Trustees (who are Directors of the Company) received emoluments, nor reimbursed expenses, in the year (2024: nil).

Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions requiring disclosure in the year, or in the prior year, except for those listed here:

Details of related party disclosures with other members of the RNIB Group are in note 10 on page 21.

Insurance

The RNIB Group enters a comprehensive range of insurance policies to protect Trustees, officers and employees against losses and legal liabilities arising from neglect or default in the course of business. The cost of the premiums for these policies are paid for by RNIB and amounted to £33,227 (2024: £37,529). The insurance for Action for Blind People is covered by this Group policy.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**6. Net movement in funds in the year is stated after charging:**

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Auditors' remuneration- Statutory audit fee	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>

The amount stated above is exclusive of VAT.

7. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Legacy accrued income	<u>2,350</u>	<u>3,019</u>
	2,350	3,019

Action has been notified of further legacies amounting to £2,459K (2024: £1,577K), which have not been recognised as income at 31 March 2025 because the conditions of the accounting policy for legacies have not been met. When these conditions are met these amounts will be included in future years.

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Accruals	10	10
Amounts owed to group undertakings	<u>2,345</u>	<u>3,023</u>
	2,355	3,033

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**9. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	funds	funds
	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 March are represented by:		
Current assets	2,355	3,033
Current liabilities	(2,355)	(3,033)
Total net assets	-	-

10. Ultimate parent company and related parties

The Trustees regard RNIB, incorporated by Royal Charter in Great Britain, as the ultimate parent undertaking.

RNIB is the parent entity and controlling party of the largest group of which Action is a member and for which group financial statements are drawn up. Copies of the RNIB financial statements are available from 154a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JE.

Included in creditors is £2,345k due to RNIB (2024: £3,023k). A gift of £5,853k was made to RNIB in accordance with the 2017 Deed of Transfer (2024: £5,882k).

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Alice Collins

Martin Stuart Davidson

Amanda Rowland (resigned 31/08/25)

Anna Tylor (appointed 10/02/25)

James Harra (appointed 31/07/25)

Mary Elliott (appointed 31/07/25)

Company Secretary

Jessica Holifield

Registered Office

Action for Blind People

RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People)

The Grimaldi Building

154a Pentonville Road

London

N1 9JE

Registered Charity Numbers

205913 (United Kingdom)

SC040050 (Scotland)

1203 (Isle of Man) -Deregistered 30/05/25

Registered Company Numbers

00026688 (United Kingdom)

Independent Auditors

BDO London - Baker Street

55 Baker Street

London

W1U 7EU

Reference and Administrative Details (continued)

Solicitors

Bates Wells
10, Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1BE

Bankers

Co-operative Bank plc, City Office
78/80 Cornhill
London
EC3V 3NJ

Barclays Bank plc
Octagon House
Gadbrook Park
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 7RB

ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE

England & Wales - Charity number 205913

Accounts

Action for Blind People

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Registered charity numbers: 205913 (England and Wales)
SC040050 (Scotland)
1203 (Isle of Man)

Company numbers: 00026688 (United Kingdom)
006012F (Isle of Man)

Action for Blind People annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Trustees' Report

The Trustees, who are also directors of Action for Blind People ("Action") present their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in compliance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, Action's governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01 January 2019). The Reference and Administrative Details also form part of this report.

In accordance with the small company exemptions in the Companies Act 2006, the Trustees have limited their report and not produced a strategic report.

Structure and governance

(a) Structure

Action is a charitable private company limited by guarantee. It was founded in 1857 and was incorporated as a company in 1888. It is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association.

A Deed of Transfer between Action and Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) was agreed in March 2017 and 1 April 2017 and saw the transfer of the majority of all activities, people, assets and liabilities to RNIB Group. The aim of the reorganisation was to better enable RNIB to provide support and services to all its beneficiaries and to reduce the cost and administrative burden of operating separate charities.

Action remains as a non-operational entity and the former Action Board resolved to amend its Articles of Association to reflect a Board comprising of a minimum of three Trustees from 1 April 2017. During the year, income and expenditure related to donors linked to Action has been recognised within Action. At the time of signing the financial statements the three Action Trustees in position are Alice Collins, Martin Stuart Davidson and Amanda Rowland all of whom also sit on the RNIB Board. RNIB is the sole corporate member of Action and appoints all Action Trustees to oversee the remaining business of Action.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Action for Blind People for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure and governance (continued)

(a) Structure (continued)

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

(b) Board

Three Trustees currently sit on the Board of Trustees. Further details are in the 'Reference and Administrative details' section on page 20.

RNIB's organisational strategy is agreed annually by its Board, and is adopted by all companies within the group of companies, including Action. Day to day management of Action is delegated to the CEO of RNIB and his staff. All support functions are also provided by RNIB, including finance/payroll, HR, company secretarial, and legal. Action has at least one Board meeting per year, with other meetings scheduled as required.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure and governance (continued)

(b) Board (continued)

All members of Action's Board of Trustees are also members of the RNIB Board. RNIB Trustees are selected for their skills and experience as part of a competitive recruitment process. Once a Trustee has been appointed, they will undertake a robust induction process which includes meetings with senior staff of RNIB, and are offered additional training as required.

Trustees of Action are generally appointed for a three-year term which can be renewed once. In exceptional circumstances, Trustees may be renewed for further terms of a year at a time, up to a maximum of nine years. RNIB carries out an annual process to appraise the performance of its Trustees, which would include their performance as Trustees of Action.

Trustees do not exercise a management function but are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the management of Action. Trustees give their time freely and no remuneration is paid, except for direct reimbursement of travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses where necessary.

The Board of Action delegates authority to the committees of the Board of RNIB to scrutinise and discuss such matters pertinent to Action as are within their particular terms of reference. These committees meet quarterly, and each is made up of members of the Board of RNIB as well as up to two non-Trustee committee members. Relevant discussions of these committees would be reported to the Board of Action at its next meeting. The committees likely to consider business pertaining to Action are as follows:

- **Audit, Risk, and Assurance Committee** – overseeing, monitoring, and reporting on the audit, risk and assurance arrangements of the RNIB group of companies.
- **Finance and Investment Committee** – overseeing and monitoring the financial performance and sustainability of the RNIB group of companies.
- **Governance, Nominations, and Remuneration Committee** – ensures high standards of governance across the RNIB group of companies; overseeing the appointment of Trustees and other non-executives including advising the Board of RNIB on appointments to the Board of Action; and setting remuneration for staff.
- **Public Engagement Committee** –overseeing the delivery of RNIB's public engagement strategy, including fundraising and campaigning.
- **Safeguarding Committee** – overseeing the arrangements for safeguarding of all those who come into contact with RNIB and its subsidiaries to ensure that safeguarding policies and procedures are put into practice.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charity Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit".

Risk management

The risk management process is handled by RNIB on behalf of the Trustees. Trustees are confident that appropriate mitigation measures and controls are in place for the key group risks which are Finance, Strategy, Planning and Delivery, People, External Environment, Safeguarding and Regulatory risk and Technology, data and digital. More can be found on the risks and mitigations within the RNIB financial statements.

Objectives, Activities, and Performance

Action exists as a non-operational charity to receive donations and legacies, which will be transferred to RNIB for use in the delivery of services in the United Kingdom.

Financial review Income of £3,159k (2023: £3,414k) from donors linked to Action has been recognised in Action during the year, along with legacy income of 2,733k (2023: £66k). Action is recognising a gift of £5,882k (2023: £3,513k) to its parent charity RNIB in accordance with the 2017 Deed of Transfer.

Action was not operational in 2023/2024 and the donations and legacies it received, subject to any specific restrictions, were transferred to RNIB as the sole member. Action's operational activities are undertaken by RNIB and therefore the Statement of Financial Activities includes no substantive operational costs. Income received has been credited to the appropriate income category in the SoFA and then gifted to RNIB for use in the promotion of services in United Kingdom.

There is a more detailed analysis of income and expenditure in notes 2 to 9 of the financial statements.

Reserves policy

As at 31 March 2024 Action has no need for reserves and exists only to raise income, which is then transferred to RNIB, once costs are deducted.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of policy on fundraising

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires us to make a statement regarding fundraising activities.. We do not undertake any fundraising activities, under the terms of the Association Agreement with RNIB, with effect from 1 April 2009 (revised in July 2014 and September 2015), RNIB assumed responsibility for fundraising on behalf of Action.

We do not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators or, indeed, any third parties to solicit donations. We are therefore not subject to any regulatory scheme or relevant codes of practice; nor have we received any complaints in relation to fundraising activities nor do we consider it necessary to design specific procedures to monitor such activities.

Provision of information to auditors

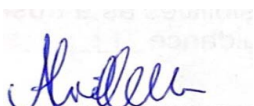
Each of the persons who are a Trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- each Trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees' report including the strategic report was approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue 31 October 2024.

Signed on behalf of the Board



Alice Collins, Trustee
18 November 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charitable Company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, as amended.

We have audited the financial statements of Action for Blind People ("the Charitable Company") for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remain independent of the Charitable Company in accordance with the ethical requirements relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions related to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other Companies Act 2006 reporting

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of Company Law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report, which are included in the Trustees' Report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE, COMPANY NUMBER 00026688

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charitable Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatement in the Trustee's report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Charitable Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE, COMPANY NUMBER 00026688

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Non-compliance with laws and regulations

Based on:

- Our understanding of the Charitable Company and the sector in which it operates;
- Discussion with management and those charged with governance;
- Obtaining and understanding of the Charitable Company's policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We considered the significant laws and regulations to be the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 .

The Charitable Company is also subject to laws and regulations where the consequence of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amount or disclosures in the financial statements, for example through the imposition of fines or litigations. We identified such laws and regulations to be employment law, data protection and health and safety legislation.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- Review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Review of correspondence with regulatory and tax authorities for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Review of financial statement disclosures and agreeing to supporting documentation;
- Involvement of tax specialists in the audit;
- Review of legal expenditure accounts to understand the nature of expenditure incurred; and

ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE, COMPANY NUMBER 00026688

- Discussion with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations .

Fraud

We assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiry with management and those charged with governance regarding any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Obtaining an understanding of the Charitable Company's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud; and
 - Internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud.
- Review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Discussion amongst the engagement team as to how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
- Assessing the design and operating effectiveness of controls and procedures relevant to the preparation of the financial statements and the detection and prevention of irregularities and fraud.

Based on our risk assessment, we considered the areas most susceptible to fraud to be management override and revenue recognition.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- Testing a sample of journal entries throughout the year, which met a defined risk criteria, by agreeing to supporting documentation;
- Assessing significant estimates made by management for bias, including the legacy accrual, 5% estimate of legal fees in legacies, allocation of costs, impairment of assets;
- Procedures to verify the completeness of donation and legacy income, as well as the completeness and valuation of the year end legacy accrual; and
- Reviewing reconciliations for donation income in the year, matching income per third party sources, bank and the general ledger.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.


Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or

through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Financial Reporting Council's ("FRC's") website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charitable Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the Charitable Company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charitable Company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charitable Company, the Charitable Company's members as a body and the Charitable Company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

73D8B18FE9AC4C9...
Jill Halford (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of BDO LLP, statutory auditor
London

20 November 2024

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2024 (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Notes	As Restated					
		Unrestrict ed Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Unrestrict ed Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Income from							
Donations		3,159	-	3,159	3,414	-	3,414
Legacies		2,733	-	2,733	66	43	109
Total income		5,892	-	5,892	3,480	43	3,523
Expenditure							
Governance costs	2	10	-	10	10	-	10
Total expenditure	2	10	-	10	10	-	10
Net income before gift to RNIB		5,882	-	5,882	3,470	43	3,513
Gift to RNIB		(5,882)	-	(5,882)	(3,470)	(43)	(3,513)
Net expenditure after gift to RNIB		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		-	-	-	-	-	-

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2024 (incorporating an income and expenditure account) (continued)

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

There are no material differences between the net deficit for the year and the historical cost equivalents.

The notes that follow form part of the financial statements.

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £'000	As Restated 2023 £'000
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	3,019	1,131
Cash at bank and in hand		14	123
Total current assets		3,033	1,254
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(3,033)	(1,254)
Net current assets		-	-
Total assets less current liabilities		-	-
Funds			
Restricted income funds		-	-
Unrestricted income funds		-	-
Total funds		-	-

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 31/10/2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Alice Collins, Trustee

18 November 2024

The notes that follow form part of the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of these financial statements are as set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

1.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, as modified by the recognition of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also conform to the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and the Companies Act 2006.

A cash flow statement has not been prepared on the grounds that the company is exempt from preparing such a statement under FRS102 as a wholly owned subsidiary of RNIB.

1.2 Going concern

Action will remain as a non-operational company and a going concern for the foreseeable future in order to accept potential future legacy gifts and fundraised income.

The Trustees have reviewed the use of the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. It was noted that Action has a very low fixed costs base and, at the point of signing, substantial more income than this level of cost has been received so far in the 2024/25 financial year. As such the Trustees note that Action will remain able to pay its debts as they fall due and therefore the ongoing use of the going concern basis of accounting remains appropriate.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

1.3 Company status

Action is a company limited by guarantee. The members of Action during the year were the Directors and Royal National Institute of Blind People (“RNIB”) as the corporate member.

In the event of Action being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the general objectives of Action and which have not been designated for other purposes. Restricted funds comprise income received with special conditions attached. The directors do not envisage that Action will retain any funds, given the decision to transfer all activities and surplus to RNIB, effected in 2017.

1.5 Income

Following the transfer of all assets, liabilities and activities to RNIB on 1 April 2017, Action has since acted as a non-operational charity, receiving income in the form of donations and legacies, and passing directly on to RNIB within the terms of any restrictions. Income arises solely within the United Kingdom.

Donations: under the terms of the Association Agreement, with effect from 1 April 2009 (revised in July 2014 and September 2015), RNIB assumed responsibility for fundraising on behalf of Action.

Legacies: Pecuniary legacies are recognised when probate is in place. Residuary legacies are recognised when probate is granted, a copy of the will has been received to confirm Action’s entitlement, and there is sufficient information to value them. In practice this is usually when the assets and liabilities statement is received. Reversionary interests involving a life tenant and contentious legacies are not recognised.

1.6 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is accounted for as a part of the cost to which it relates.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to ensuring the public accountability of Action and its compliance with regulation. These costs include external audit expenses as per note 2.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

1.7 Debtors

Debtors are stated after provision for impairment. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash held in bank current accounts.

1.9 Creditors

Creditors are recognised where there is a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 Taxation

Action is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profit from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried out in furtherance of Action's primary objectives, if these profits are applied solely for charitable purposes.

1.11 Accounting estimates and judgements

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to make estimates and judgements. The following judgement was identified:

Legacy income accrual

Legacy income is recognised in accordance with the income recognition policy detailed in 1.5 above. In calculating the level of legacy accrual, management is required to exercise estimation and judgement, particularly in determining the amount and probability of receipt.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

2. Net result for the year

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
This is stated after charging:		
Auditors' remuneration	10	10

The amount stated above relating to auditor' remuneration is exclusive of VAT.

Turnover arises solely within the United Kingdom.

3. Taxation

Action for Blind People is a registered charity and accordingly is not liable to tax on its charitable income or on any realised chargeable gains when applied for charitable purposes.

4. Employees

Action has no employees (2023: none). The administration of Action is undertaken by staff from RNIB.

5. Trustees' expenses and related party transactions

Emoluments

None of the Trustees (who are Directors of the Company) received emoluments, nor reimbursed expenses, in the year (2023: nil).

Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions requiring disclosure in the year, or in the prior year, except for those listed here:

Details of related party disclosures with other members of the RNIB Group are in note 10 on page 20.

Insurance

The RNIB Group enters a comprehensive range of insurance policies to protect Trustees, officers and employees against losses and legal liabilities arising from neglect or default in the course of business. The cost of the premiums for these policies are paid for by RNIB and amounted to £37,529 (2023: £38,105). The insurance for Action for Blind People is covered by this Group policy.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**6. Net movement in funds in the year is stated after charging:**

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Auditors' remuneration- Statutory audit fee	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>

The amount stated above is exclusive of VAT.

7. Debtors

	As Restated	
	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Legacy accrued income	3,019	1,127
Intercompany Debtors	-	4
	<u>3,019</u>	<u>1,131</u>

Action has been notified of further legacies amounting to £1,576,773 (2023: £1,527,652), which have not been recognised as income at 31 March 2024 because the conditions of the accounting policy for legacies have not been met. When these conditions are met these amounts will be included in future years.

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	As Restated	
	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Accruals	10	10
Amounts owed to group undertakings	3,023	1,244
	<u>3,033</u>	<u>1,254</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**9. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	2024	As restated 2023
	Unrestricted funds £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 March are represented by:		
Current assets	3,033	1,254
Current liabilities	(3,033)	(1,254)
Total net assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

10. Ultimate parent company and related parties

The Trustees regard RNIB, incorporated by Royal Charter in Great Britain, as the ultimate parent undertaking.

RNIB is the parent entity and controlling party of the largest group of which Action is a member and for which group financial statements are drawn up. Copies of the RNIB financial statements are available from 154a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JE.

Included in creditors is £3,023k due to RNIB (2023: £1,244k). A gift of £5,882k was made to RNIB in accordance with the 2017 Deed of Transfer (2023: £3,470k).

11. Prior Period Adjustment

A legacy of £227K should have been recognised as receivable in the year ended 31 March 2023. A corresponding payment of £227K in gift aid due to the parent should have also been recognised in that year. The prior year comparative figures shown have been adjusted in relation to this legacy receivable, legacy debtor due, the corresponding gift aid payment due, and the intercompany creditor.

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Alice Collins
Martin Stuart Davidson
Amanda Rowland

Company Secretary

Jessica Holifield

Registered Office

Action for Blind People
RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People)
The Grimaldi Building
154a Pentonville Road
London
N1 9JE

Registered Charity Numbers

205913 (United Kingdom)
SC040050 (Scotland)
1203 (Isle of Man)

Registered Company Numbers

00026688 (United Kingdom)
006012F (Isle of Man)

Independent Auditors

BDO London - Baker Street
55 Baker Street
London
W1U 7EU

Solicitors

Bates Wells
10, Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1BE

Reference and Administrative Details (continued)

Bankers

Co-operative Bank plc, City Office
78/80 Cornhill
London
EC3V 3NJ

Barclays Bank plc
Octagon House
Gadbrook Park
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 7RB

ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE

England & Wales - Charity number 205913

Accounts

Action for Blind People

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

Registered charity numbers: 205913 (England and Wales)

SC040050 (Scotland)

1203 (Isle of Man)

Company numbers: 00026688 (United Kingdom)

006012F (Isle of Man)

Action for Blind People annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

Trustees' Report

The Trustees, who are also directors of Action for Blind People (“Action”) present their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in compliance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, Action’s governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01 January 2019). The Reference and Administrative Details also form part of this report.

In accordance with the small company exemptions in the Companies Act 2006, the Trustees have limited their report and not produced a strategic report.

Structure and governance

(a) Structure

Action is a charitable private company limited by guarantee. It was founded in 1857 and was incorporated as a company in 1888. It is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association.

A Deed of Transfer between Action and Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) was agreed in March 2017 and 1 April 2017 saw the transfer of the majority of all activities, people, assets and liabilities to RNIB Group. The aim of the reorganisation is to better enable RNIB to provide support and services to all its beneficiaries and to reduce the cost and administrative burden of operating separate charities.

Action remains as a non-operational entity and the former Action Board resolved to amend its Articles of Association to reflect a Board comprising of a minimum of three Trustees from 1 April 2017. During the year, income and expenditure related to donors linked to Action has been recognised within the charity. At the time of signing the financial statements the three Action Trustees in position are Alice Collins, Martin Stuart Davidson and Amanda Rowland all of whom also sit on the RNIB Board. RNIB is the sole corporate member of Action and appoints all Action Trustees to oversee the remaining business of the charity.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure and governance (continued)

(a) Structure (continued)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Action for Blind People for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

(b) Board

Three Trustees currently sit on the Board of Trustees. Further details are in the 'Reference and Administrative details' section on page 21.

Each Trustee undertook an induction that included meetings with the Chair, Chief Executive and other senior members of the executive team of the RNIB Group.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure and governance (continued)

(b) Board (continued)

Trustees do not exercise a management function but are encouraged to familiarise themselves with areas of particular interest through close involvement with the management and staff and users of the charity's services. Trustees give their time freely and no remuneration is paid, except for direct reimbursement of travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses where necessary.

The RNIB Group has four main Board meetings per year, in addition to which Trustees attend other meetings including regular Committee meetings, up to two Away Days each year, training sessions (for example, annual Safeguarding Training, Diversity & Inclusion Training etc) and other sessions as necessary throughout the year.

Trustees are generally appointed for a term of three years, renewable once up to a maximum of six years, with a possibility of being appointed for further year-long terms in exceptional circumstances up to a maximum of nine consecutive years. Trustees wishing to be reappointed for a second term of office will meet with the Chair and Vice Chair to appraise their performance, obtaining feedback from other Trustees, and make a recommendation to the Board as to whether they should be appointed for a new term. In addition, each Trustee meets with the Chair annually to discuss their performance and needs and identify objectives, with the Chair's review being conducted by the Vice Chair.

The charity has purchased indemnity insurance with regard to Trustees to cover liability in respect of negligence, default and breach of duty or trust other than that caused by wilful or criminal damage.

The RNIB Group Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (whose remit includes Action) operates under specific terms of reference, which delegate certain audit related functions from the Board. It meets at least three times a year and its decisions are ratified by the full RNIB Group Board.

Each Action Trustee also maintains oversight through their Trustee position on the RNIB Board.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charity Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit".

Risk management

The risk management process is handled by RNIB on behalf of the Trustees. Trustees are confident that appropriate mitigation measures and controls are in place for the key group risks which are Finance, Strategy, Planning and Delivery, People, External Environment, Safeguarding and Regulatory risk and Technology, data and digital. More can be found on the risks and mitigations within the RNIB financial statements.

Objectives, Activities, and Performance

Action exists as a shell charity to receive donations and legacies, which will be transferred to RNIB for use in the promotion of services in the United Kingdom.

Financial review

Action transferred all its operations, assets and liabilities to RNIB on 1 April 2017. It was not operational in 2022/2023 and the donations and legacies it received, subject to any specific restrictions, transferred to RNIB as the sole member.

Income of £3,414k (2022: £3,714k) from donors linked to Action has been recognised in the charity during the year, along with legacy income of negative £118K (2022: £3,324k). Action is recognising a gift of £3,286k (2022: £7,030k) to its parent charity RNIB in accordance with the 2017 Deed of Transfer.

Action's operational activities are undertaken by RNIB and therefore the Statement of Financial Activities includes no substantive operational costs. Income received has been credited to the appropriate income category in the SoFA and then gifted to RNIB for use in the promotion of services in United Kingdom.

There is a more detailed analysis of income and expenditure in notes 2 to 9 of the financial statements.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Reserves policy

As at 31 March 2023 Action has no need for reserves and exists only to raise income, which is then transferred to RNIB, once costs are deducted.

Statement of policy on fundraising

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires us to make a statement regarding fundraising activities because we have an external audit. We do not undertake any fundraising activities, under the terms of the Association Agreement with RNIB, with effect from 1 April 2009 (revised in July 2014 and September 2015), RNIB assumed responsibility for fundraising on behalf of Action.

We do not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators or, indeed, any third parties to solicit donations. We are therefore not subject to any regulatory scheme or relevant codes of practice; nor have we received any complaints in relation to fundraising activities nor do we consider it necessary to design specific procedures to monitor such activities.

Provision of information to auditors


Each of the persons who are a Trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- each Trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees' report including the strategic report was approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue 7 September 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Board



.....

Alice Collins, Trustee
19/10/2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charitable Company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, as amended.

We have audited the financial statements of Action for Blind People ("the Charitable Company") for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remain independent of the Charitable Company in accordance with the ethical requirements relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions related to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other Companies Act 2006 reporting

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of Company Law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report, which is included in the Trustees' Report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charitable Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatement in the Trustee's report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Charitable Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE, COMPANY NUMBER 00026688

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Non-compliance with laws and regulations

Based on:

- Our understanding of the Charitable Company and the sector in which it operates;
- Discussion with management and those charged with governance;
- Obtaining and understanding of the Charitable Company's policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations; and

we considered the significant laws and regulations to be the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charitable Company is also subject to laws and regulations where the consequence of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amount or disclosures in the financial statements, for example through the imposition of fines or litigations. We identified such laws and regulations to be employment law, data protection and health and safety legislation.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- Review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Review of correspondence with regulatory and tax authorities for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Review of financial statement disclosures and agreeing to supporting documentation;
- Involvement of tax specialists in the audit;
- Review of legal expenditure accounts to understand the nature of expenditure incurred; and

ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE, COMPANY NUMBER 00026688

- Discussion with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Fraud

We assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiry with management and those charged with governance regarding any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Obtaining an understanding of the Charitable Company's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud; and
 - Internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud.
- Review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Discussion amongst the engagement team as to how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
- Assessing the design and operating effectiveness of controls and procedures relevant to the preparation of the financial statements and the detection and prevention of irregularities and fraud, including changes to supplier bank details.

Based on our risk assessment, we considered the areas most susceptible to fraud to be management override and revenue recognition.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- Testing a sample of journal entries throughout the year, which met a defined risk criteria, by agreeing to supporting documentation;
- Assessing significant estimates made by management for bias, including the legacy accrual, 5% estimate of legal fees in legacies, allocation of costs, impairment of assets, and calculation of provisions;
- Procedures to verify the completeness of donation and legacy income, as well as the completeness and valuation of the year end legacy accrual; and
- Reviewing reconciliations for donation income in the year, matching income per third party sources, bank and the general ledger.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or

through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Financial Reporting Council's ("FRC's") website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charitable Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the Charitable Company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charitable Company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charitable Company, the Charitable Company's members as a body and the Charitable Company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

Jill Halford

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Jill Halford (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of BDO LLP, statutory auditor
Baker Street, London

24 October 2023

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2023 (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Notes	Unrestrict ed Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Unrestrict ed Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Income from							
Donations		3,414	-	3,414	3,714	-	3,714
Legacies		(161)	43	(118)	3,317	7	3,324
Total income		3,253	43	3,296	7,031	7	7,038
Expenditure							
Governance costs	2	10	-	10	8	-	8
Total expenditure	2	10	-	10	8	-	8
Net income before gift to RNIB		3,243	43	3,286	(7,023)	7	7,030
Gift to RNIB		(3,243)	(43)	(3,286)	(7,023)	(7)	(7,030)
Net expenditure after gift to RNIB		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		-	-	-	-	-	-

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2023 (incorporating an income and expenditure account) (continued)

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

There are no material differences between the net deficit for the year and the historical cost equivalents.


The notes that follow form part of the financial statements.

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	904	1,222
Cash at bank and in hand		123	68
Total current assets		1,027	1,290
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(1,027)	(1,290)
Net current assets		-	-
Total assets less current liabilities		-	-
Funds			
Restricted income funds		-	-
Unrestricted income funds		-	-
Total funds		-	-

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 7 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Alice Collins, Trustee

19/10/2023

The notes that follow form part of the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of these financial statements are as set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

1.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, as modified by the recognition of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also conform to the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and the Companies Act 2006.

As the financial statements of Action are consolidated in those of its parent undertaking, the Charity has not prepared consolidated financial statements in accordance with S400 of the Companies Act 2006.

A cash flow statement has not been prepared on the grounds that the company is exempt from preparing such a statement under FRS102 as a wholly owned subsidiary of RNIB.

1.2 Going concern

As explained in the Trustees report, all assets and liabilities were transferred to RNIB during April 2017. Action will remain as a shell company and a going concern for the foreseeable future in order to accept potential future legacy gifts and fundraised income.

The Trustees have reviewed the use of the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements in light of the ongoing uncertainty around the economic impact and after effects of the government measures and post lockdown relating to COVID 19. After conducting this review, it was noted that the charity has a very low fixed costs base of 0.1% of income in 2021/22 and at the point of signing substantial more income than this level of cost has been received so far in the 2022/23 financial year. As such the Trustees note that the charity will remain able to pay its debts as they fall due and therefore the ongoing use of the going concern basis of accounting remains appropriate.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

1.3 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the Charity during the year were the Directors and Royal National Institute of Blind People (“RNIB”) as the corporate member.

In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Restricted funds comprise income received with special conditions attached. The directors do not envisage that Action will retain any funds, given the decision to transfer all activities and surplus to RNIB, effected in 2017.

1.5 Income

Following the transfer of all assets, liabilities and activities to RNIB on 1 April 2017, Action has since acted as a shell charity, receiving income in the form of donations and legacies, and passing directly on to RNIB within the terms of any restrictions. Income arises solely within the United Kingdom.

Donations: under the terms of the Association Agreement, with effect from 1 April 2009 (revised in July 2014 and September 2015), RNIB assumed responsibility for fundraising on behalf of Action.

Legacies: Pecuniary legacies are recognised when probate is in place. Residuary legacies are recognised when probate is granted, a copy of the will has been received to confirm Action’s entitlement, and there is sufficient information to value them. In practice this is usually when the assets and liabilities statement is received. Reversionary interests involving a life tenant and contentious legacies are not recognised.

1.6 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is accounted for as a part of the cost to which it relates.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to ensuring the public accountability of the Charity and its compliance with regulation. These costs include external audit expenses as per note 2.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

1.7 Debtors

Debtors are stated after provision for impairment. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash held in bank current accounts

1.9 Creditors

Creditors are recognised where there is a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 Taxation

The Charity is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profit from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried out in furtherance of the Charity's primary objectives, if these profits are applied solely for charitable purposes.

1.11 Accounting estimates and judgements

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to make estimates and judgements. The following judgement was identified:

Legacy income accrual

Legacy income is recognised in accordance with the income recognition policy detailed in 1.5 above. In calculating the level of legacy accrual, management is required to exercise estimation and judgement, particularly in determining the amount and probability of receipt.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

2. Net result for the year

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
This is stated after charging:		
Auditors' remuneration	10	7

The amount stated above relating to auditor' remuneration is exclusive of VAT.

Turnover arises solely within the United Kingdom.

3. Taxation

Action for Blind People is a registered charity and accordingly is not liable to tax on its charitable income or on any realised chargeable gains when applied for charitable purposes.

4. Employees

The charity has no employees (2022: none). The administration of the Charity is undertaken by staff from RNIB.

5. Trustees' expenses and related party transactions

Emoluments

None of the Trustees (who are Directors of the Company) received emoluments, nor reimbursed expenses, in the year (2022: nil).

Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions requiring disclosure in the year, or in the prior year, except for those listed here:

Details of related party disclosures with other members of the RNIB Group are in note 10 on page 19.

Insurance

The RNIB Group enters a comprehensive range of insurance policies to protect Trustees, officers and employees against losses and legal liabilities arising from neglect or default in the course of business. The cost of the premiums for these policies are paid for by RNIB and amounted to £38,105 (2022: £35,600). The insurance for Action for Blind People is covered by this Group policy.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**6. Net movement in funds in the year is stated after charging:**

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Auditors' remuneration- Statutory audit fee	10	7

The amount stated above is exclusive of VAT.

7. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Legacy accrued income	900	1,222
Intercompany Debtors	4	-
	904	1,222

Action has been notified of further legacies amounting to £1,754,926 (2022: £1,081,000), which have not been recognised as income at 31 March 2023 because the conditions of the accounting policy for legacies have not been met. When these conditions are met these amounts will be included in future years.

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Accruals	10	8
Amounts owed to group undertakings	1,017	1,282
	1,027	1,290

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**9. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	funds	funds
	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 March are represented by:		
Current assets	1,027	1,290
Current liabilities	(1,027)	(1,290)
Total net assets	-	-

10. Ultimate parent company and related parties

The Trustees regard RNIB, incorporated by Royal Charter in Great Britain, as the ultimate parent undertaking.

RNIB is the parent entity and controlling party of the largest group of which Action is a member and for which group financial statements are drawn up. Copies of the RNIB financial statements are available from 154a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JE.

Included in creditors is £1,017k due to RNIB (2022: £1,282k). A gift of £3,286k was made to RNIB in accordance with the 2017 Deed of Transfer (2022: £7,030k).

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Alice Collins (appointed 1 December 2022)
Martin Stuart Davidson
Amanda Rowland
Ozzie Clarke-Binns (resigned 1 December 2022)

Company Secretary

Jessica Holifield

Registered Office

Action for Blind People
RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People)
The Grimaldi Building
154a Pentonville Road
London
N1 9JE

Registered Charity Numbers

205913 (United Kingdom)
SC040050 (Scotland)
1203 (Isle of Man)

Registered Company Numbers

00026688 (United Kingdom)
006012F (Isle of Man)

Independent Auditors

BDO London - Baker Street
55 Baker Street
London
W1U 7EU

Solicitors

Bates Wells
10, Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1BE

Reference and Administrative Details (continued)

Bankers

Co-operative Bank plc, City Office
78/80 Cornhill
London
EC3V 3NJ

Barclays Bank plc
Octagon House
Gadbrook Park
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 7RB

ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE

England & Wales - Charity number 205913

Accounts

Action for Blind People

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

Registered charity numbers: 205913 (England and Wales)
SC040050 (Scotland)
1203 (Isle of Man)

Company numbers: 00026688 (United Kingdom)
006012F (Isle of Man)

Action for Blind People annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

Trustees' Report

The Trustees, who are also directors of Action for Blind People (“Action”) present their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in compliance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, Action’s governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01 January 2019). The Reference and Administrative Details also form part of this report.

In accordance with the small company exemptions in the Companies Act 2006, the Trustees have limited their report and not produced a strategic report.

Structure and governance

(a) Structure

Action is a charitable private company limited by guarantee. It was founded in 1857 and was incorporated as a company in 1888. It is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association.

A Deed of Transfer between Action and Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) was agreed in March 2017 and 1 April 2017 saw the transfer of the majority of all activities, people, assets and liabilities to RNIB Group. The aim of the reorganisation is to better enable RNIB to provide support and services to all its beneficiaries and to reduce the cost and administrative burden of operating separate charities.

Action remains as a non-operational entity and the former Action Board resolved to amend its Articles of Association to reflect a Board comprising of a minimum of three Trustees from 1 April 2017. During the year, income and expenditure related to donors linked to Action has been recognised within the charity. At the time of signing the financial statements the three Action Trustees in position are Ozzie Clarke-Binns, Martin Stuart Davidson and Amanda Rowland all of whom also sit on the RNIB Board. RNIB is the sole corporate member of Action and appoints all Action Trustees to oversee the remaining business of the charity.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure and governance (continued)

(a) Structure (continued)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Action for Blind People for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

(b) Board

Three Trustees currently sit on the Board of Trustees. Further details are in the 'Reference and Administrative details' section on page 20.

Each Trustee undertook an induction that included meetings with the Chair, Chief Executive and other senior members of the executive team of the RNIB Group.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure and governance (continued)

(b) Board (continued)

Trustees do not exercise a management function but are encouraged to familiarise themselves with areas of particular interest through close involvement with the management and staff and users of the charity's services. Trustees give their time freely and no remuneration is paid, except for direct reimbursement of travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses where necessary.

The RNIB Group has five main Board meetings per year, in addition to which Trustees attend other meetings including regular Committee meetings, up to two Away Days each year, a Business Plan and Budget scrutiny session, training sessions (for example, annual Safeguarding Training, Diversity & Inclusion Training etc) and other sessions as necessary throughout the year.

Trustees are generally appointed for a term of three years, renewable twice up to a maximum of nine years. Trustees wishing to be reappointed for a new term of office will meet with the Chair and Vice Chair to appraise their performance, obtaining feedback from other Trustees, and make a recommendation to the Board as to whether they should be appointed for a new term. In addition, each Trustee meets with the Chair annually to discuss their performance and needs and identify objectives.

The charity has purchased indemnity insurance with regard to Trustees to cover liability in respect of negligence, default and breach of duty or trust other than that caused by wilful or criminal damage.

The RNIB Group Audit and Risk Committee (whose remit includes Action) operates under specific terms of reference, which delegate certain audit related functions from the Board. It meets at least three times a year and its decisions are ratified by the full RNIB Group Board.

Each Action Trustee also maintains oversight through their Trustee position on the RNIB Board.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charity Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit".

Risk management

The risk management process is handled by RNIB on behalf of the Trustees. Trustees are confident that appropriate mitigation measures and controls are in place for the key group risks which are Finance, Strategy, Planning and Delivery, People, External Environment, Safeguarding and Regulatory risk and Technology, data and digital. More can be found on the risks and mitigations within the RNIB financial statements.

Objectives, Activities, and Performance

Action exists as a shell charity to receive donations and legacies, which will be transferred to RNIB for use in the promotion of services in England.

Financial review

Action transferred all its operations, assets and liabilities to RNIB on 1 April 2017. It was not operational in 2021/2022 and the donations and legacies it received, subject to any specific restrictions, transferred to RNIB as the sole member.

Income of £3,714k (2021: £4,047k) from donors linked to Action has been recognised in the charity during the year, along with legacy income of £3,324k (2021: £1,632k). Action is recognising a gift of £7,030k (2021: £5,671k) to its parent charity RNIB in accordance with the 2017 Deed of Transfer.

Action's operational activities are undertaken by RNIB and therefore the Statement of Financial Activities includes no substantive operational costs. Income received has been credited to the appropriate income category in the SoFA and then gifted to RNIB for use in the promotion of services in England.

There is a more detailed analysis of income and expenditure in notes 2 to 9 of the financial statements.

Reserves policy

As at 31 March 2022 Action has no need for reserves and exists only to raise income, which is then transferred to RNIB, once costs are deducted.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of policy on fundraising

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires us to make a statement regarding fundraising activities because we have an external audit. We do not undertake any fundraising activities, under the terms of the Association Agreement with RNIB, with effect from 1 April 2009 (revised in July 2014 and September 2015), RNIB assumed responsibility for fundraising on behalf of Action.

We do not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators or, indeed, any third parties to solicit donations. We are therefore not subject to any regulatory scheme or relevant codes of practice; nor have we received any complaints in relation to fundraising activities nor do we consider it necessary to design specific procedures to monitor such activities.

Provision of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are a Trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- each Trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees' report including the strategic report was approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 11 October 2022.

Signed on behalf of the Board



Ozzie Clarke-Binns, Trustee
11 October 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charitable Company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, as amended.

We have audited the financial statements of Action for Blind People ("the Charitable Company") for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remain independent of the Charitable Company in accordance with the ethical requirements relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions related to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Financial Statements, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other Companies Act 2006 reporting

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report, prepared for the purposes of Company Law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report, which is included in the Trustees' Report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charitable Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Charitable Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Enquiry of Those Charged with Governance and management regarding:
 - Known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud, including actual or potential litigation and claims;
 - How they have identified, evaluated and complied with laws and regulations;
 - Their process for detecting and responding to the risks of fraud;
 - Which internal controls have been established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Charitable Company. These include, but are not limited to, compliance with the Charities Acts, Companies Act 2006, UK GAAP, Charities SORP, fundraising regulations and tax legislation;
- Reading minutes of meeting of Those Charged with Governance, including the group Audit and Risk committee, reviewing group internal audit reports and reviewing regulatory correspondence;
- Challenging the assumptions and judgements made by management for key estimates, in particular in relation to the legacy accrual;
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls; testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, in particular journals posted with unusual accounts combinations;

ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE, COMPANY NUMBER 00026688

- Assessing the design and operating effectiveness of controls and procedures relevant to the preparation of the financial statements and the detection and prevention of irregularities and fraud, including changes to supplier bank details; and
- Incorporating unpredictability into our testing approach through amending the nature and extent of audit procedures, such as reviewing the controls around adding or changing supplier details within the purchases system.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Financial Reporting Council's ("FRC's") website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charitable Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the Charitable Company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charitable Company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charitable Company, the Charitable Company's members as a body and the Charitable Company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

Jill Halford

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Jill Halford (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of BDO LLP, statutory auditor

London, UK

Date 18 November 2022

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2022 (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Income from							
Donations		3,714	-	3,714	4,047	-	4,047
Legacies		3,317	7	3,324	1,632	-	1,632
Total income		7,031	7	7,038	5,679	-	5,679
Expenditure on:							
Governance costs	2	8	-	8	8	-	8
Total expenditure	2	8	-	8	8	-	8
Net income before gift to RNIB		7,023)	7	7,030	5,671	-	5,671
Gift to RNIB		(7,023)	(7)	(7,030)	(5,671)	-	(5,671)
Net expenditure after gift to RNIB			-	-	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		-	-	-	-	-	-

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2022 (incorporating an income and expenditure account) (continued)

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

There are no material differences between the net deficit for the year and the historical cost equivalents.

The notes that follow form part of the financial statements.

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	1,222	1,094
Cash at bank and in hand		68	9
Total current assets		1,290	1,103
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(1,290)	(1,103)
Net current assets		-	-
Total assets less current liabilities		-	-
Funds			
Restricted income funds		-	-
Unrestricted income funds		-	-
Total funds		-	-

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 11 October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Ozzie Clarke-Binns, Trustee
11 October 2022

The notes that follow form part of the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of these financial statements are as set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

1.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, as modified by the recognition of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also conform to the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and the Companies Act 2006.

As the financial statements of Action are consolidated in those of its parent undertaking, the Charity has not prepared consolidated financial statements in accordance with S400 of the Companies Act 2006.

A cash flow statement has not been prepared on the grounds that the company is exempt from preparing such a statement under FRS102 as a wholly owned subsidiary of RNIB.

1.2 Going concern

As explained in the Trustees report, all assets and liabilities were transferred to RNIB during April 2017. Action will remain as a shell company and a going concern for the foreseeable future in order to accept potential future legacy gifts and fundraised income.

The Trustees have reviewed the use of the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements in light of the ongoing uncertainty around the economic impact and after effects of the government measures and post lockdown relating to COVID 19. After conducting this review, it was noted that the charity has a very low fixed costs base of 0.1% of income in 2021/22 and at the point of signing substantial more income than this level of cost has been received so far in the 2022/23 financial year. As such the Trustees note that the charity will remain able to pay its debts as they fall due and therefore the ongoing use of the going concern basis of accounting remains appropriate.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

1.3 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the Charity during the year were the Directors and Royal National Institute of Blind People (“RNIB”) as the corporate member.

In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Restricted funds comprise income received with special conditions attached. The directors do not envisage that Action will retain any funds, given the decision to transfer all activities and surplus to RNIB, effected in 2017.

1.5 Income

Following the transfer of all assets, liabilities and activities to RNIB on 1 April 2017, Action has since acted as a shell charity, receiving income in the form of donations and legacies, and passing directly on to RNIB within the terms of any restrictions. Income arises solely within the United Kingdom.

Donations: under the terms of the Association Agreement, with effect from 1 April 2009 (revised in July 2014 and September 2015), RNIB assumed responsibility for fundraising on behalf of Action.

Legacies: Pecuniary legacies are recognised when probate is in place. Residuary legacies are recognised when probate is granted, a copy of the will has been received to confirm Action’s entitlement, and there is sufficient information to value them. In practice this is usually when the assets and liabilities statement is received. Reversionary interests involving a life tenant and contentious legacies are not recognised.

1.6 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is accounted for as a part of the cost to which it relates.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to ensuring the public accountability of the Charity and its compliance with regulation. These costs include external audit expenses as per note 2.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

1.7 Debtors

Debtors are stated after provision for impairment. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash held in bank current accounts

1.9 Creditors

Creditors are recognised where there is a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 Taxation

The Charity is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profit from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried out in furtherance of the Charity's primary objectives, if these profits are applied solely for charitable purposes.

1.11 Accounting estimates and judgements

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to make estimates and judgements. The following judgement was identified:

Legacy income accrual

Legacy income is recognised in accordance with the income recognition policy detailed in 1.5 above. In calculating the level of legacy accrual, management is required to exercise estimation and judgement, particularly in determining the amount and probability of receipt.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

2. Net result for the year

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
This is stated after charging:		
Auditors' remuneration	7	7

The amount stated above relating to auditor' remuneration is exclusive of VAT.

Turnover arises solely within the United Kingdom.

3. Taxation

Action for Blind People is a registered charity and accordingly is not liable to tax on its charitable income or on any realised chargeable gains when applied for charitable purposes.

4. Employees

The charity has no employees (2021: none). The administration of the Charity is undertaken by staff from RNIB.

5. Trustees' expenses and related party transactions

Emoluments

None of the Trustees (who are Directors of the Company) received emoluments , nor reimbursed expenses, in the year (2021: nil).

Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions requiring disclosure in the year, or in the prior year, except for those listed here:

Details of related party disclosures with other members of the RNIB Group are in note 10 on page 19.

Insurance

The RNIB Group enters a comprehensive range of insurance policies to protect Trustees, officers and employees against losses and legal liabilities arising from neglect or default in the course of business. The cost of the premiums for these policies are paid for by RNIB and amounted to £35,600 (2021: £39,807). The insurance for Action for Blind People is covered by this Group policy.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**6. Net movement in funds in the year is stated after charging:**

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Auditors' remuneration- Statutory audit fee	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

The amount stated above is exclusive of VAT.

7. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Legacy accrued income	1,222	1,094
Other Debtors	-	-
	<u>1,222</u>	<u>1,094</u>

Action has been notified of further legacies amounting to £1,081,000 (2021: £2,484,000), which have not been recognised as income at 31 March 2022 because the conditions of the accounting policy for legacies have not been met. When these conditions are met these amounts will be included in future years.

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Accruals	8	8
Amounts owed to group undertakings	1,282	1,095
	<u>1,290</u>	<u>1,103</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**9. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	funds	funds
	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 March		
are represented by:		
Current assets	1,290	1,103
Current liabilities	(1,290)	(1,103)
Total net assets	-	-

10. Ultimate parent company and related parties

The Trustees regard RNIB, incorporated by Royal Charter in Great Britain, as the ultimate parent undertaking.

RNIB is the parent entity and controlling party of the largest group of which Action is a member and for which group financial statements are drawn up. Copies of the RNIB financial statements are available from 105 Judd Street, London, WC1H 9NE.

Included in creditors is £1,282k due to RNIB (2021: £1,091k) and nil due to Cardiff Institute for the Blind (2021: £3k), a charity within the RNIB Group. A gift of £7,030k was made to RNIB in accordance with the 2017 Deed of Transfer (2021: £5,671k).

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Ozzie Clarke-Binns (Chair)
Martin Stuart Davidson
Amanda Rowland

Company Secretary

Jessica Holifield (from 12 October 2021)

Registered Office

Action for Blind People
RNIB
105 Judd Street
London
WC1H 9NE

Registered Charity Numbers

205913 (United Kingdom)
SC040050 (Scotland)
1203 (Isle of Man)

Registered Company Numbers

00026688 (United Kingdom)
006012F (Isle of Man)

Independent Auditors

BDO London - Baker Street
55 Baker Street
London
W1U 7EU

Solicitors

Bates Wells
10, Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1BE

Reference and Administrative Details (continued)

Bankers

Co-operative Bank plc, City Office
78/80 Cornhill
London
EC3V 3NJ

Barclays Bank plc
Octagon House
Gadbrook Park
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 7RB

ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE

England & Wales - Charity number 205913

Accounts

Action for Blind People

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

Registered charity numbers: 205913 (England and Wales)
SC040050 (Scotland)
1203 (Isle of Man)

Company numbers: 00026688 (United Kingdom)
006012F (Isle of Man)

Action for Blind People annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

Trustees' Report

The Trustees, who are also directors of Action for Blind People (“Action”) present their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in compliance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, Action’s governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01 January 2019). The Reference and Administrative Details also form part of this report.

In accordance with the small company exemptions in the Companies Act 2006, the Trustees have limited their report and not produced a strategic report.

Structure and governance

(a) Structure

Action is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It was founded in 1857 and was incorporated as a company in 1888. It is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association.

A Deed of Transfer between Action and RNIB was agreed in March 2017 and 1 April 2017 saw the transfer of the majority of all activities, people, assets and liabilities to RNIB Group. The aim of the reorganisation is to better enable RNIB to provide support and services to all its beneficiaries and to reduce the cost and administrative burden of operating separate charities.

Action remains as a non-operational entity and the former Action Board resolved to amend its Articles of Association to reflect a Board comprising of a minimum of three Trustees from 1 April 2017. During the year, income and expenditure related to donors linked to Action has been recognised within the charity. At the time of signing the financial statements the three Action Trustees in position are Ozzie Clarke-Binns, Martin Stuart Davidson and Amanda Rowland all of whom also sit on the RNIB Board. RNIB is the sole corporate member of Action and appoints all Action Trustees to oversee the remaining business of the charity.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure and governance (continued)

(a) Structure (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Action for Blind People for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

(b) Board

Three Trustees currently sit on the Board of Trustees. Further information about Trustee appointments and resignations in 2020/21 is outlined in the 'Reference and Administrative details' section.

Each Trustee undertook an induction that included meetings with the Chair, Chief Executive and other senior members of the executive team of the RNIB Group.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure and governance (continued)

(b) Board (continued)

Trustees do not exercise a management function but are encouraged to familiarise themselves with areas of particular interest through close involvement with the management and staff and users of the charity's services. Trustees give their time freely and no remuneration is paid, except for direct reimbursement of travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses where necessary.

The RNIB Group has five main Board meetings per year, in addition to which Trustees attend other meetings including regular Committee meetings, up to two Away Days each year, a Business Plan and Budget scrutiny session, training sessions (for example, annual Safeguarding Training, Diversity & Inclusion Training etc) and other sessions as necessary throughout the year.

Trustees are appointed for a term of three years, renewable twice up to a maximum of nine years. Trustees wishing to be reappointed for a new term of office will meet with the Chair and Vice Chair to appraise their performance, obtaining feedback from other Trustees, and make a recommendation to the Board as to whether they should be appointed for a new term. In addition, each Trustee meets with the Chair annually to discuss their performance and needs and identify objectives.

The charity has purchased indemnity insurance with regard to Trustees to cover liability in respect of negligence, default and breach of duty or trust other than that caused by wilful or criminal damage.

The RNIB Group Audit and Risk Committee (whose remit includes Action) operates under specific terms of reference, which delegate certain audit related functions from the Board. It meets at least three times a year and its decisions are ratified by the full RNIB Group Board.

Each Action Trustee also maintains oversight through their Trustee position on the RNIB Board.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charity Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit".

Risk management

The risk management process is handled by RNIB on behalf of the Trustees. Trustees are confident that appropriate mitigation measures and controls are in place for the key group risks which are Finance, Strategy, Planning and Delivery, People, External Environment, Safeguarding and Regulatory risk and Technology, data and digital. More can be found on the risks and mitigations within the RNIB financial statements.

Objectives, Activities, and Performance

Action exists as a shell charity to receive donations and legacies, which will be transferred to RNIB for use in the promotion of services in England.

Financial review

Action transferred all its operations, assets and liabilities to RNIB on 1 April 2017. It was not operational in 2020/21 and the donations and legacies it received, subject to any specific restrictions, transferred to RNIB as the sole member.

Income of £4,047k (2020: £4,429k) from donors linked to Action has been recognised in the charity during the year, along with legacy income of £1,632k (2020: £1,644k). Action is recognising a gift of £5,671k (2020: £6,066k) to its parent charity RNIB in accordance with the 2017 Deed of Transfer.

Action's operational activities are undertaken by RNIB and therefore the Statement of Financial Activities includes no substantive operational costs. Income received has been credited to the appropriate income category in the SoFA and then gifted to RNIB for use in the promotion of services in England.

There is a more detailed analysis of income and expenditure in notes 2 to 9 of the financial statements.

Reserves policy

As at 31 March 2021 Action has no need for reserves and exists only to raise income, which is then transferred to RNIB, once costs are deducted.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of policy on fundraising

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires us to make a statement regarding fundraising activities because we have an external audit. We do not undertake any fundraising activities. We do not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators or, indeed, any third parties to solicit donations. We are therefore not subject to any regulatory scheme or relevant codes of practice; nor have we received any complaints in relation to fundraising activities nor do we consider it necessary to design specific procedures to monitor such activities.

Provision of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are a Trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- Each Trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees' report including the strategic report was approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 12 October 2021.

Signed on behalf of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ozzie Clarke-Binns', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ozzie Clarke-Binns, Trustee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charitable Company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements of Action for Blind People ("the Charitable Company") for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remain independent of the Charitable Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

Conclusions related to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Financial Statements, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The other information comprises: the Trustees' Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other Companies Act 2006 reporting

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of Company Law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report, which are included in the Trustees' report, have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charitable Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatement in the Strategic report or the Trustee's report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion;

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Charitable Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the Charity and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements to be the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, the Charity is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: employment law, data protection and health and safety legislation. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence if any.

Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reading minutes of meeting of those charged with governance, including the group Audit and Risk committee, reviewing group internal audit report and reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the various charity regulators;
- Challenging assumptions made by management in their significant accounting estimates in particular those relating to the accrued legacy income; and

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE (CONTINUED)


- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls; testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, in particular any journals posted to cash or with unusual accounts combinations

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Financial Reporting Council's ("FRC's") website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charitable Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charitable Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charitable Company and the Charitable Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

73D8B18FE9AC4C9...
Jill Halford (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of BDO LLP, statutory auditor
London, UK
Date 21 October 2021

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2021 (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Income from							
Donations		4,047	-	4,047	4,428	1	4,429
Legacies		1,632	-	1,632	1,644	-	1,644
Total income		5,679	-	5,679	6,072	1	6,073
Expenditure on:							
Administrative costs	2/3/4	(8)	-	(8)	(7)	-	(7)
Gift to RNIB		(5,671)	-	(5,671)	(6,066)	-	(6,066)
Total expenditure	2/3/4	(5,679)	-	(5,679)	(6,073)	-	(6,073)
Net expenditure		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		-	-	-	-	-	-

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

There are no material differences between the net deficit for the year and the historical cost equivalents.

The notes that follow form part of the financial statements.

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	1,094	842
Cash at bank and in hand		9	378
Total current assets		1,103	1220
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(1,103)	(1,220)
Net current assets		-	-
Total assets less current liabilities		-	-
Net assets excluding pension liability		-	-
Net assets including pension liability		-	-
Funds			
Restricted income funds		-	-
Unrestricted income funds:			
Designated		-	-
General reserve		-	-
Pension reserve		-	-
Total unrestricted income funds		-	-
Total funds		-	-

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 12 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Ozzie Clarke-Binns, Trustee

The notes that follow form part of the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of these financial statements are as set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

1.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, as modified by the recognition of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also conform to the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and the Companies Act 2006.

As the financial statements of Action are consolidated in those of its parent undertaking, the Charity has not prepared consolidated financial statements in accordance with S400 of the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

As explained in the Trustees report, all assets and liabilities were transferred to RNIB during April 2017. Action will remain as a shell company and a going concern for the foreseeable future in order to accept potential future legacy gifts and fundraised income.

The Trustees have reviewed the use of the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements in light of the ongoing uncertainty around the economic impact and after effects of the government measures and post lockdown relating to COVID 19. After conducting this review, it was noted that the charity has a very low fixed costs base of 0.1% of income in 2020/21 and at the point of signing substantial more income than this level of cost has been received so far in the 2021/22 financial year. As such the Trustees note that the charity will remain able to pay its debts as they fall due and therefore the ongoing use of the going concern basis of accounting remains appropriate.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

1.3 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the Charity during the year were the Directors and Royal National Institute of Blind People (“RNIB”) as the corporate member.

In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Restricted funds comprise income received with special conditions attached. The directors do not envisage that Action will retain any funds, given the decision to transfer all activities and surplus to RNIB, effected in 2017.

1.5 Income

Following the transfer of all assets, liabilities and activities to RNIB on 1 April 2017, Action has since acted as a shell charity, receiving income in the form of donations and legacies, and passing directly on to RNIB within the terms of any restrictions.

Donations: under the terms of the Association Agreement, with effect from 1 April 2009 (revised in July 2014 and September 2015), RNIB assumed responsibility for fundraising on behalf of Action.

Legacies: Pecuniary legacies are recognised when probate is in place. Residuary legacies are recognised when probate is granted, a copy of the will has been received to confirm Action’s entitlement, and there is sufficient information to value them. In practice this is usually when the assets and liabilities statement is received. Reversionary interests involving a life tenant and contentious legacies are not recognised.

1.6 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is accounted for as a part of the cost to which it relates.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to ensuring the public accountability of the Charity and its compliance with regulation. These costs include external audit expenses as per note 4.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

1.7 Debtors

Debtors are stated after provision for impairment. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash, short term highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less and bank overdrafts.

1.9 Creditors

Creditors are recognised where there is a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount. For creditors due for settlement in more than 1 year the amount will be discounted for the time value of money where material.

1.10 Taxation

The Charity is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profit from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried out in furtherance of the Charity's primary objectives, if these profits are applied solely for charitable purposes.

1.11 Accounting estimates and judgements

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to make estimates and judgements. The following judgement was identified:

Cost allocation

Support costs and governance costs not attributable to a single charitable activity are allocated or apportioned on a basis consistent with identified cost drivers for that cost category. Cost drivers utilised include head count, floor space, and effort and judgement is exercised in applying cost drivers to cost categories.

Legacy income accrual

Legacy income is recognised in accordance with the income recognition policy detailed in 1.5 above. In calculating the level of legacy accrual, management is required to exercise estimation and judgement, particularly in determining the amount and probability of receipt.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**2. Expenditure****2021:**

	Unrestricted Funds			Unrestricted Funds		
	Direct Costs £'000	Support Costs £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Direct Costs £'000	Support Costs £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Expenditure on:						
Administrative costs	-	8	8	-	7	7
Gift to RNIB	5,671	-	5,671	6,066	-	6,066
Total expenditure	5,672	8	5,679	6,066	7	6,073

There is no restricted expenditure.

3. Support costs

	2021	2020
	Governance £'000	Governance £'000
Expenditure on:		
Administrative costs	8	7
Total	8	7

4. Governance costs

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Auditors' Remuneration: fee payable in respect of External Audit *	7	7
Other administrative costs	1	-
	8	7

The amount stated above relating to auditor' remuneration is exclusive of VAT.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

5. Trustees' expenses and related party transactions

Emoluments

None of the Trustees (who are Directors of the Company) received emoluments in the year (2020: Nil). Amounts reimbursed for travel and other expenditure during the year were Nil to Three Trustees (2020: Nil to three Trustees).

Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions requiring disclosure in the year, or in the prior year, except for those transactions with RNIB detailed in Note 4 and those listed here:

Amanda Rowland, a Trustee of Action and also of RNIB, is also a Member and Trustee of The Macular Society to whom RNIB Enterprises raised invoices in the financial year totalling £12.

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption given by financial reporting standards 8, "Related Party Disclosures", from disclosing transactions with other members of the group.

Details of related party disclosures with other members of the RNIB Group are in note 10 on page 18.

Insurance

The RNIB Group enters a comprehensive range of insurance policies to protect Trustees, officers and employees against losses and legal liabilities arising from neglect or default in the course of business. Total premiums for these policies amounted to £39,807 (2020: £24,125). The insurance for Action for Blind People is covered by this Group policy.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**6. Net movement in funds in the year is stated after charging:**

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Auditors' remuneration- Statutory audit fee	7	7

The amount stated above is exclusive of VAT.

7. Debtors

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Legacy accrued income	1,094	836
Other Debtors	-	6
	1,094	842

Action has been notified of further legacies amounting to £2,484,000 (2020: £969,000), which have not been recognised as income at 31 March 2021 because the conditions of the accounting policy for legacies have not been met. When these conditions are met these amounts will be included in future years.

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Accruals	8	8
Amounts owed to group undertakings	1,095	1,212
	1,103	1,220

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**9. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	funds	funds
	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:		
Current assets	1,103	1,220
Current liabilities	(1,103)	(1,220)
Total net assets	-	-

10. Ultimate parent company and related parties

The Trustees regard RNIB, incorporated by Royal Charter in Great Britain, as the ultimate parent undertaking.

RNIB is the parent entity and controlling party of the largest group of which Action is a member and for which group financial statements are drawn up. Copies of the RNIB financial statements are available from 105 Judd Street, London, WC1H 9NE.

Included in creditors is £1,091k due to RNIB (2020: £1,212k) and £3k due to Cardiff Institute of the Blind, a charity within the RNIB Group. The amount relates to income paid to Action in error. A gift of £5,671k was made to RNIB in accordance with the 2017 Deed of Transfer (2020: £6,066k).

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Ozzie Clarke-Binns (Chair)
Michael Leslie Nussbaum (to 14 April 2020)
Martin Stuart Davidson (from 9 April 2020)
Amanda Rowland (from 9 April 2020)

Registered Office

Action for Blind People
RNIB
105 Judd Street
London
WC1H 9NE

Registered Charity Numbers

205913 (United Kingdom)
SC040050 (Scotland)
1203 (Isle of Man)

Registered Company Numbers

00026688 (United Kingdom)
006012F (Isle of Man)

Independent Auditors

BDO London - Baker Street
55 Baker Street
London
W1U 7EU

Bankers

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