



**The British Association for the Advancement of Science**  
*Trading as*  
**The British Science Association (BSA)**

**Trustees' Annual Report**  
1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Charity registration number: 212479  
Scotland charity registration number: SC039236

## Chair's foreword

This is my first year as Chair of the British Science Association (BSA) and the second year of our 10-year strategy. I am pleased to report an action-packed period of innovative programmes intended to make science more relevant, representative and connected to society. We maintained a sustainable operating model through the disruption caused at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and our finances continue to be stable.



Notably, we recruited our new CEO, Hannah Russell, who joined us from the Association of Science Education, and I am delighted with how much of an impact she has made since she joined.

The BSA is a national charity that is working towards a future where everyone feels represented in science. Our work takes the form of education programmes; public-facing events and campaigns; grant-making; community-led engagement; and stakeholder influencing, and we have a particular focus on improving equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in science.

We have seen great success over the last twelve months and I would particularly like to highlight the following achievements:

- The British Science Festival took place in Leicester in September 2022, hosted by De Montfort University, featured over 100 events across five days including the world-premiere of *The Compass*, an installation developed in collaboration with a group of young people from Leicester.
- British Science Week 2023 ran in March under the theme of 'Connections'. We commissioned a photography exhibition to display in London Bridge Station featuring some of the BSA's recent Honorary Fellows, including Ade Adepitan, Mona Chalabi, and Helen Sharman, along with researchers from King's Engaged Researchers Network. School engagement with British Science Week was high, despite several days of teacher industrial action leading up to and during the Week itself. We achieved over 83k resource and activity pack downloads from our website and over 102k entries to the schools' poster competition. We also bolstered our digital offering for the Week working in partnership with YouTube content creator, TheDadLab and the BBC who ran a special British Science Week Teach Live lesson.
- A record 57,000 CREST Awards were awarded to young people, which represents a significant upturn since the early stages of the pandemic. It also reflects the important role that CREST, and project work more broadly, can play in supporting STEM education and engagement at all levels and with young people from all backgrounds. The BSA's reach into secondary schools in challenging circumstances continues to expand, as does our work in primary schools.
- 2022/23 also saw significant expansion of our community-led engagement work. Alongside our successful Community Buddies and Leaders programmes and awarding more grants through our innovative Wellcome-funded participatory grants programme, The Ideas Fund, we added a new programme, the Community-Led Research Pilot. Funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and delivered in partnership with the University of Reading, this innovative pilot puts local communities at the heart of the research process and invites them to develop their own research proposals on topics relevant to them.
- The BSA also supported a cohort of community organisations to engage with the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), through our Highlands & Islands Climate Change Community Grants scheme. Also funded by UKRI, this programme has helped to demonstrate the potential impact that smaller grants and a

supported development process can have on establishing new relationships between grassroots climate action groups, their communities and researchers.

- Enabled by our long-standing reputation and the breadth of our work, the BSA has considerable convening power to bring together the wider science community. The BSA manages and chairs the UK Science Festivals Network, which has over 50 members. It awarded grants funded by UKRI to 10 science festivals to innovatively engage young people aged 11-17 from low socioeconomic backgrounds and who have identified as having a disinterest in science and research.
- *For Thought*, The BSA's thought leadership conference held in December, gave an opportunity for 100 leaders across business, policy, science and civil society to discuss how science and technology are shaping responses to global challenges, from net zero, to public health, and the metaverse. The event was opened by Science Minister, George Freeman MP.
- We continue to provide the Secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Diversity & Inclusion in STEM and prepared to launch a new report exploring inequity in STEM skills by region. The report was published in June 2023.
- Future Forum is the BSA's youth voice programme, working with 14-18 year olds across the UK to let their voice be heard in science. In partnership with UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, with support from UKRI and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, we explored young people's views on creativity and STEM, and the role of both in solving the issues of tomorrow.

The BSA's work attracts funding from a diverse range of institutions and commercial partners and I would like to thank all our many funders, in particular UKRI and Wellcome, whose support makes our work possible.

A Royal Charter organisation, the BSA sadly lost its Patron, the late Queen Elizabeth II, who was a keen supporter of our work.

I would also like to thank our departing trustees, Kafui Tay and Raj Jethwa, for their commitment to the organisation over the last few years and to welcome Sarah Chaytor, Phil Smith and Kevin Coutinho as new trustees. I would also like to extend a warm welcome and thanks for her inspiring energy and commitment to our President for the year, Anne Marie Imafidon.

We have a strong executive team and I pay tribute to our former Chief Executive, Katherine Mathieson, who left in April 2022, and thank Amy MacLaren and Gill Riches who led the organisation on an interim basis before Hannah Russell, joined as our new CEO in October 2022.

As we look ahead to 2024, we will review our impact and objectives and how we are delivering against our 10-year strategy. The voice of our audiences and beneficiaries will become remain paramount as we decide on our next steps. We move forward into the new financial year with healthy reserves, a high performing staff team, refreshed governance and successful programmes that are having a demonstrable impact on people's connection to and engagement with science. We continuously evolve and improve our programmes and have exciting plans for the years ahead.

## Summary

The British Science Association (BSA) exists to ensure that all of society is represented in science. We do this through our education work; public facing events and campaigns; grant-making; community-led engagement; and stakeholder influencing, with a particular focus on improving equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in science.

### *Our purpose*

**We want a future where science is more relevant, representative, and connected to society**

Science is more than a body of research, people working in a lab or even the wider industry that surrounds that. It's also a way of asking questions, making decisions, and understanding the world. Science is a tool that everyone in the UK could and should be able to use. In fact, for us to grow as a society, it's essential that they do.

The BSA helps to make all aspects of science more relevant, more representative, and more connected to everyday life.

### *Our mission*

**Let's break down barriers...**

The science sector has many structural and system-wide barriers that it's time to remove. In particular, we're working with business leaders, policy makers, scientists, community leaders, teachers, and many others to say goodbye to the old stereotypes of who a scientist 'should be'. With their help, we're bringing more voices into the conversation, to help more people see science (in all its forms) as a relevant part of their lives.

### *Our vision*

**...So good ideas can thrive**

The UK is bursting with potential. We're unlocking it. And we won't stop until people and communities who've typically been overlooked by science can confidently play their part.

We're striving for a future where everyone is represented and has their voice heard on the issues that matter to them. So, science goes beyond being a lesson at school and becomes a way of thinking and making decisions – about looking after your health, protecting the planet and choosing and using new technology.

In that future, everyone has the potential to contribute, whether it's through the ideas they engage with, the jobs they do or the lifestyles they lead.

In that future, scientists understand and include different perspectives, help more communities, and make even more breakthroughs.

In that future, society shapes science. And society is all the stronger for it.

# Section One: Objectives and Achievements

Our ten-year objectives are:

A) For more people, especially those from currently underrepresented groups, to feel that science is relevant to their lives

- **Provide engagement** activities that effectively **reach and engage underserved audiences** with science and use these activities to **understand** and **disseminate** good practice.
- **Enrich** young people's experience of science in a way that encourages more of them to see science as **relevant** to their lives and to **study/work** in science.
- Partner with **communities** to enable them to **conduct, influence or apply** science/research e.g. involvement in discussions about emerging technologies, decisions on research funding priorities, citizen science.

B) For more people, especially those from currently underrepresented groups, to play a bigger role, have a more powerful voice, and build stronger relationships in/with the STEM sector

- **Amplify** the 'missing voices' in science to champion those whose voices are often overlooked in science-based conversations.
- Set up **participatory structures** to facilitate dialogue, foster mutual understanding and transfer power between communities and science/research professionals.
- Enable **collaboration and dialogue** to improve the way science is applied and used among business, policy and third sectors.

C) Build the capacity of the BSA and the science community to:

- **Understand and address** structural inequalities in accessing science education, employment and engagement opportunities.
- **Advocate** for the adoption of a more participatory and transformative form of science engagement.
- **Improve** the BSA's and science community's diversity and inclusivity in order to represent all of society.

Objective C was broadened from its original version in March 2023, reflecting the BSA's work to support EDI across the wider science community as well as within the science/research engagement sector<sup>1</sup>.

These objectives are supported by a three-year business plan. Our current business plan runs from April 2021 to March 2024.

The following pages provide an overview of the key achievements for our main projects and programmes under each of our three strategic objectives, for the period April 2022 to March 2023.

---

<sup>1</sup> Previous wording for Objective C:

To build the capacity of the BSA and the science/research engagement sector to:

- Understand and **address structural inequalities** in science engagement.
- Advocate for the adoption of a more **participatory** and transformative form of science engagement.
- Improve the BSA's/sector's **diversity** and **inclusivity**.

## Strategic objective A

For more people, especially those from currently underrepresented groups, to feel that science is relevant to their lives

### British Science Festival

*An annual five-day celebration of the people, stories and ideas at the heart of science, hosted by a different city each September.*

The 2022 British Science Festival took place in Leicester, hosted by De Montfort University (DMU), with support from the University of Leicester, Loughborough University, Leicester City Council and other local partners.

103 events took place over the five days, 57 on campus and 46 in the city centre. This included the world-premiere of The Compass, an immersive, projection mapped installation<sup>2</sup> positioned in the heart of Leicester, bringing to life how we navigate knowledge, and how scientific research can be a compass to guide our curiosity.

As well as raising the profile of the host institution(s), the British Science Festival aims to support a legacy of public engagement with adult audiences within the host city. 35% of events and activities at the 2022 Festival were delivered by DMU researchers/academics. 91% of DMU academics rated their Festival experience as 'Good' or 'Excellent' and all DMU academics who reported not being 'Very confident' with engaging with the public before taking part in the Festival noted that their confidence had increased because of the event.

Of the 221 speakers and facilitators at this year's Festival, 59% identified as a 'Woman', 39% as a 'Man' and 2% as 'Non-binary'. Overall, 12,611 visitors joined bookable and drop-in activities across the Festival, with 23.5% identifying as being from non-White backgrounds. 8% of attendees reported that they had a disability. The majority of the audience was aged 35+, with an even distribution of age groups across campus and city centre events.

Our social and digital media campaign achieved over 1m organic impressions and 77.5k page views of the Festival website.

We also achieved some excellent national and local media coverage in the lead up to and during the Festival, including BBC News website, ITV Central, BBC Radio Leicester, The Times, Financial Times, Daily Mail and Daily Telegraph.

*Hosting the British Science Festival at DMU was one of the highlights of our year. The events throughout the festival were hugely varied and helped the university to engage with academic colleagues to bring their areas of expertise to life and also to explore new public engagement opportunities with the local communities of Leicester and Leicestershire. The team at the BSA who organise the festival were brilliant to work alongside, and we thoroughly enjoyed working with them to bring the festival to life. An absolutely incredible project to be involved with, which has left a fantastic opportunity to build a strong legacy programme going forward.*

*Sarah Thomson, Director of Engagement, De Montfort University*

---

<sup>2</sup> The Compass was commissioned by the BSA, designed, developed and delivered in partnership with Illuminos and Inspirate, and funded as part of 2022 Unboxed: Creativity in the UK

## British Science Week

*An annual grassroots celebration of science with events and activities taking place in schools, local community groups and national cultural institutions across the UK. As well as free resources (schools' activity packs, marketing resources) and opportunities for the public to engage in the Week, we provide 'micro grants' to schools and community groups to enable them to participate.*

British Science Week (BSW) 2023 took place between 10-19 March 2023. This year's theme was 'Connections', which was used in the curation of the content for the activity packs and as inspiration for the poster competition.

As always, school engagement was high; despite industrial action during the week itself, we received over 83k resource downloads and over 102k entries to the schools' poster competition. For the second year running we partnered with YouTube content creator, [TheDadLab](#), leading to over 24,000 views, while 111,000 primary school children watched the BBC's special British Science Week [Teach Live](#) lesson.

Strong engagement was also reflected through the wide range of national cultural and STEM organisations taking part in activities, including the London Transport Museum, British Museum, UK Space Agency, Royal Navy and many more.

Thanks to support from UKRI we awarded 237 Kickstart grants this year, together with 96 community grants. These micro grants continue to be an important gateway for first time science engagement and development of activities with diverse audiences.

It was the fourth year of our popular [Smashing Stereotypes](#) campaign, celebrating the diverse people and careers in science and engineering. In 2023, a total of 14 new profiles were produced. There were over 37,000 unique page views of the content and case studies were also featured on BBC Science Café and Newsround as well as on the BSA's new [TikTok account](#) which was launched during the week

Also new for 2023, and inspired by our previous polling suggesting that relatively few young people feel connected with science, we held a photography exhibition at London Bridge station (which was also [available online](#)). The exhibition featured some of our Honorary Fellows (Ade Adepitan, Mona Chalabi, and Helen Sharman) along with researchers from King's Engaged Researchers Network.

Alongside the exhibition, we held a Question Time-style BSW launch event at Science Gallery London. Chaired by our President, Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon, the panel (including George Freeman MP, Ali Speechly from the FA, Michael Sulu from University College London, Bob Ward, from the London Climate Change Partnership, and Aisha Kukoyi, an A-Level student studying Further Maths, Physics and Product Design) faced questions from an audience of students from around London, together with representatives from the science sector.

British Science Week 2023 was supported by UKRI, together with a number of sponsors, including 3M, MSD and Urenco.



#### Case study:

One of our new Smashing Stereotype profiles for 2023 was Maya Hanspal, a neuroscientist at MSD. Speaking about the importance of the campaign, Maya said:

*“People often think that scientists must be incredibly analytical and mathematically minded. These skills are important, but I think creativity and thinking outside of the box are just as valuable. Science is all about problem-solving after all!”*

*“I didn’t have many role models working in science who looked like me when I was growing up, and I certainly had little in common with most of the scientists I idolised in my books (queue a picture of a white man in a lab coat). One of the best things I have discovered since becoming a scientist is that all kinds of people can contribute to science, and we all have unique life stories and backgrounds.”*

*“Increasing the visibility of people who don’t look like stereotypical scientists is really important to make sure that more people realise this can be a career option for them.”*

### CREST Awards

The BSA’s flagship education programme, which inspires young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers. [CREST](#) recognises young people’s achievement in STEM project work and is available at a range of levels to suit students aged 3 to 19.

A record 57,000 CREST Awards were awarded in 2022/23. This represents a significant upturn since the early stages of the pandemic – see Figure 1 below and reflects the important role played by CREST, and project-work more broadly, in supporting STEM education and engagement at all levels and with young people from all backgrounds.

Analysis through the year showed that between 2018 and 2022 45% of secondary schools in England had taken part in CREST, including 43% of schools classified as being in challenging circumstances<sup>3</sup>. Similarly in Wales, 57% of secondary schools had taken part in CREST between 2018 and 2022, including 48% of schools in challenging circumstances.

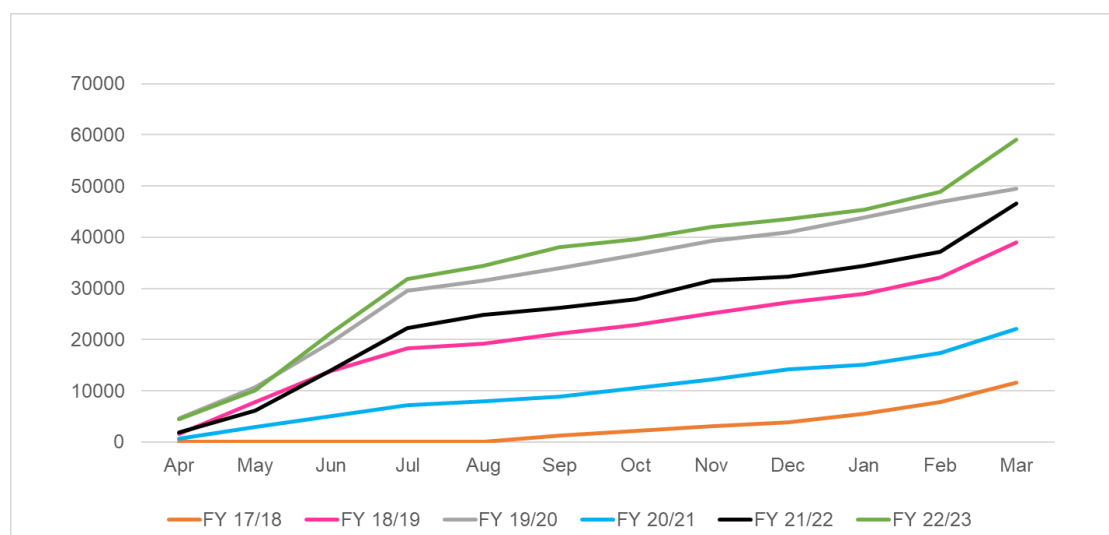
Our work in primary schools has also continued to grow; since 2018, almost 100,000 primary school students have completed a CREST Award through the Star (aimed at 3-to-7-year-olds) and SuperStar (aimed at 7-to-11-year-olds) schemes.

---

<sup>3</sup> The criteria we use for schools in challenging circumstances are: has at least 30% of pupils eligible for pupil premium (or equivalent); has at least 30% of pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds; is located in a designated rural postcode. <https://www.crestawards.org/urateachernetwork>



**Figure 1 – CREST submissions year on year (2017/18 to 2022/23)**



### **Projects and Resource development**

A key development for 2022-23 was our new kit box initiative to increase our support for primary schools in challenging circumstances. With support from the NCR Foundation, we developed a set of 'Everything' kit boxes and training to engage approximately 700 students in deprived areas of Scotland with CREST. We know that the key barriers to primary schools engaging with quality student-led projects like CREST are teacher time, confidence and resource. This pilot has aimed to address each of these barriers - providing schools with all of the resources required to run a CREST SuperStar activity (age 7-11), even down to the Sellotape and scissors, significantly reducing the preparation time required. Feedback so far has been highly positive. One teacher told the evaluator *"We would not have done any of this work had it not been for the kit boxes. It's opened up a whole new opportunity for us in terms of STEM."*

With support from the Horners' Education Charity, we also developed a number of 'Essentials' kit boxes for schools in England. These are a slimmed down version of the 'Everything' box but still provide schools with key equipment they need to complete their SuperStar CREST project that schools would be unlikely to have in the classroom already.

New CREST resources developed in 2022-23 included a new Bronze pack for the Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics, redevelopment of our 'Wild Creations' Discovery challenge in association with Unboxed: Creativity in the UK and a new accessible CREST activity funded by UKRI.

We also worked in partnership with Mewburn Ellis and with DeepMind to develop and run CREST Discovery days. In addition to the benefits of this work for schools, these projects have provided valuable opportunities for employees at the two organisations to get involved in working with and inspiring young people.

### **CREST Under-represented audiences (URA) grants & teacher network**

Our URA network continues to grow and now includes over 1,600 teachers from primary, secondary and special schools across the UK.

Through our URA grants scheme, funded by UKRI, we supported teachers in 106 schools to complete CREST projects in the 22/23 academic year, and trained and matched 14 'buddies'

(teachers with experience of delivering CREST) to 30 teachers in the URA network who had received CREST grants.

Over the course of the year we ran 25 sessions for the URA network teachers, 20 of which, were though an online conference in June-July 2022, engaging over 200 teachers to either watch sessions live or via flexible catch up..

### CREST International

We have started to explore the potential to support young people outside the UK to engage with CREST. In 2022 we signed an agreement with Pearson to promote the use of CREST by schools in China.

### Funding

We are grateful for the support of our funders in helping to keep CREST affordable for young people of all backgrounds across the UK. In addition to UKRI and other funders included above, CREST funders in 2022-2023 included the Gatsby Foundation, Ogden Trust, Urenco, Silence Therapeutics, and the Welsh Government, whose support allows schools in Wales to access CREST free of charge. We also continue to be grateful for the support of our Regional CREST Support Organisations, who work with schools across the UK.

#### Case study:

George, a 14-year-old autistic student at Lighthouse School in Leeds, achieved a Silver CREST Award for his invention of an automated biscuit-dunking machine, built from Lego.

The machine – which was inspired by experiments in class to find the best biscuit to dunk in a cup of tea – included a cupholder, extendable arm with a rubber claw, two motors, a main data hub and buttons to give the machine exact instructions. George plans to follow his aptitude for STEM into a career in cyber security.

George was interviewed on ITV News Yorkshire about his CREST Award and said, “*(This project) has given me more confidence, as it is physical proof that you can achieve something*”.

George’s science teacher, Caroline Maston, said: “*The CREST Awards gave George a springboard to explore his areas of interest and independently showcase his skills and knowledge*”.

## Strategic Objective B

For more people, especially those from currently underrepresented groups, to play a bigger role, have a more powerful voice, and build stronger relationships in/with the STEM sector

### Community Engagement Programmes

*The British Science Association is committed to supporting community organisations who work with groups underserved and under-represented in science. Since 2015, the BSA has supported communities to feel more involved with science. We run a growing number of programmes providing communities with an opportunity to engage with science, have a voice in science and explore science-related issues such as mental health and climate change in a way that is relevant to them.*

## Community Engagement Network, Leaders and Buddies

Our **Community Engagement Network** aims to support, connect and inspire community organisations interested in providing science content to their audiences/users. We work with over 1,000 community groups as part of the network, enabling us to reach a diverse range of audiences across the UK.

Our **Community Leaders and Buddies programmes** harness the passion and ideas of individuals who work with underserved audiences, enhance their skills to enable them to become leaders in science engagement in their communities and support them to access local researchers who they can work together with in their engagement activities.

In 2022-23 we recruited our fifth cohort of Community Leaders. With funding from UKRI, 11 pairs attended a number of training and networking sessions across the year, and prepared projects for British Science Week in March 2023.

*“Being a ‘BSA Community Leader’ adds value and legitimacy to holding science events, and sparks interest from teachers, community leaders, councillors and budget holders.”*

We also supported 11 pairs of Community Leaders and researcher buddies and offered grants to seven of last year’s cohort of buddy pairs to enable them to co-create a project which responds to a local need and benefits the local community. The project ideas were developed as a result of the ongoing relationship developed between the pairs and we were able to fund seven projects.

### Case study: The buddy programme allows researcher and communities to building new connections and using the ‘people before programme’ model

Mohammed, from the East African Education (EAE) Foundation, a longstanding Community Leader linked to the BSA was matched with Gary, a Research Fellow in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at London at Imperial College London. The EAE Foundation’s mission is to empower people to make informed choices and live independent lives; they aim to do this by supporting their users to access quality education opportunities. Their project explored the causes of COVID vaccine hesitancy among East African community members in Barking and Dagenham in East London through interviews and online surveys. Mohammed designed, conducted and wrote up the research which was collated and analysed by Gary and his team. The researcher highlighted that the project changed his attitudes and approach to carrying out public health surveys and that he will take this learning back to his wider department. The results of the research revealed helpful insights into why the community was hesitant to receive COVID vaccines and how to positively influence their perceptions.

## Highlands and Islands COP 26 Grant Programme

*The Highlands and Islands Climate Change Community Grant scheme, funded by UKRI and delivered by the BSA and Science Ceilidh, supports community groups in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland to work with a researcher and run a project on a local climate change issue that matters to them.*

This impactful programme has helped to demonstrate the potential impact of smaller grants and a supported development process to establish new relationships between grassroots climate action groups, their communities and researchers. In 2022/23 we supported 10 community groups to take part in the programme. Building on our learnings, and with further support from UKRI, we will be running a second phase in 2022/23.

UKRI published a short video on the Seaweed Gardens project, which you can find [here](#).

## Antarctica in the Community Grant Scheme

In 2022-23 we funded 15 projects providing community groups with grants of £500 to help them explore and celebrate Antarctica's important role in climate science. We have been delighted to work with the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust on this new programme.

## Community-led research pilot programme

*Exploring an approach to more equitable, community-driven research.*

The Community Led Research Pilot is putting local communities based in Reading and Slough at the heart of the research process - inviting them to develop and deliver their own research projects. This cutting edge pilot aims to support local communities to feel that science and research is more accessible, and to highlight the value communities can bring to research by improving both its quality and relevance. In addition to the University of Reading, we are working alongside two community partners in Reading and Slough (Reading Voluntary Action and Slough Community Voluntary Services), with the Social Change Agency appointed as the learning partner. The pilot delivery stages, from outreach to engage communities that are new to and underrepresented in research and to understand their local priorities, developing the theme and research questions, and designing the research, will take us to October 2023. Research projects will be carried out over the next 9-12 months into 2024. Senior leadership at the University of Reading are supporting us to share the CLRP approach across disciplines at the University and explore how learning can be embedded in their participatory action research.

## The Ideas Fund

*The Ideas Fund launched in January 2021 with the aim of enabling the UK public to develop and try out ideas that address problems related to mental wellbeing, by working in partnership with researchers. Supported by Wellcome, the Fund has offered an exciting opportunity to test out a different approach, of community-led collaboration with researchers, with individuals, community groups and charities being invited to apply for and hold the funds, and supported to build relationships with researchers on their own terms.*

The Ideas Fund was set up in recognition of the significant barriers faced by communities in ensuring that research is meaningful and relevant to their lives, including practices being commonplace that exacerbate power imbalances between the value of lived and learned experience. We know that communities often feel 'done to' and traditional forms of engagement can feel extractive, limiting the potential for long-term impact. Funding practices themselves add to these issues, with public engagement funding often being short term and restrictive, difficult to attain, not held by the community and unlikely to be rooted in or starting with communities' day to day aspirations or needs.

The Ideas Fund has taken a place based approach, and is being delivered in four locations across the UK: Oldham, Hull, North-West Northern Ireland, and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Having taken a flexible and community-centred approach, working closely with 'Development Co-ordinators' in each region, over £3.8m in funding has now been awarded to over [70 partnerships](#) across two rounds of funding: 49 projects were awarded through the first round (2021-2022), some of which are now either being offered extensions or coming to a close. A further 28 ideas were shortlisted in the second round in 2022, and 27 of these have now been awarded full grants, with projects beginning in January 2023. The grants awarded vary from £12k to around £90k. From looking at the wider impact of the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia, to the long-term wellbeing needs of survivors of cardiac arrest, or better understanding how to best support people in recovery from addiction, the Ideas Fund is supporting a breadth of communities and initiatives. The vast majority of these communities are new to receiving support from both Wellcome and the BSA.

Our analysis of the supported partnerships demonstrates that around 31% have been working in remote and/or rural communities, 17% are supporting disabled people or those with cognitive impairments, 26% work directly with young people and around 17% have

reached people from a minoritised ethnic background. We are also now supporting a number of projects working with the LGBTQ+ community, older people, women who have experienced domestic abuse, and those recovering from addiction.

In addition to these projects, in 2022-2023 we also awarded three further grants to partners in Hull, the Highlands & Islands and North West Northern Ireland focusing on making changes within their local systems to enable more equitable community-researcher relationships. Discussions are also taking place with partners in Oldham to explore this opportunity for 'infrastructure' activity.

#### Case study:

The Building Natural Capital project is a collaboration between Ewen's Room, a charity that actively improves mental wellbeing throughout Lochaber, and researchers from the University of Highlands and Islands (UHI). It aims to investigate, through peer-research, the existing barriers to local young people using the outdoors, and to consider how being in the outdoors impacts mental wellbeing. Trish McQueen, of Ewen's Room, explains the impact of the Ideas Fund grant:

*"Our project recruits young volunteers to conduct research amongst their peers in schools. Researchers from UHI train our young volunteers at the UHI West Highland College, and Ewen's Room staff support the young people with learning in college, conducting research in school, and analysing the findings. The findings highlight the need for greater outdoor opportunities and organised outdoor activities within the local area.*

*"It is unusual for these young people to come into contact with professional researchers, so the impact of being able to work alongside them in this way and learn from them cannot be overstated. We could not otherwise have achieved the feeling these young people get from this engagement. It was utterly inspiring to watch this relationship develop, and see their confidence and self-belief grow alongside their ability to innovate and adapt in response to changing circumstances.*

*"The iterative process has also allowed us to learn as we go, tweaking and adapting our programme, and through delivering the project, we have made new connections with other organisations in our wider community. However, the big success of the programme is in the outcomes for participants; the young people frequently say they don't want the programme to end, so we are currently planning a proposal to extend the project with further funding."*

#### For Thought

*A thought leadership programme which gives leaders from business, policy, science and civil society a platform for cross-sector discussion and collaboration around the role of science in solving the greatest challenges of the day, and how science can better work alongside other sectors.*

The 2022 For Thought event took place in December 2022 at One Moorgate Place, London.

With panel discussions and provocations from speakers ranging from Science Minister, George Freeman MP and Professor Dame Anne Johnson, President of the Academy of Medical Sciences, to investigative journalist Rosa Furneaux and young campaigner Evie Aspinall, and hosted by Samira Ahmed, attendees discussed how science and technology are shaping responses to global challenges, from net zero, to public health, and the metaverse.

The event was supported by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).



## Future Forum

*Empowering young people to share their views on cutting-edge innovations that will affect their futures.*

The next generation are tasked with solving the greatest challenges in our time, yet our research has found that they do not feel able to have their say on the issues affecting their future and they don't feel spoken to by politicians, scientists and other influential figures.

Future Forum, is the British Science Association's youth voice programme, working with 14-18 year olds across the UK. This growing programme provides opportunities for young people to have a say on key issues involving science, and for organisations who want to better serve young people, the opportunity to find out more about what they value.

In 2022, Future Forum focused on young people's views on creativity and science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and the role of both in solving the issues of tomorrow.

*"So I can say that my opinions are quite different to my mum and dad's, but also very different to say my nan and grandad's. I think people, say, our age are quite aware of the stuff that people have done in the past, but also what people are doing now, it's going to impact our futures. Whereas people who are in their like 60s to 80s, they go, 'Well, look, we've had our life, this is how it was back in my day, why should we bother changing?' And I think we kind of need to show it in the respect of this is what effect it's having on you now in terms of health benefits and pollution, but also in the respect of that in 20-40 years down the line, your grandchildren or your children, this is what they're realistically going to be up against. And this is what we need to do."*

Future Forum 'creativity & science' workshop participant

The survey and workshops were conducted in partnership with UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, with support from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.

We also began work on our next report, on climate change education, in partnership with the University of Plymouth, and worked in partnership with Stemettes on a youth voice survey around GCSE subject choices and role models in the science curriculum as part of their 10th birthday celebrations.

## Strategic Objective C

To build the capacity of the BSA and the science/research engagement sector around issues relating to equality, diversity & inclusion (EDI).

### Stakeholder influencing and policy

#### Statements and Consultations

Through 2022/23 the BSA continued to respond to consultations and to publish news stories and blog posts on key areas relating to our strategic objectives. These included: written evidence to the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee inquiry on Science Superpower, and People and Skills in STEM; a response to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy consultation on Net Zero; and written evidence to the House of Commons Culture, Media, and Sport Select Committee inquiry on Misinformation and trusted voices.

We also published new pieces welcoming the formation of the new Department of Science, Innovation, and Technology, and advocating for diversity and inclusion to be a core part of the Government 'science superpower' ambitions.

### **The APPG for Diversity & Inclusion in STEM**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) in STEM aims to promote inclusion and progression of people from diverse backgrounds in STEM, and to encourage government, parliamentarians, academics, businesses, and other stakeholders to work towards a STEM sector that is representative of the population. The Group is funded by a wide range of [sponsors](#).

The BSA has provided the Secretariat for the Group since its inception in 2018/19. 2022/23 saw a return to face to face events, with a broad and lively panel discussion in Autumn 2022 on diversity and inclusion in STEM education and the workforce, revisiting recommendations from our previous reports. Our next report, on regional inequity in STEM, is due to be published in 2023.

### **Sciencewise**

Sciencewise is a public dialogue programme providing insights into what people think about science & emerging technology. BSA works as part of the Sciencewise consortium (alongside Involve and NCCPE, funded by UKRI). In 2022/23 we published a new report on [\*'Tomorrow's Tech Today: Public opinion on emerging technology and opportunities for future engagement'\*](#).

### **Science Learning+**

In 2021 we were awarded a contract to evaluate the Wellcome Trust's long-running Science Learning+ scheme (funding for informal science learning) as part of a consortium with NCCPE and NatCen; our role was to disseminate and discuss the findings of Science Learning+ with stakeholders in education policy, youth, and community organisations.

In 2022/23 we organised four workshops and discussions on the current landscape and future needs of informal science learning (ISL). Themes included:

- Current priorities ISL practice
- Defining success in ISL
- The funding landscape for ISL
- Connections to formal education

These were further disseminated at an event with NCCPE in October 2022.

## **Building the capacity of the Science Engagement sector**

### **UK Science Festivals Network**

The BSA manages and chairs the UK Science Festivals Network (UKSFN), which now has over 50 members, including science festivals and other festivals who feature science content. The Network aims to unite, celebrate and grow the science festivals sector in the UK.

In 2022/23 we ran bi-monthly meetings for the network, addressing a range of topics through in-person and virtual meetings.

With funding from UKRI, the UK Science Festivals Network awarded funding to ten science festivals to develop innovative approaches to engaging young people aged 11-to-17-years-old, from low socioeconomic backgrounds and 'inactive' science identities, with research and researchers.

We continued to work with [Culture Counts](#) on an evaluation pilot project, also funded by UKRI. The project has involved eight UKSFN members and aims to encourage more data-



driven decision making in the science festivals sector; create an aggregated account of value and impact; and build a stronger data culture across science festivals in the UK. We will be using findings to produce a collaborative evaluation plan for 2023/24.

### **Inequity in UK science engagement**

Following the publication of our widely-used report on [inequity of science engagement in the UK](#), published in March 2022, we hosted a webinar in May 2022 to discuss findings and next steps.

### **People and culture**

2022 saw some significant changes to senior leadership at the BSA, with our outgoing CEO, Katherine Mathieson leaving in April 2022 and our new CEO, Hannah Russell joining in October 2022. In the intervening period, CEO responsibilities were shared between Amy MacLaren, Director of External Relations, who took on the role of Interim Chief Executive and Gill Riches, Director of Programmes, who took on the role of Interim Chief Operating Officer. An interim Head of Operations post was also introduced to support the organisation through this period and Hannah's first few months in the role. This additional operations support has proved valuable and has led to a restructure of the core services team to introduce more internal operations capacity.

Overall staff turnover remained steady compared to the previous year: 01 April 2022 – 31 March 2023: 11 starters and 7 leavers compared to 01 April 2021 – 31 March 2022: 9 starters and 10 leavers.

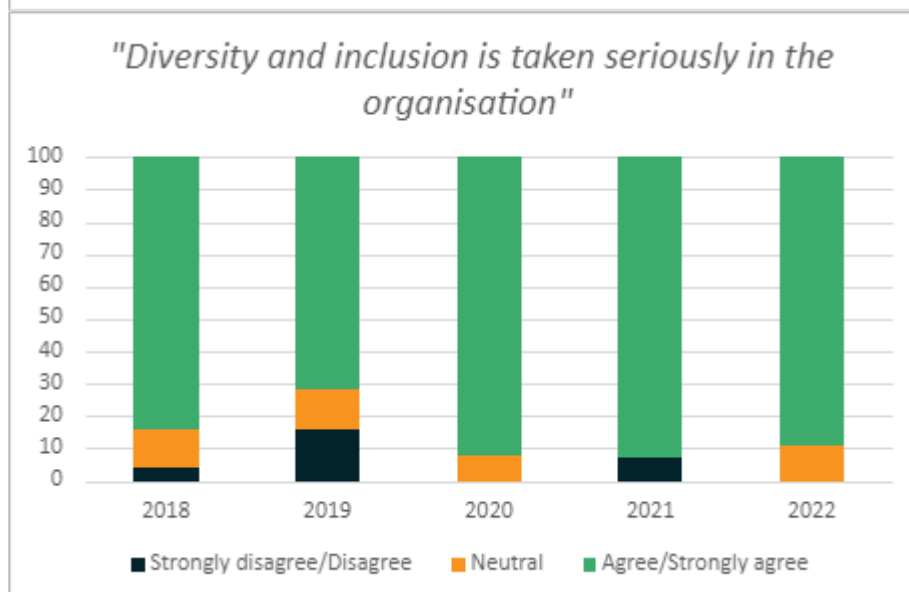
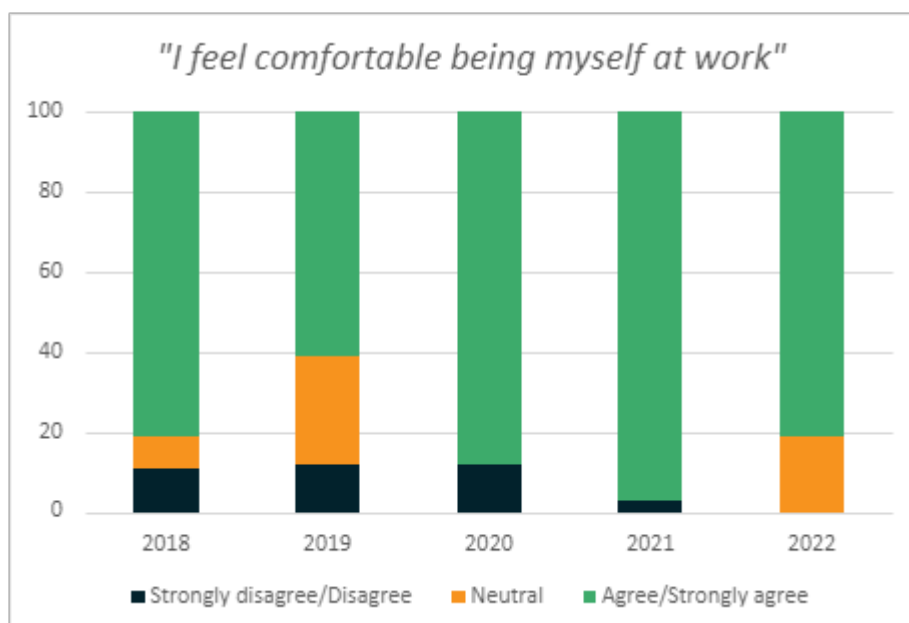
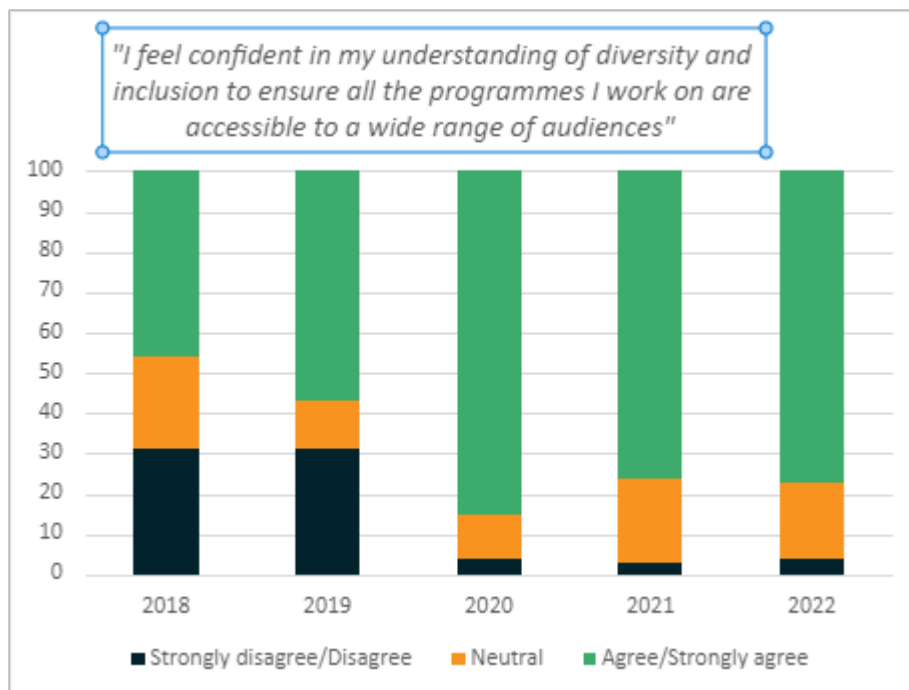
### **Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)**

The BSA believes that, for too long, science has been the preserve of professional scientists. We believe science should be open to everyone, regardless of background or experience.

We know there are persistent structural barriers to equality in many areas of UK society, culture and work, and we believe that transforming the diversity and inclusivity of science can play a part in tackling them.

Our **Sustaining Excellence** grant from the Wellcome Trust came to an end in June 2022, and provided an opportunity to review the progress that the organisation has made on its EDI journey, including re-running the EDI audit we had undertaken in 2018. We [published a report](#) in July 2022 '*Sustaining Excellence: Developing our practice with grant funding and beyond*' to mark the end of this project.

We have continued to ensure that a focus on equality, diversity and inclusion sits right at the heart of our programmes and to look at ways to ensure this focus is also reflected through our internal systems and processes. We monitor staff views on our EDI work as an organisation (as reported by staff in our annual staff survey, see, for example, graphs below). We also have an EDI action plan which is reviewed annually. Recognising that there is more to do, in 2022-23 we recruited a new EDI lead Trustee to sit on Council and support the team in identifying next steps to drive forward this work.



## Diversity data

The BSA has been monitoring staff EDI data since 2017 and trustee EDI data since 2019. We published this for the first time in 2020 and believe this is an important indication of our commitment to EDI. Our most recent data, from our survey in Autumn 2022, has shown the following:

### Gender identity

- While the balance between men : women is typically stronger on Council than on the staff team, the percentage of men has reduced somewhat since 2020;
- The proportion of men : women on the staff team has increased slightly since 2020, but at 22%, men are still under-represented compared with the charity and voluntary sector average of 33%.

### Ethnicity

Collectively 73% of respondents described their ethnic origin as White (British, Irish or other White).

- Staff: 74% (a decrease of 13% since 2021);
- Council: 67% (an increase of 17% since 2020).

This compares to approx. 86% of the England and Wales population and 61% of the London population.

### Age

- The proportion of staff respondents within the 21-30 age range has declined somewhat, while the proportion 41 and above has grown;
- 50% of Council respondents are within the 51-60 age range, compared to 11% of staff.

Some of the age categories were merged in the years of reporting to avoid individuals being identifiable.

### Other characteristics

- **Neurodiversity** – 15% of staff consider themselves to be neurodiverse, an increase of 5% compared to 2021 although the same level as in 2020.
- **Caring responsibilities** – The proportion of staff and Council members with caring responsibilities has grown (collectively, 54% of respondents have some form of caring responsibility (compared with 43% in 2021 and 39% in 2020).
- **Sexual orientation** – 79% of all respondents consider their sexual orientation to be Heterosexual, broadly the same as in 2020 & 2021.
- **Long-term illness or disability** – 15% of staff responded positively to this question, an increase of 5% from 2021, but broadly stable on an average of 13% over the last five years.
- **Social mobility** – 18% of collective respondents were eligible for free school meals – an increase from 13% in 2021.
- **Religion or belief** – Collectively, 61% of respondents selected 'no religion or belief / atheist' (compared with 59% in 2021).

## Heritage & Identity Review

The BSA is seeking to catalyse change both internally within our organisation and within the wider science engagement sector, to make science and science engagement more equitable, diverse and inclusive. In the context of ongoing institutional improvement – specifically in relation to our organisational focus on equality, diversity and inclusion – we embarked on a project to explore how we might understand and contextualise the BSA's history.

This review was completed in 2022/23 and has now been reported internally to staff and our Council. We plan to publish a series of recommendations and Guiding Principles that we will use to inform our practice, programmes and communications in the future.

## Section Two: Our future plans

This section sets out our cross-organisational priorities for 2023/24.

- 1) **Continue to grow our reputation and networks**, increasing the visibility and profile of our programmes and of BSA as an organisation, as well as being alert to opportunities to work in partnership and to new funding opportunities.
- 2) **Agree a clear set of policy asks and messages across education, community engagement and diversity & inclusion within the STEM sector more broadly**. These messages and asks will be used to support our advocacy work as well as feeding into our wider programmes.
- 3) **Review how we evaluate our programmes and implement a clear set of impact outcomes and measures** that can be used to evidence the value of our work as well as to reinforce our reputation as a trusted leader and partner.
- 4) **Review our use of language and tone of voice**, ensuring this is appropriate for the different audiences we are trying to reach (including communities, young people, policy makers, science communicators, universities and others).
- 5) **Continue to refine our strong governance and explore opportunities to work more closely with our Honorary roles**
- 6) **Ensure we have the capacity to deliver to a high standard**, including working with the team to make sure we remain a welcoming, inclusive and attractive employer, ensuring that our internal culture, systems and processes reflect our external focus on EDI.
- 7) **Aim for operating breakeven**, excluding already agreed use of reserves for the 2023 British Science Festival, and other investment of resources where agreed by Council.

## Section Three: Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities shows a net deficit for the year of £60,200 (2022: net income of £149,917) excluding net losses on investment assets of £52,415 (2022: £12,189 gain).

Key funders of activities during the year include UKRI, De Montfort University and the Wellcome Trust. The BSA does not engage in fundraising from the public.

Total income of £6.84 million was higher than last year (2022: £5.28 million).

Total expenditure of £6.89 million was higher than last year (2022: £5.12 million).

The expenditure on individual programmes shown on the SOFA is dependent on the activities within the programmes and the funding received.

### Funders/ sponsors:

3M  
ACS  
Advanced Microbiology International (AMI)  
Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists  
AstraZeneca  
Atos  
BBC Studios Science Unit  
British Society for Haematology  
British Society for Immunology  
Brooklands Museum  
Collective Act  
Crossland Tankers  
De Montfort University  
DeepMind  
Drax  
Evolution Education Trust (EET)  
Explorify  
Fund for the replacement of animals in medical experiments (FRAME)  
Futurecodersse Community Interest Company  
Gatsby Charitable Foundation  
Harper Collins  
The Worshipful Company of Horners  
Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)  
Institute of Physics  
The Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS)  
James Weir Foundation  
King's College London  
Marine Stewardship Council  
MSD  
National Farmers' Union (NFU)  
Natural History Museum (NHM)  
Nutrition Society  
OCR

PerkinElmer  
Physiological Society  
Primary Science Teaching Trust  
PWIS  
Royal Academy of Engineering  
Royal Society of Chemistry  
Salters' Institute  
Sciencewise  
Silence Therapeutics  
STEM Learning  
Stemettes Limited  
The Country Trust  
The National Archives  
The Reading Agency  
UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT)  
UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH)  
UK Research & Innovation (UKRI)  
University of Exeter  
University of Glasgow  
University of Leeds  
University of Plymouth  
University of Reading  
University of the West of England  
University of York  
URENCO  
Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics  
Wellcome Trust  
Welsh Government  
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)  
Zinc ( on behalf of HS2)

## **Risk Management**

The purpose of the BSA's Risk Register is to enable the British Science Association's Trustees to identify the main risks the charity faces and record how to deal with them. The information in this framework is reviewed by the Senior Management Team on a monthly basis and at least twice-yearly by the Audit & Risks Committee. Principal risks (those identified as ones that would have a significant impact on ability to deliver our charitable objectives) are reported by default at each Council meeting, alongside other risks where ratings have changed significantly since the last meeting. A review of the risk register was undertaken in Autumn 2022. This led to the introduction of an Issue log alongside the risk register to allow greater differentiation between things that might happen and those that are already taking place.

Both the risk and issue frameworks are divided into five areas based on Charity Commission guidance (CC26<sup>4</sup>):

1. Strategic risks and issues

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-and-risk-management-cc26/charities-and-risk-management-cc26#annex-1-risk-register-template-with-examples-of-use>

2. Operational risks and issues
3. Financial risks and issues
4. Governance risks and issues
5. Compliance and legislative risks and issues

Principal risks identified for the organisation include:

- **Programmes being ineffective or not being aligned to strategy.** This is mitigated by our strategy, mission, vision and aims being developed and prominently shared on our communications channels, regular review of programmes and strategy by Council and active consideration of the extent to which potential new programmes meet our strategic needs.
- **Loss of funding through competition or change in funding model or strategic direction of major funders.** This is mitigated by regular analysis to identify competitors and (more often) potential partners, focus on capturing our impact, working closely with funding partners to understand and adapt to changes in funding models and regular review of the funding landscape to identify prospective new funders aligned to our strategic objectives.
- **Team capacity not being sufficient to deliver programmes.** This is mitigated by using a thorough process for allocating staff time and resources, effective record-keeping and handovers and using interim appointments, freelance staff and agencies to help address gaps.

## Reserves policy

At their meeting in March 2020, Council approved a revised, risk-based reserves policy, proposed by the Finance Committee. Reserves are based on the following key principles:

1. Working capital provision - £500k to 800k
2. Loss or delay in funding - £800k
3. Wind down costs - £300k - £500k

On this basis, the BSA aims for reserves between £1.6m and £2.1m

The designated reserves are based on forward looking risk and therefore included in free reserves as not designated for future spend.

The Trustees recognise that the current reserves are £2.08m and will continue to aim to work towards holding unrestricted reserves within the above range in the coming years.

The BSA's Trustees are satisfied that there are no concerns about the BSA's existence as a going concern, for at least the next 12 months from signing the accounts.



## Section Four: Structure, Governance and Management

The Trustees confirm they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's Royal Charter and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

### **Charter, statutes and rules**

The British Association for the Advancement of Science was founded in 1831 and is incorporated by Royal Charter. The Charter is dated 21 April 1928 and there have been Supplemental Charters dated 15 August 1960, 10 February 1997. The Association's Statutes were revised and approved by the Privy Council in May 2006. In April 2020, the Privy Council approved an updated version of the BSA's Charter and Statutes.

Council has approved Rules which are reviewed regularly by Council and may be altered by a majority vote in Council.

### **Registered and operating names**

The British Science Association is the operating name for (and a registered trademark of) the British Association for the Advancement of Science. The registered name of the charity remains as the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

### **Council**

The governing body of the British Science Association is Council. Members of Council comprise the following people who are entitled to vote at Council meetings:

- The Chair
- The Vice (deputy) Chair
- The Treasurer
- Up to three Vice-Presidents who advise on specific matters
- Up to eight people appointed as determined by Council

In addition, the President, President-elect and immediate Past President, if not Trustees, are entitled to attend Council but not to vote.

Council normally meets four times a year, once per quarter. Its function is to agree a vision and strategy for the charity and to direct all the affairs and business of the organisation. Council may delegate its powers to the staff or its Committees.

Members of Council normally serve for a period of three years with the option of being reappointed for a further three years as long as any continuous period in office does not normally exceed six years. In exceptional circumstances, by two thirds majority vote in Council of all members present, a further year's extension is permitted.

## induction and training

Following their election or appointment, induction information is sent to all new Trustees before they attend their first Council meeting. This comprises relevant Association and Charity Commission documents and information including the Charity Governance Code. External training opportunities for new and existing Trustees are offered in addition to away days and ad hoc meetings. Council members are invited to many of the Association's external events.

## Finance Committee (incorporating the Investment Committee)

The Finance Committee comprises four members of the Council plus the Treasurer. Meetings are usually held four times a year and attended by the Finance Director and Chief Executive. Finance Committee advises Council on financial strategy and, in its role as the Investment Committee, oversees the work of our investment managers.

## Audit & Risks Committee

The Audit & Risks Committee appointments comprises three members of Council (including the Treasurer). Council is able to co-opt further persons if needed to provide additional expertise or an external perspective, provided they do not outnumber the Council appointees. Currently there are two independent members. The Committee meets at least twice a year and meetings are attended by the Finance Director and Chief Executive.

Council has appointed a professional auditor of the Association, who is qualified for appointment as auditor of a company in accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act. The auditor attends meetings of the Committee as and when required.

## Council Members

### Council member roles and terms of office

Name	Role	Elected /appointed	Retiring
Hilary Newiss	Chair	March 2022	March 2025
Stephen Nuttall	Deputy Chair and VP Engagement	July 2017	Mar 2024
Kalli Bowyer	Treasurer	June 2018	July 2024
Heather King	VP Education	Oct 2021	Nov 2024
Sarah Chaytor	VP Policy, Partnerships & Impact	Mar 2023	Apr 2026
Sarah Main	Trustee (elected)	Oct 2017	Nov 2023
Joe de Sousa	Trustee (appointed)	Aug 2020	Sept 2026
Rubina Ahmed	Trustee (appointed)	Aug 2020	Sept 2026
Kate Mingay	Trustee (appointed)	Aug 2020	December 2023
Kevin Coutinho	Trustee (appointed) - EDI lead	Mar 2023	Apr 2026
Phil Smith	Trustee (appointed) - Community engagement lead	Mar 2023	Apr 2026

## Council membership of sub-Committees

Name	Finance Committee	Audit & Risk Committee	Nominations Committee
Hilary Newiss	Y	Y	Y
Stephen Nuttall	Y	Y	
Kalli Bowyer	Y	Y	
Sarah Main	Y		
Rubina Ahmed			Y
Joe de Sousa		Y	Y
Kate Mingay	Y	Y	
Heather King			Y
Sarah Chaytor*			
Kevin Coutinho*			Y
Phil Smith*	Y		
Raj Dadra (non-Trustee role)		Y	
John Misselbrook (non-Trustee role)		Y	

\*term began January 2023

## President

September 2021 to August 2022 – Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock (moving to Immediate Past President from September 2022 to August 2023)

September 2022 to August 2023 – Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon

## Royal Patron

In September 2022 we were saddened to learn about the death of our Royal Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

As recently as March 2022, Her Majesty had hosted a special online event as part of British Science Week, where she joined a group of schoolchildren from Thomas Jones Primary School, as well as the BSA's then President, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, to celebrate the role that science, technology, engineering and maths plays in UK society.

As a mark of respect in response to the news of Her Majesty's death, we cancelled the British Science Festival stakeholder reception in September 2022, while the Festival's public programme went ahead in line with other large-scale events at the time.

## Section Five: Reference and Administrative details

### Senior Staff

Katherine Mathieson	Chief Executive (Resigned 8 April 2022)
Hannah Russell	Chief Executive (Joined 11 October 2022)
Gill Riches	Director of Programmes (Acting COO from 9 April- 10 October 2022)
Amy MacLaren	Director of External Relations (Acting CEO from 9 April – 10 October 2022)
Dave Lloyd	Director of Finance (outsourced)

### Advisors

Bankers	NatWest Bank plc, 208 Piccadilly, London, W1A 2DG
Solicitors	Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP, 45 Clarendon Road, Watford, WD17 1SZ
Accounting	Crossley Group, Star House, Star Hill, Rochester, ME1 1UX
Independent auditors	Sayer Vincent, Invicta House, 108-114 Golden Lane, London, EC1Y 0TL
Investment advisors	James Hambro Partners LLP, 45 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JG

### Principal and registered office

Wellcome Wolfson Building 165 Queen's Gate London SW7 5HD

### Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the BSA's Council

Signature:

Name: Hilary Newiss

Position: Chair

Date: 3rd October 2023

## Independent Auditor's report to the members of The British Association for the Advancement of Science

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The British Association for the Advancement of Science (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charity'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
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

### 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 are independent of the charity 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. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating 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 British Association for the Advancement of Science'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 other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for

the other information contained within the annual 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.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements;
- Sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

## Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees 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 determine 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 charity'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 charity 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 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

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.

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 are set out below.

## Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management and the Finance and Audit Committee, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
  - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
  - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://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 charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Judith Miller (Senior statutory auditor)

Date: 23 November 2023

Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor

Invicta House, 108–114 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TL

Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

## Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 Total £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	2	84,196	104,230	<b>188,427</b>	94,027	81,994	176,021
Charitable activities							
Engagement programmes	3	65,700	1,926,316	<b>1,992,016</b>	68,257	1,247,036	1,315,293
Education programmes	3	244,922	928,146	<b>1,173,068</b>	229,759	934,751	1,164,510
Policy, Partnerships & Impact	3	136,109	144,717	<b>280,826</b>	186,259	50,805	237,064
Grants Programme	3	–	3,184,458	<b>3,184,458</b>	–	2,371,862	2,371,862
Investments	4	20,260	–	<b>20,260</b>	13,829	–	13,829
<b>Total income</b>		<b>551,187</b>	<b>6,287,867</b>	<b>6,839,054</b>	<b>592,131</b>	<b>4,686,447</b>	<b>5,278,579</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>	5						
Raising funds		79,989	104,230	184,220	54,115	81,994	136,109
Charitable activities							
Engagement programmes	5	92,054	1,934,106	2,026,160	109,153	1,262,793	1,371,946
Education programmes	5	76,839	1,029,131	1,105,970	50,182	844,670	894,852
Policy, Partnerships & Impact	5	246,098	144,717	390,814	270,659	155,498	426,157
Grants Programme	5	–	3,171,102	3,171,102	–	2,262,761	2,262,761
Regions, branches and sections	5	–	5,649	5,649	–	11,427	11,427
Other (Overhead allocation allocated to		15,339	–	15,339	25,408	–	25,408
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>510,319</b>	<b>6,388,936</b>	<b>6,899,255</b>	<b>509,518</b>	<b>4,619,143</b>	<b>5,128,660</b>
<b>Net (expenditure) / income before net gains on investments</b>		<b>40,868</b>	<b>(101,068)</b>	<b>(60,200)</b>	<b>82,613</b>	<b>67,304</b>	<b>149,917</b>
Net gains on investments		(52,415)	–	<b>(52,415)</b>	12,188	–	12,188
<b>Net expenditure for the period/year</b>	7	<b>(11,547)</b>	<b>(101,068)</b>	<b>(112,615)</b>	<b>94,801</b>	<b>67,304</b>	<b>162,107</b>
Transfers between funds	18	–	–	–	2,350	(2,350)	–
<b>Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses</b>		<b>(11,547)</b>	<b>(101,068)</b>	<b>(112,615)</b>	<b>97,151</b>	<b>64,954</b>	<b>162,107</b>
Other gains / (losses)		–	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(11,547)</b>	<b>(101,068)</b>	<b>(112,615)</b>	<b>97,151</b>	<b>64,954</b>	<b>162,105</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total funds brought forward		1,833,850	339,117	<b>2,172,967</b>	1,736,700	274,163	2,010,863
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	17	<b>1,822,303</b>	<b>238,049</b>	<b>2,060,352</b>	<b>1,833,850</b>	<b>339,117</b>	<b>2,172,970</b>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 17 to the financial statements.

British Association for the Advancement of Science

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2023

	Note	£	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets:</b>				
Tangible assets	12		25,654	25,910
Investments	13		1,264,804	1,314,341
			<u>1,290,458</u>	<u>1,340,251</u>
<b>Current assets:</b>				
Debtors	14	1,144,436	1,272,037	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,650,368	1,507,360	
		<u>2,794,803</u>	<u>2,779,397</u>	
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(2,024,909)	(1,946,678)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>769,894</u>	<u>832,719</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	17		<u><u>2,060,352</u></u>	<u><u>2,172,970</u></u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>	18			
Restricted income funds			238,049	339,118
Unrestricted income funds:				
Designated funds		1,031,691	1,045,861	
General funds		790,612	787,991	
		<u></u>	<u></u>	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>1,822,303</u>	<u>1,833,852</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<u><u>2,060,352</u></u>	<u><u>2,172,970</u></u>

Approved by the trustees on 27th September 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Hilary Newiss  
Chair of Council

Kalli Bowyer  
General Treasurer

## Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	20				
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities</b>			<b>138,884</b>		<b>337,825</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		20,260		13,829	
Purchase of fixed assets		(13,259)		(31,119)	
Proceeds from sale of investments		366,128		338,165	
Purchase of investments		(429,981)		(314,881)	
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities</b>			<b>(56,853)</b>		<b>5,994</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period</b>			<b>82,032</b>		<b>343,819</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period			<b>1,604,731</b>		<b>1,260,913</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period</b>	21		<b>1,686,763</b>		<b>1,604,731</b>

**1 Accounting policies**

**a) Statutory information**

British Association for the Advancement of Science is an unincorporated charity registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales and Scotland. The registered office address is Wellcome Wolfson Building, 165 Queen's Gate, London, SW7 5HD.

**b) Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP FRS 102). The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value except that investments held as fixed assets are carried at market value as at the balance sheet date.

**c) Public benefit entity**

The Association meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**d) Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Association's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

**e) Income**

Income is recognised when the Association has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income received for general purposes of the Association is credited to unrestricted funds. Income subject to specific wishes of the donor is credited to relevant restricted funds.

Subscription income is taken into the financial statements as a receipt in the year in which the subscription is received.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Provision is made in the financial statements for income tax recoverable on gift aid donations.

Gross income received from the Association's investment portfolio is reinvested with the Association's portfolio fund managers for the acquisition of further stocks.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Association; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities**

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the Association has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the Association of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised. The trustees' annual report sets out more information about their contribution to the work of the Association.

**g) Fund accounting**

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

---

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**h) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the Association in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of delivering services, exhibitions and other educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the Association and their associated support costs
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

**i) Grants payable**

Grants payable are made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and that any condition attaching to the grant is outside of the control of the charity.

**j) Allocation of support costs**

Resources expended are allocated to a particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, support cost (the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function) is apportioned on the bases of an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the Association. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the Association's activities. These costs are allocated to each activity based on staff time.

Cost of Raising Funds:	7%
Engagement programmes:	40%
Education programmes:	27%
Policy, Partnerships & Impact	12%
New Grants programme	15%

**k) Operating leases**

Where assets are financed by leasing agreement that give rights approximating to ownership ("finance leases"), the assets are treated as if they had been purchased outright. The amount capitalised is the present value of the minimum lease payments during the lease term. The corresponding leasing commitments are shown as obligations to the lessor.

**l) Tangible fixed assets**

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £100. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

- |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| • Office equipment   | Straight line over 5 years |
| • Computer equipment | Straight line over 3 years |

**m) Listed investments**

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the statement of financial activities. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and shown in the heading "net gains/(losses) on investments" in the statement of financial activities. The Association does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

The Association's Investment Fund is invested in accordance with the Powers of Investment set out in the Schedule to the 1977 Supplemental Charter, which requires that at least 15% of the fund must comprise investments in Government and/or fixed interest securities, including interest-bearing cash deposits. Council has determined that the primary objective of investment policy should be to maintain the capital value of the fund in real terms over the long term.

**n) Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

## 1 Accounting policies (continued)

## o) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

## p) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Association has 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 and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The Association only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

## q) Pensions

The Association operates under an auto enrolment scheme and auto enrols the new employees into the Government's NEST scheme. Pre 1 July 2014, employees are in an AEGON pension scheme. The Association matches the minimum 1% contribution and pays (on a sliding scale) up to two times the contributions made by employees to the schemes which can range between 1% and 5% of gross salary. The pension charge recorded in these financial statements is the amount of contributions payable by the Association in the accounting year.

## 2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 Total £
Subscriptions and donations	9,353	–	9,353	8,308	–	8,308
Donations and legacies income	–	–	–	2,077	–	2,077
Donated services and facilities – office space	70,182	–	70,182	65,591	–	65,591
Other income	4,660	104,230	108,891	18,051	81,994	100,045
	84,196	104,230	188,427	94,027	81,994	176,021

## 3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 Total £
British Science Festival	–	1,056,562	1,056,562	–	523,973	523,973
Other engagement programmes	65,700	869,754	935,454	68,257	723,063	791,320
Sub-total for engagement programmes	65,700	1,926,316	1,992,016	68,257	1,247,036	1,315,294
Education programmes	244,922	928,146	1,173,068	229,759	934,751	1,164,510
Policy, Partnerships & Impact	136,110	144,717	280,826	186,259	50,805	237,064
Grants Programme	–	3,184,458	3,184,458	–	2,371,862	2,371,862
Total income from charitable activities	446,732	6,183,637	6,630,368	484,275	4,604,453	5,088,729

## 4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 Total £
Dividends	15,248	–	15,248	13,736	–	13,736
Interest	5,012	–	5,012	93	–	93
	20,260	–	20,260	13,829	–	13,829



## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

## 5a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities								
	Cost of raising funds £	Engagement programmes £	Education programmes £	Policy, Partnerships & Impact £	Regions, branches and sections £	Grants Programme £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	2023 Total £
Staff costs (Note 8)	86,431	467,487	323,891	153,550	–	187,940	24,037	233,052	<b>1,476,388</b>
Direct costs	30,635	1,195,446	530,421	127,750	5,649	2,852,475	–	48,985	<b>4,791,361</b>
Investment managers' fees	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10,310	<b>10,310</b>
Office costs	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	250,948	<b>250,948</b>
Depreciation and disposals	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13,902	<b>13,902</b>
Legal and professional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	23,807	<b>23,807</b>
Irrecoverable VAT	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	180,607	<b>180,607</b>
Office service charge	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	131,103	<b>131,103</b>
Office equipment	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	221	<b>221</b>
Insurance	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	11,452	<b>11,452</b>
Marketing and PR	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9,156	<b>9,156</b>
	<b>117,066</b>	<b>1,662,933</b>	<b>854,312</b>	<b>281,300</b>	<b>5,649</b>	<b>3,040,415</b>	<b>24,037</b>	<b>913,542</b>	<b>6,899,254</b>
Support costs	65,433	353,914	245,205	106,706	–	126,943	–	(898,203)	<b>.00</b>
Governance costs	1,722	9,312	6,452	2,808	–	3,744	(24,037)	–	<b>(.00)</b>
<b>Total expenditure 2023</b>	<b>184,220</b>	<b>2,026,160</b>	<b>1,105,970</b>	<b>390,814</b>	<b>5,649</b>	<b>3,171,102</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>15,339</b>	<b>6,899,254</b>

## 5b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities								2022 Total £
	Cost of raising funds £	Engagement programmes £	Education programmes £	Policy, Partnerships & Impact £	Regions, branches and sections £	Grants Programme £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	
Staff costs (Note 8)	68,746	431,741	270,500	227,729	–	147,706	26,077	188,555	1,361,054
Direct costs	17,665	631,099	426,399	111,983	11,427	2,003,299	–	56,073	3,257,945
Investment managers' fees	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	11,171	11,171
Office costs	–	–	–	–	–	–	574	222,434	223,008
Depreciation and disposals	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14,093	14,093
Legal and professional	–	–	–	–	–	–	11,750	154	11,904
Irrecoverable VAT	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	128,306	128,306
Office service charge	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	101,039	101,039
Office equipment	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Insurance	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8,238	8,238
Marketing and PR	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	11,902	11,902
	86,411	1,062,840	696,899	339,712	11,427	2,151,005	38,401	741,965	5,128,660
Support costs	47,170	293,383	187,884	82,048	–	106,072	–	(716,557)	–
Governance costs	2,528	15,723	10,069	4,397	–	5,684	(38,401)	–	–
<b>Total expenditure 2022</b>	<b>136,109</b>	<b>1,371,946</b>	<b>894,852</b>	<b>426,157</b>	<b>11,427</b>	<b>2,262,761</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>25,408</b>	<b>5,128,660</b>

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

**6 Grant making**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cost</b>		
Wellcome Trust grants	2,506,777	1,788,659
Engagement Grants	151,425	155,223.00
Education Grants	112,750	121,300.00
PPI Grants	–	10,000.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At the end of the year	<b>2,770,952</b>	2,075,182
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**7 Net income / (expenditure) for the period**

This is stated after charging :

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation	13,902	10,658
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	60,920	35,381
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit	13,500	11,750
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel**

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries and wages	1,275,583	1,173,864
Social security costs	134,811	107,267
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	65,995	79,923
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>1,476,388</b>	1,361,054
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) during the period between:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£60,000 – £69,999	1	–
£70,000 – £79,999	1	2
£90,000 – £99,999	–	1
> £100,000	–	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The total employee benefits including pension contributions of the key management personnel were £220,430.58 (2022: £261,916).

The Council members were not paid nor received any other benefits from employment with the Association in the year (2023: £nil). No Council member received payment for professional or other services supplied to the Association (2022: £nil).

Council members' expenses represent the payment or reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs totalling £647.88 (2022: £248) incurred by 2 (2022: 2) members relating to attendance at Council meetings.

**9 Staff numbers**

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the period was as follows:

	<b>2023 No.</b>	<b>2022 No.</b>
Fundraising, marketing and public relations	5.3	4.0
Engagement programmes	9.1	6.9
Educational programmes	7.8	7.3
Policy, Partnerships & Impact	5.0	5.6
Ideas Fund	3.0	2.5
Support and Governance	6.1	6.2
	<b>36.2</b>	<b>32.5</b>

**10 Related party transactions**

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2023 (2022: none).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

**11 Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

**12 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Fixtures and fittings £</b>	<b>Computer equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
At the start of the year	30,211	33,030	<b>63,241</b>
Additions in year	–	13,259	<b>13,259</b>
Disposals in year	–	(2,711)	<b>(2,711)</b>
At the end of the year	<b>30,211</b>	<b>43,578</b>	<b>73,789</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At the start of the year	28,063	9,268	<b>37,330</b>
Charge for the year	669	12,500	<b>13,169</b>
Eliminated on disposal		(2,364)	<b>(2,364)</b>
At the end of the year	<b>28,730</b>	<b>19,404</b>	<b>48,135</b>
<b>Net book value At the end of the year</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>24,174</b>	<b>25,654</b>
At the start of the Year	<b>2,148</b>	<b>23,763</b>	<b>25,911</b>

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

## Notes to the financial statements

## For the year ended 31 March 2023

## 13 Listed investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Fair value at the start of the year	1,216,970	1,228,066
Additions at cost	429,981	314,881
Disposal proceeds	(366,128)	(338,165)
Net (loss)/gain on change in fair value	(52,415)	12,188
	<u>1,228,408</u>	<u>1,216,970</u>
Cash held by investment broker pending reinvestment	36,395	97,371
	<u>1,264,804</u>	<u>1,314,340</u>
Fair value at the end of the year		
	<u>1,264,804</u>	<u>1,314,340</u>
Historic cost at the end of the year	<u>1,190,336</u>	<u>1,178,874</u>

Investments comprise:

	2023 £	2022 £
Shares listed on the London Stock Exchange	1,228,408	1,216,970
Cash	36,395	97,371
	<u>1,264,804</u>	<u>1,314,341</u>

## 14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	103,755	98,082
Other debtors	209	17
Prepayments	48,933	47,399
Accrued income	991,539	1,126,541
	<u>1,144,436</u>	<u>1,272,040</u>

## 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	145,635	149,799
Taxation and social security	64,356	71,663
Other creditors	84,120	68,457
Accruals	410,873	177,445
Grant accruals	1,020,676	1,018,738
Deferred income	299,250	460,577
	<u>2,024,909</u>	<u>1,946,680</u>

## Notes to the financial statements

## For the year ended 31 March 2023

## 16 Deferred income

Deferred income comprises both fees received in advance of the delivery of the services and grants received for future financial periods.

	2023 £	2022 £
Balance at the beginning of the period	460,577	616,573
Amount released to income in the period	(460,577)	(616,573)
Amount deferred in the period	299,250	460,577
Balance at the end of the period	299,250	460,577

## 17a Analysis of net assets between funds (current year)

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 Total £
Tangible fixed assets	25,654	–	25,654
Investments	1,264,804	–	1,264,804
Net current assets	531,845	238,049	769,894
Net assets at the end of the year	1,822,303	238,049	2,060,352

## 17b Analysis of net assets between funds (prior period)

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 Total £
Tangible fixed assets	25,910	–	25,910
Investments	1,314,341	–	1,314,341
Net current assets	493,601	339,118	832,719
Net assets at the end of the period	1,833,852	339,118	2,172,970

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

## 18a Movements in funds (current year)

	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
Engagement programmes					
British Science Festival	–	1,056,560	(1,046,960)	(9,600)	0
Other engagement programmes	17,392	869,754	(887,146)	–	–
Education programmes	170,388	928,146	(1,029,131)	–	69,403
Policy, Partnerships & Impact	–	144,717	(144,717)	–	–
Grants programme	134,666	3,184,458	(3,171,101)	–	148,024
Sections and regions	16,672	–	(5,649)	9,600	20,623
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>339,118</b>	<b>6,183,634</b>	<b>(6,284,704)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>238,049</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
Designated funds:					
Engagement programmes					
British Science Festival	80,000	–	(14,071)	34,899	100,828
Other engagement programmes	80,000	65,700	(77,983)	22,283	90,000
Education programmes	145,000	244,923	(76,839)	(193,083)	120,001
Policy, Partnerships & Impact	225,000	136,110	(246,098)	89,988	205,000
Contingency for wind-down costs	500,000	–	–	–	500,000
Innovation Fund	15,861	–	–	–	15,861
<b>Total designated funds</b>	<b>1,045,861</b>	<b>446,733</b>	<b>(414,991)</b>	<b>(45,913)</b>	<b>1,031,690</b>
<b>General funds</b>	<b>787,990</b>	<b>156,269</b>	<b>(199,559)</b>	<b>45,913</b>	<b>790,613</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>1,833,851</b>	<b>603,002</b>	<b>(614,550)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,822,303</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>2,172,969</b>	<b>6,786,636</b>	<b>(6,899,254)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,060,352</b>

## 18b Movements in funds (prior period)

	At 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
Engagement programmes					
British Science Festival	–	523,973	(525,122)	1,149	–
Other engagement programmes	32,000	723,063	(737,671)	–	17,392
Education programmes	80,307	934,751	(844,670)	–	170,388
Policy, Partnerships & Impact	104,693	50,805	(155,498)	–	–
Grants programme	25,565	2,371,862	(2,262,761)	–	134,666
Branches	2,350	–	–	(2,350)	–
Sections and regions	29,248	–	(11,427)	(1,149)	16,672
Other	–	81,994	(81,994)	–	–
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>274,163</b>	<b>4,686,448</b>	<b>(4,619,143)</b>	<b>(2,350)</b>	<b>339,118</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
Designated funds:					
Engagement programmes					
British Science Festival	148,187	–	–	(68,187)	80,000
Other engagement programmes	70,000	68,257	(109,153)	50,896	80,000
Education programmes	167,000	229,759	(50,182)	(201,577)	145,000
Policy, Partnerships & Impact	237,500	186,259	(270,660)	71,901	225,000
Contingency for wind-down costs	500,000	–	–	–	500,000
Innovation Fund	15,861	–	–	–	15,861
<b>Total designated funds</b>	<b>1,138,548</b>	<b>484,275</b>	<b>(429,995)</b>	<b>(146,967)</b>	<b>1,045,860</b>
<b>General funds</b>	<b>598,152</b>	<b>120,046</b>	<b>(79,524)</b>	<b>149,317</b>	<b>787,991</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>1,736,700</b>	<b>604,321</b>	<b>(509,519)</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>1,833,851</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>2,010,863</b>	<b>5,290,769</b>	<b>(5,128,662)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,172,969</b>

**19 Movements in funds – descriptions**

**Purposes of restricted funds**

Festival of Science

These are funds received specifically to deliver the Festival of Science and have been fully spent in the year.

Other engagement programmes

These are funds received specifically to deliver Engagement Programmes.

Grants Programme

These are funds received directly to deliver the Ideas Fund programme. At the year end some grant funding had not been fully spent and has been carried forward.

Education

These are funds received predominantly to deliver work relating to the CREST awards. At the year end some grant funding had not been fully spent and has been carried forward.

Policy, Partnerships & Impact

These are funds received in order to deliver work in relation to the For Thought Summit.

Sections

Sections raise their own funds as well as receive contributions from the engagement programmes. The majority of the balances are restricted funding from the British Science Festival.

**19 Movements in funds – descriptions (continued)**

**Purposes of designated funds**

British Science Festival

These are funds set aside by management in order to support the activities of the Science Festival during the coming financial year if required.

Engagement

These are funds set aside by management in order to support the activities of the Engagement team in the coming financial year if required.

Education

These are funds set aside by management in order to support the activities of the Education Team in the coming financial year if required.

Policy, Partnerships & Impact

These are funds set aside by management in order to support the activities of the PPI Team in the coming financial year if required.

Contingency for wind-down costs

We currently hold £500,000 in designated reserves as a contingency in the case of wind down.

Innovation Fund

The availability of this fund encourages our staff to develop and implement ideas that contribute to our strategic goals during the year.

Transfers between funds

Transfers have been made between funds to enable the right reserves to be available in the right areas as described above.



## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

## 20 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>	<b>(112,615)</b>	<b>162,107</b>
Depreciation charges	13,169	10,658
(Profit)/loss on the disposal of fixed assets	345	3,435
(Gains)/losses on investments	52,414	(12,188)
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	(20,261)	(13,829)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	127,601	(781,662)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	78,231	969,304
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>138,884</b>	<b>337,825</b>

## 21 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 31 March 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,507,360	143,008	1,650,368
Cash awaiting investment	97,372	(60,977)	36,395
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,604,731</b>	<b>82,031</b>	<b>1,686,763</b>

## 22 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods.

	Property	
	2023 £	2022 £
Less than 1 year	67,102	62,712
1 – 5 Years	268,408	250,848
Over 5 years	1,006,529	1,003,394
	<b>1,342,039</b>	<b>1,316,953</b>

The commitment relates to the service charge due under the Wellcome Wolfson Building lease. The term of the lease is for 40 years from 29 September 2003 increasing by inflation each year.

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

## 23 Detail of branches, and sections and regions restricted funds

	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources & gains	Outgoing resources & losses	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
<b>Sections and regions</b>					
Agriculture & Food	109	–	(75)	800	834
Anthropology	–	–	(557)	400	(157)
Biological Sciences	–	–	(63)	400	338
Chemistry	4,673	–	–	400	5,073
Economics	1,871	–	–	–	1,871
Education	1,465	–	–	–	1,465
Engineering	2,265	–	–	800	3,065
General	1,178	–	(708)	800	1,270
Geography	2,302	–	(366)	400	2,336
Geology	816	–	(608)	800	1,007
History of Science	–	–	(232)	800	568
Mathematics	552	–	–	800	1,352
Medical Sciences	595	–	(200)	400	795
Physics	469	–	(1,050)	800	219
Psychology	2,662	–	(1,065)	800	2,398
Science & The Arts	–	–	(664)	800	136
Sociology	15	–	(63)	400	352
<b>Total sections and regions restricted funds</b>	<b>18,971</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(5,648)</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>22,923</b>

## 24 Post Balance Sheet Events

Since the year end there has been a material change in the VAT recognition on CREST income. This was agreed with HMRC in July 2023. This does not require an adjustment to the accounts, however this has been disclosed as information for the reader of the accounts.