

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 214508

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023
FOR
THE MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY**

THE MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY

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for the year ended 31 December 2023**

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THE MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Medico-Legal Society is an unincorporated registered charity (No. 214508) governed by the Rules of the Society as approved by the Trustees of the Society and by the Council of the Society at meetings on 11 May 2023; adopted by the Society at its Annual General Meeting on 8 June 2023; and approved by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 24 October 2023.

The Medico-Legal Society's registered address is:

89 Elm Bank Gardens
London
SW13 0NX

TRUSTEES

The following Council members have served as trustees in 2023:

From January to June 2023:

Dr Tania Francis
Dr Sarah Galbraith
Mrs Anne Raikes
Mr Simon Readhead KC
Dr Mark Tarn

From July to December 2023:

Dr Tania Francis
Dr Sarah Galbraith
Professor Rachael Mulheron KC (Hon)
Mrs Anne Raikes
Mr Simon Readhead KC
Dr Mark Tarn

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following individuals were Council members for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023:

Mr Charles Bennett
Mrs Diana Brahams
Dr. Gerrard Burnett
Dr Tania Francis
Dr Sarah Galbraith
Ms Linda Lee
Advocate Edwina Casebow (January to October 2023)
Mrs Anne Raikes
Professor Rachael Mulheron KC (Hon)
Mr Michael Levenstein
Ms. Evelyn Palmer
Dr James Pattison
Dr Katy Peters
Mr Simon Readhead KC
Dr Giuseppe Spoto
Dr Mark Tarn
Dr (Eleanor) Jane Turner
Professor Harry Zeitlin



THE MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – CONTINUED for the year ended 31 December 2023

OFFICERS

The following Council members have served as Officers in 2023:

President: Mr Simon Readhead KC
Editor, Medico-Legal Journal: Mrs Diana Brahams
Medical Editor, Medico-Legal Journal: Dr (Eleanor) Jane Turner
Honorary Treasurer: Mrs Anne Raikes
Honorary Medical Secretary: Dr Gerrard Burnett
Honorary Legal Secretary: Ms Evelyn Palmer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Lawrence Melinek
7 Helenslea Avenue
London
NW11 8NE

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – CONTINUED for the year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the society is to promote Medico-Legal knowledge in all its aspects. This is to be achieved by holding meetings at which papers are read and discussed. There have been no material changes in policy since the last report.

PUBLIC BENEFIT TEST

Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 requires charity trustees to have due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission under section 17(1) of that Act in exercising their powers or duties. The trustees confirm that they have referred to this guidance when reviewing the organisation's aims and objectives, in planning future activities and generally in exercising any powers and duties to which the guidance is relevant.

RULES OF THE SOCIETY

New Rules of the Society were approved by the Trustees of the Society and by the Council of the Society at meetings on 11 May 2023, were adopted by the Society at its Annual General Meeting on 8 June 2023 and were approved by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 24 October 2023.

The organisation of the Rules has been re-ordered in Parts 1 and 2 to replicate the division contained in the Model Constitution prepared by the Charity Commission for Charitable Associations (Unincorporated) dated November 2013 and updated in January 2017. The provisions in Part 1 relate to the purposes of the charity and how its money and other property can be used. These provisions can only be changed by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at a meeting. Part 2 contains those provisions which are administrative in nature. These provisions can be changed by a simple majority of those members.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – CONTINUED for the year ended 31 December 2023

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The Board of Trustees is delighted that Lawrence Melinek continues as independent examiner in 2023.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES BY THE HONORARY LEGAL SECRETARY

In the year ending 31 December 2023, the Society had a total of 232 members (in 2022, 207 members). There were 38 new members who joined the Society in 2023 across all membership categories – Ordinary, Associate, Student and Overseas. The Society embarked on a successful recruitment initiative to promote group membership at a reduced rate. In November 2023, the Society welcomed its first group members from a firm of regulatory defence solicitors.

The Society held nine meetings during 2023, prior to which the Council met on each occasion. During 2023 the Society was again fortunate to be addressed by a number of distinguished speakers.

January 2023:	Professor Neil Greenberg , Professor of Defence Mental Health – “Adjustment disorder, moral injury and the Case of Marine “A””.
February 2023:	Dr Gabrielle Pendlebury , Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist – “County Lines”.
March 2023:	Sir Liam Joseph Donaldson , FRCSE FRCP FRCPE FMedSci FRCA. Former Chief Medical Officer for England – Vaccines and Geopolitics.
April 2023:	Professor Mike Tipton MBE, FTPS, Professor of Human & Applied Physiology – “Extreme environmental physiology in the dock”.
May 2023:	Baroness Cumberlege CBE DL – “First do no harm” – “Primodos, sodium valproate and surgical mesh”.
June 2023:	Dr Christine Tomkins , BSC(Hons) MBChB (Hons) DO FRCS FRCOphth FRCP MBA. Retired CEO, Medical Defence Union – “Tales of the Unexpected – 36 years of Medical Defence”.
October 2023:	Dr Simon Wilson , MA FRCPsych, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist – “The Fixed Threat Assessment Centre”.
November 2023:	Dr Vassilios Hurmusiadis BEng, MA, PhD, and Mr Kevin Sherman MA (Cantab) BM BCh (Oxon) FRCS Med PhD – “Simulation-based training in cardiology The role of simulation and AI in medical education”.
December 2023:	Mr. David Sellu MSc, ChM, FRCS, FRCSEd., former Honorary Consultant Surgeon at St Mark’s Hospital, London – “When Things Go Wrong – Consent, Manslaughter and Gross Clinical Negligence”.

THE MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – CONTINUED for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Society continues to deliver in-person and remote presentations, and has received positive feedback from remote attendees that the audio-visual equipment purchased in 2022 has made a significant difference. The Society continues to grow its online presence, and by 31 December 2023, had over 720 LinkedIn followers.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL POSITION BY THE HONORARY TREASURER

There was a small deficit in 2023 of £544 similar to that of £462 in 2022. Higher income from subscriptions and investments offset the greater cost of returning to in-person monthly lectures at Lettsom House.

The Society had a successful Annual Dinner with more guests than in previous years. The trustees are grateful to Sage for their ongoing donations towards this dinner, and for their support of the Society in its other endeavours.

Monthly lectures continue to be available remotely in real time and are also accessible to members on demand via the Society's YouTube channel. The investment in audio-visual equipment in 2022 has enabled this.

2023 was a slightly better year than 2022 as interest rises plateaued and the economic outlook became clearer. The value of the investment in the BlackRock Charities Growth and Income Fund recovered by £744 over the year, after a fall of £12,152 in 2022. The Society continues to benefit from a regular quarterly dividend.

Income from the Minty Trust increased to £4,540 in 2023 compared with £2,770 in 2022 as equities paid better dividends than previous years.

As a result, total reserves as at 31 December 2023 amounted to £110,204 (£110,004 at end 2022) made up of cash at bank as adjusted for amounts due to and from the Society plus the investment portfolio and the audio-visual equipment.

Details of income and expenses can be found in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 7.

INVESTMENT POWERS

The constitution of the charity authorises the trustees to make and hold investments, which they see as appropriate using the general funds of the charity.

RESERVES POLICY

The policy of the charity is to maintain sufficient funds so that over a period of time sufficient income can be generated from the funds held to carry out the functions of the charity.

RISK ANALYSIS

The trustees who are responsible for the charity are implementing risk management as a matter of policy. A review has taken place and it has considered the following main areas of risk.

Investments:	Consideration of responsibility of brokers to the trust and stock market performance.
Accounts:	Production of annual accounts together with internal management controls.
Charitable Objects:	Ensuring that the charity funds are used in accordance with the trust's charitable objects.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

By order of the trustees on June 2024

Mr Simon Readhead KC

President

Simon Readhead KC
Simon Readhead KC (Jun 11, 2024 09:14 GMT+1)

Mrs Anne Raikes -

Treasurer

Anne Raikes
Anne Raikes (Jun 11, 2024 13:55 GMT+1)

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Medico-Legal Society for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Medico-Legal Society, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Medico-Legal Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Lawrence Melinek BSc. (Hons) ACMA CGMA

Address: 7 Helenslea Avenue, London NW11 8NE

Date:

THE MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 December 2023

			2023		2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES	1(b)				
Subscriptions			19,627		18,207
Investment income from:					
Managed Investments		2,930		2,723	
Minty bequest		4,540		2,770	
			7,470		5,493
Other income:					
Annual dinner and donation			8,981		9,032
Donations received	3		1,806		-
Total incoming resources			37,884		32,733
RESOURCES EXPENDED	1(c)				
Direct charitable expenditure:					
Expenses of meetings		10,357		7,427	
Journal production		4,110		4,380	
Annual dinner costs		9,126		8,661	
Small IT costs		154		567	
Depreciation of audio-visual equipment	1(d)	1,491		1,491	
Administration expenses		4,421		2,669	
			29,659		25,195
Governance costs					
Honorary		7,000		7,000	
Insurance		855		562	
Website management		559		380	
Sundry		355		58	
			8,769		8,000
Total resources expended			38,428		33,195
Net outgoing resources			(544)		(462)
Other recognised gains and losses					
Unrealised gain (2022 unrealised loss) on investments			744		(12,152)
Total net movement in funds			200		(12,614)
Fund balances brought forward at 1 January 2023			110,004		122,618
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2023			110,204		110,004

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
At 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	2	4,472	5,963
Investments	3	88,610	87,866
Total fixed assets		93,082	93,829
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	4	2,473	701
Prepayments	4	500	-
Cash at bank	5	24,866	23,916
		27,739	24,618
CREDITORS:			
Subscriptions in advance	6	10,617	7,693
Amounts falling due in one year	6	-	750
		10,617	8,443
NET CURRENT ASSETS		16,622	16,175
TOTAL NET ASSETS		110,204	122,618
FUNDS			
Income and expenditure account	7	110,204	122,618
Total Reserves		110,204	122,618

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 2024
and were signed on its behalf
by:

Mrs Anne Raikes - Treasurer

Anne Raikes
Anne Raikes (Jun 11, 2024 13:55 GMT+1)

Mr Simon Readhead KC - President

Simon Readhead KC
Simon Readhead KC (Jun 11, 2024 09:14 GMT+1)

THE MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' EFA, the and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

(c) Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

(d) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Audio-visual equipment was purchased in 2022 in order to make monthly lecture and Council meetings available remotely. The cost of this equipment will be written off over its expected useful life of five years on a straight-line basis.

(e) Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the statement of financial position date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the realised gains and losses on acquisitions and disposals as well as the unrealised gains and losses throughout the year. The unrealised gains or losses represent the difference between the market value and the book value on the annual accounting date, namely 31 December 2023. Unrealised gains or losses are transferred to the accumulated fund. The actual gain or loss will depend upon the prices ruling at the time of sale. The figure for unrealised gains is therefore only an indication of the position.

(f) Irrecoverable vat

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources for which the related expenditure was incurred.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2023

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Audio- visual equipment £	Total £	2022 £
Cost or valuation			
At 1st January 2023	7,454	7,454	0
Additions	0	0	7,454
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 December 2023	<u>7,454</u>	<u>7,454</u>	<u>7,454</u>
Depreciation			
At 1st January 2023	1,491	1,491	0
Disposals	0	0	0
Depreciation in year	1,491	1,491	1,491
At 31 December 2023	<u>2,982</u>	<u>2,982</u>	<u>1,491</u>
Net book value at 1st January 2023	<u>5,963</u>	<u>5,963</u>	<u>0</u>
Net book value at 31st December 2023	<u>4,472</u>	<u>4,472</u>	<u>5,963</u>

3. INVESTMENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Market value at 1 January 2023	87,866	100,018
Acquisitions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Revaluation	744	(12,152)
Market value at 31 December 2023	<u>88,610</u>	<u>87,866</u>
Investments at market value comprised:		
BlackRock Charities Growth and Income Fund	88,610	87,866
Historical cost	<u>85,000</u>	<u>85,000</u>

THE MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
4 DEBTORS		
Other debtors	1,510	701
Prepayments and accrued income	963	0
	<u>2,473</u>	<u>701</u>
5 CASH AT BANK IN HAND		
Business account	17,758	16,908
Treasurers account	7,008	7,008
	<u>24,765</u>	<u>23,916</u>
6 CREDITORS		
Amounts due within one year	-	750
Deferred income – subscriptions in advance	10,617	7,693
	<u>10,617</u>	<u>8,443</u>
7 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		
Balance at 1 January 2023	110,004	122,618
Net outgoing resources	(544)	(462)
Investment gains	744	(12,152)
Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>110,204</u>	<u>110,004</u>