NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

England & Wales · Charity number 236629

Details

Other names	NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, NFBUK
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1964-09-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	National Federation of The Blind Sir John Wilson House 215 Kirkgate Wakefield WF1 1JG
Phone	01924291313
Email	admin@nfbuk.org
Website	www.nfbuk.org

Activities

Objects: THROUGH REPRESENTATION AND CAMPAIGNING, THE FEDERATION STRIVES TO IMPROVE ASPECTS AND QUALITY OF DAILY LIFE FOR ALL BLIND, PARTIALLY SIGHTED, AND DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE AND THOSE WHOãS SIGHT IMPAIRMENT IS PART OF MULTI DISABILITY, IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Activities: The federation, through its blind and partially sighted membership, seeks to promote a better quality of life for all visually impaired people through local activities at branch level and nationally through campaigning.

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Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Disability
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£31,819	£79,780	-	-
2023-12-31	£73,282	£87,029	-	-
2022-12-31	£58,548	£96,463	-	-
2021-12-31	£44,013	£66,543	-	-
2020-12-31	£22,283	£56,216	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Clive Lever		2023-09-30
Douglas Gilroy		2025-10-25
Dr Devaki Sivasubramanian		2020-09-12
Elizabeth Ann Silver		2022-09-24
Jill Allen-King		2024-01-11
MR A HODGSON		2013-07-29
MR K FARRELL		
Sandra Kane		2025-09-27

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

England & Wales - Charity number 236629

Accounts

NFBUK
The Voice of Blind People

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Charity Number (England & Wales): 236629
Charity Number (Scotland): SC040134

NFBUK

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

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NFBUK

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended

31 December 2024

Report of the Trustees

The President (Chairperson) and trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name: National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom

English Reference:	236629
Scottish Reference:	SC040134
Registered Office:	Sir John Wilson House, 215 Kirkgate, Wakefield, WF1 1JG
Email:	admin@nfbuk.org
Tel:	01924 291313

Governing Document: Rules & Constitution dated June 1947 (as amended) and then revised 2010

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Solicitors: Wrigleys Solicitors, 19 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AG

Accountant & Independent Examiners:
Stewart & Co Chartered Accountants, Castlecroft Business Centre, Tom Johnston Road, Dundee, DD4 8XD

Patron: Professor Ian Bruce CBE

Trustees and Executive Council 2023

President:	Karl Farrell
Vice-President:	Jill Allen-King O.B.E
Honorary General Secretary:	Dr Devaki Sivasubramanian
Acting Honorary General Treasurer:	Karl Farrell

Ordinary Executive Council Members:

Liz Silver
Clive Lever (from September 2022)
Andrew Hodgson (from September 2022)
Tesfai Berhane (from September 2022)

NFBUK
Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Report of the Trustees

1. Foreword

The Trustees of NFBUK welcome readers to this, their 2024 report and accounts. We have provided an overview of the current status of the organisation and the purpose it serves. The Trustees welcome whatever support that readers might choose to give.

2. Aims and Objectives

The Federation is an independent, non-political, self-help campaigning pressure group and registered charity. Registered under the National Assistance Act, 1948 (as amended), and the Charities Act, 1961 (as amended). Today it is still managed by blind and partially sighted people.

Through representation and campaigning, the Federation strives to improve aspects and quality of daily life for all blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability, in the United Kingdom.

The organisation seeks to:
take action to improve the life conditions of blind, deaf-blind,

partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability by making representations and working towards the improvement of information provided for them.

In furtherance of the above, the Federation has been involved in a number of issues over the past year and this report is a summary of some of these issues.

3. Structure, Governance and Management

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).

Governing Document

National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom is a registered charity and is governed by the Rules and Constitution dated June 1947, (Revised April 2002 & October 2010).

Risk Management

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and will continue to increase reserves where possible, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems and will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks. The Trustees are confident that internal controls are adequate, both at national and local levels.

The Charity is managed by an elected Executive Council which

normally meets at least every two months and implements decisions following suggestions and discussions with members and branches. Branches manage their own affairs under the oversight of the Executive Council.

From our national office in Wakefield we service our members and branches which are situated throughout the UK, including one postal branch, Central Branch. We employ one part-time office administrator who is supported by unpaid volunteers. This member of staff was managed in the year under review by the Honorary General Secretary and they received instructions from the Executive Council. From 2018, we also employed a part-time Shared Space Campaign Coordinator managed by the President.

Our Executive, branch officers and members all work on an unpaid voluntary basis. All members of the Executive Council, (with the exception of any co-opted members), are regarded as Trustees. They are ultimately collectively responsible for all actions of the Federation nationally and locally.

There have been no changes in the aims or objectives during this current year and we continue our support for blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability.

Executive Officers serve for a period of three years but no more than six consecutive years.

Branches

The Federation has 7 branches throughout the United Kingdom, each branch having its own Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Each branch is governed by the Constitution and Rules of the Federation and is obliged to send minutes to the National Office. The Federation also has associate

members and membership is also open to affiliated organisations.

4. Office Administration and Service to Members

In addition to the foregoing work, from our national office in Wakefield we service over 500 members and 7 branches around the UK. As approximately 70% of our members are blind or partially sighted, individual communications require to be sent out in many formats including Braille, audio, large print and E-mail, all of which require a specialist range of skills from our office staff and additional finance.

The majority of our members are over 65 and being blind or partially sighted, many may live alone and rely on their regular audio USB sticks or Braille communications from the Federation, which arrive 2 or 3 times per month, keeping them up to date with news about their local area, changes in Government benefits and legislation in addition to Federation activities. Each month they receive a Federation magazine i.e. one month "FedNews", giving them items of information and interest from a World, European, UK and local perspective. On alternative months they receive a further Federation internal magazine on USB stick entitled "FedTalk", on which they can both listen and talk to the Executive, and also to other blind friends and members from across the country. This valuable service comprises a large workload of our Office

5. Review of Progress and Achievements

President's Report

NFBUK continued in 2024 its campaigning and consultation to defend and improve aspects and quality of daily life for all blind, partially sighted and deaf-blind people, and those whose sight impairment is part of multi-disability. Issues related to street access continued in 2024 to be our main campaigning and consulting focus, both at Branch level and *nationally*.

Nationally in January, NFBUK campaigners Attended the launch of the Roundtable Report on 'How to Make London an Accessible City for All' by the Disability Policy Centre. Our campaigners found some allies there and managed to get some press coverage from a report by the Centre. In wet winter weather when cycle tracks become waterlogged, cyclists take their bikes out of the cycle track and intrude onto pavements. These situations lead to confused and erratic behaviour.

NFBUK has readily shared its evidence on the problems on island bus stops and shared use bus borders (SUBBs) with other disability organisations. SUBBs can be particularly dangerous because the cycle track has no tactile-detectable kerb to indicate its presence. Sometimes a small pavement upstand is put in to denote the edge of the cycle track. This presents itself as a small hump on the pavement but it can't be very pronounced lest it become a trip hazard.

Several of our Branches continued to consult with their local authorities and other organisations on street access and to raise issues on behalf of their members generally. These links have been established over many years. Reports on Branch activities can be found in Appendix B of this document.

Sarah Gayton, our Research and Campaigns Officer and Street Access Campaigns Coordinator, has continued to take petitions to 10 Downing Street. Those visits allow the media to meet our campaigners and

highlight recent developments. By February 2024 the NFBUK petition against floating bus stops had 253 other organisations signed up to it in support.

NFBUK continued to gather pictorial evidence of dockless bikes (bikes available to rent online) left on pavements so that they become trip hazards to pedestrians. The business model for these bikes relies on the expectation that their next customer will claim them for their journey but there is nowhere but on the pavement for abandoned bikes to be left.

By early April 2024 the NFBUK petition against floating bus stops had gathered over 270 supporting organisations and a successful open meeting for parliamentarians had been held at Portcullis House. At this meeting, parliamentarians were shown film evidence of the problems around floating bus stops and they were able to interview our members who explained why they avoided those stops.

During the year, NFBUK members have been taken to new samples of variants on the floating bus stop concept and found them horrifyingly awkward to negotiate. Some members are guide dog users and they have attended GDBA workshops on bus stops. NFBUK members also attended workshops with the police and it is understood that our evidence led the police to seek to make it normal practice for privately owned e-scooters to be confiscated if found being used on public roads.

NFBUK investigations working with journalists have found some instances of serious injury to pedestrians that were not included in Transport for London statistics. We cannot know how many people have been hurt where cyclists interface with bus passengers. But even more uncertain is the number of blind and partially sighted bus travelers who plan their bus journeys to avoid the uncomfortable interactions with busy cycle tracks at rush hour. Blind pedestrians will not risk their

exposure to collisions because they cannot hear cyclists coming on streets where there is a lot of background noise.

It is evident that the public increasingly shares blind peoples' dislike of floating bus stops and shared use bus borders. TfL assessment of the safety of bus stops does not include the latter type, configurations that tended to be installed by outer London Boroughs. Research undertaken for GDBA to determine how well guide dogs coped led to the discovery that the dogs just could not cope with the shared use bus borders. This research was later to influence Government that perhaps the design is unacceptable.

Provision of Guide Dogs.

In order to implement the resolution passed at the 2023 Annual Delegates Conference concerning guide dog issues, Jill Allen-King organised two meetings during the year with management of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. We held one meeting in July attended by eight guide dog owners, representing all our branches, except Stockport who do not have a guide dog owner, and another meeting in October with ten members. Also attending were Peter Osborne, Assistant Chief Executive and other members of the Guide Dogs staff.

Issues covered were the new method of training, long waiting list, the allocation of resources, the affect on the health of our members who are having to wait for a replacement dog.

Both of our meetings were reported in the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association Annual Report, appreciating the work of the Federation. Future meetings will be held.

At the AGM 2024, a motion, submitted by NFBUK was passed, calling for us to campaign for fair and equal access to our finances. The need for us to embark on this work was largely, but not solely due to the impacts on us of the increasing use of touchscreen card readers, inconsistencies in the way banks provide information about our accounts in alternative formats, and the closure of many high street branches.

Following the formal AGM, we ran a workshop on the subject of Access to money by our members and their peers. Having explained how the need for such a campaign came about, the main purpose of the workshop was to hear and collect members' stories of challenges they'd experience when managing or spending money, challenges not faced by the non-disabled public at large.

The issues raised included:

- Frustration experienced by members on encountering touch screen card readers when paying for goods and services. One member told of the difficulties she had when asked to key in a PIN number when paying after receiving dental treatment. The challenges at dental surgeries would appear several times in the coming months. This is because the maximum amount payable in one transaction without the need for a PIN to be entered is £100. Often, after a visit to the dentist in which work has to be done, the amount payable exceeds £100.
- The closure of many high street branches now means a taxi journey of several miles each way to visit the nearest bank, where a short walk or bus ride would have sufficed in the past.

A subgroup was set up to take action to try to find solutions to some of the challenges identified in the workshop, and to identify organisations that would bring influence to bear to make sure we weren't left behind as high street branches continue to close, and technology continues to alter

the way we manage our accounts and pay for goods. We then established contact with Adam Scarrett, who leads on inclusion at YJ Finance, the national advisory body which gives service providers guidance on how to put into place new ways of using banks and spending at retail outlets, without excluding people who have additional requirements, such as people with print impairments (note that I have used the term because blind, Deafblind and partially-sighted people are not the only disabled people with print impairments – people with dyslexia would encounter many of the issues we do when faced with touch screen card readers). In the following year, we would share anonymised case studies from our members with UK Finance, who would then go on to include the points we raised in their main report on the future of banks and retail outlets. It is hoped that that report will be widely read among service providers. One of the problems we have is that most shopkeepers and other service providers currently only discover that we have difficulties spending our money using touch screens when they encounter a blind person who struggles or is unable to enter their PINs on these machines. The UK finance report aims to address this.

We would appreciate hearing from any member who is keen to take an active part in the work the Touch Of Inclusion subgroup is doing.

Thanks go to the existing members of the subgroup for their support. They are:

- Liz Silver
- Pardy Gill
- Anna Lawson (whose specialist knowledge of equality law is particularly valuable)

Clive Lever.

On support for sight loss, there has been very little take-up in 2023.

This issue is a project that will take years to develop. It also requires the active involvement of lots of members to bear witness that blind and partially sighted people are not getting the support they need to cope with changes in their lives.

I would like to close by thanking everyone who has contributed to our work during the past year, both at national and branch level, in our campaigns, socially and in giving to our funds. I would particularly like to thank our employees, our Administrator/Communications Co-Ordinator Louisa Pouncett for keeping the office running on a day-to-day basis and serving the admin needs of the EC and members in general and Sarah Gayton our Research and Campaigns Officer and Street Access Campaigns Coordinator, for her energetic and tireless work. I would also like to thank Carol Hudson for her freelance fundraising on our behalf, particularly in a time where donors are becoming cautious.

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Future Plans

Our Charity strives to maintain acceptable standards in the way it operates its governance and communication by developing, maintaining and regularly updating a Policy Statement that embraces the ambitions of blind, deafblind and partially-sighted people.

External priorities

Legislative:

- Protect the interests of all visually impaired people with regard to the reform of benefits such as Personal Independence Payments & Universal Credit;

- Influence the Government and the local authorities together with other likeminded organizations, in the reform of social care and health legislation, funding and related benefits. We must assert our need for the provision of habilitation, rehabilitation and mobility training support services so that we can then live our own lives;

Mobility:

- Call on local authorities to provide safe and attractive footways for pedestrians on all streets, defined by a kerb and clear of badly parked bicycles and abandoned e-scooters;

- Work to secure equal access to all forms of public transport encouraging staff awareness training, and access to information prior to and during journeys;

- Continue to campaign against "island" or "floating" style bus stops with their priority cycleway and associated zebra crossings;

- Work with cycling organisations to raise the awareness among cyclists about the needs of visually impaired pedestrians;

Political:

- Lobby the Government, broadcasting organisations and the media in general on improving access to the media for visually impaired people, including access to television and the Internet;

Social:

Campaign for the provision of information to access support for all newly diagnosed visually impaired people;

Internal priorities

- Aim to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) thus reducing the liability for trustees;

- To support the Executive Council in training to update their skills;

- Effective budgeting by strengthening all financial and resource matters;

- ensure the efficient running of the office and support of admin staff;

- widening income streams through various means of fundraising, ia the internet and social media and seeking donations from corporates and trusts.

Communication priorities for action include:

- Reviving our internal magazines, Fed News and Fed Talk;

- Encourage the development of new branches and the functionality of existing ones, where applicable;

- Strengthen the effectiveness and working of Central Branch by exploring ways in which its members can more effectively communicate;

Strengthen the relationship between the branches and the EC by improving internal communication and collaboration;

We will aim to democratise our campaign aims by consulting our membership on which campaigns they wish to prioritise;

Improve, partially by funding, the participation of members in involvement with local and national activities;

- Encourage the development of social activities within the organisation;

- Continue to update our functionally sustainable website, and encourage members to join and communicate via our e-group for active members, and the development of other online and social media tools which support existing and prospective members;

-Raise the profile of NFBUK and our campaigns in the media;

- Recruit and retain new members, strengthen involvement and attract more people to contribute directly and indirectly to our campaigns, including sighted volunteers and campaigners

We will take action to update and agree our business plan, taking into account these planned ambitions and if necessary, seek outside assistance to do so.

Karl Farrell

President

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7. Financial Review 2025

Report on annual accounts.

This is my first report as your newly elected honorary general treasurer and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members and branches who nominated me.

Sadly and disappointingly, once again in 2024 we ended the year with a financial head office deficit of above £55,000 which is not only unacceptable but also totally unsustainable.

I wish to extract the maximum value and use of every penny we have. I would urge all members to join with me in trying to eliminate the annual deficit and turn it into a surplus which can then be in turn invested to make money for us. I would like to thank that small number of members who responded to my earlier appeal to consider donating regularly to head office general funds. To those who have not yet responded, I again repeat my appeal to consider making a donation on a regular basis, no matter how small. For example, compared to the cost of running a fully funded NFBUK, our present full subscription of £16 a year is very small. I think most of us could afford to pay to run the Federation on a modest donation of £3 a week. That's hardly the cost of a cup of tea at your local café. As the Government accepts that we are vision impaired, we each receive thousands of pounds annually in benefits (that, incidentally, NFBUK helped to win with other charities). Then the occasional legacies we receive would be a real bonus. We are grateful to the small number of life members who regularly voluntarily financially donate. Branches could also consider carrying out more fundraising opportunities and donating to our funds. It's your Federation and there are no fairy godmother's or magic lucky money trees out there – charity begins at home and needs to be worked at!

Undoubtedly, in addition to increasing our sources of income we also need to address and cut down on our outgoings. In collaboration with branches the E.C. needs to urgently undertake a thorough review of all aspects of our ongoing expenditure and whether our limited resources and revenue could be better expended in other directions/ways. – There should be no "sacred cows" in this review. Past Experiments in offering free or reduced membership has proven that this is not the solution and members should remember that it costs money to campaign and represent you. A blind person speaking on behalf of other blind people carries much more weight and credence, as opposed to someone sighted doing it for us. The Federation is a non political, self help campaigning pressure group and registered charity. Therefore, I call on all members and branches, to work jointly with the E.C. on eliminating our ongoing deficit and working together on recruiting, campaigning, fund raising and building up the Federation in order to deliver our objectives for our members going forward. The E.C. desires branches to become more active in recruiting new members who can take up some of the strain and spread the workload in getting our message across to important decision makers.

Finally, I would like to thank Louisa in our office for her careful retention and keeping of our finances throughout the year and to our accountant Mr David Stewart, for externally examining our financial records.

Douglas Gilroy
Honorary general treasurer

12 September 2025

8. Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:
Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

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 accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Rules and Constitution. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Mr Karl Farrel	Dr Devaki Sivasubramanian
President	Honorary General Secretary
Date:28/01/2026	Date:28/01/2026

Signed by:
92237E7E81B943B...

Financial Report

An Independent Examination of the financial statements is required under Charity Regulations.

We report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 as set out within these financial statements.

Respective Responsibilities of Committee and Independent Examiner

The Management Committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities Act 2011, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and they consider that the audit requirement of the Charities Act 2011 and of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 does not apply.

It is our responsibility to examine the accounts in accordance with relevant legal requirements and based on our examination to report our opinion

Basis of opinion

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the

Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosure in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from the Committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the Accounts.

We have carried out such investigations as were necessary to enable us to form an opinion as to whether proper accounting records adequate for the purposes of the Charity have been kept and the accounts of the Charity were in accordance with the accounting records and that the view given in the accounts for the year is in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Opinion

In our opinion, according to the best of our knowledge and belief and in accordance with the information and explanations given to us:

a) the Charity satisfied the conditions from exemption from an audit of the Accounts for the year specified;

b) the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet and notes thereon have been properly prepared from the records of the Charity, and are in agreement therewith;

c) the accounts comply with the terms of the Charities Act 2011, Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005; The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the founding Constitution of the Charity.

d) The accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting in accordance with The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102)

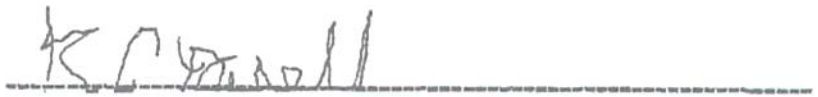
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

Description	2024	2023
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	**£72,001**	**£74,401**
Current Assets		
Debtors	**£331**	**£331**
Cash at bank and in hand	**£81,691**	**£140,030**

	£	
Current Assets	**£82,002**	**£140,361**
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	**£1524**	**£1524**
Net Current Assets	**£80,498**	**£138,837**
Net Assets	**£290,904**	**£338,865**
Funds of the Charity		

Revaluation Reserve	**£64,052**	**£64,052**
Restricted Funds	**£2,892**	**£2,892**
Unrestricted Funds	**£76,571**	**£133,856**
Restricted Funds-Investment Bond	**£118,899**	**£109,073**
Restricted Funds-Branch Funds	**£26,058**	**£26,560**
Funds of the Charity	**£290,904**	**£338,865**

Approved by the Trustees and Signed on behalf of the Federation:



Karl Farrell - President

Date:

Douglas Gilroy –Treasurer

Date:

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, with the exception that investments are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993

1.2 Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for the use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity. Unrestricted funds include a revaluation reserve representing the valuation of the freehold property.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor.

1.3 Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary Income is received by way of grants, donations and subscriptions and is included in the

SOFA. Grants are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Cash in transit is not included until received.

Investment income and associated income tax refunds are accounted for when receivable

Incoming resources from fundraising and social events are accounted for when earned.

1.4 Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the cash associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising and social events

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity.

1.5 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and valued at historic cost.

The annual Depreciation Rates are as follows:

Fixtures and Fittings	20% per annum straight line basis
Freehold Property	2% per annum straight line basis

The part of the annual depreciation charge on revalued assets which relates to the revaluation surplus is transferred from the revaluation reserve to the profit and loss account

1.6 Fixed Asset Investments

Investments are stated at market value as at the balance sheet date. The SOFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

2. Incoming Resources from Generated Funds

Description	Unrestricted Funds in £	Restricted Funds in £	Total in £ 2024	Total in £ 2023
Voluntary Income				
Donations	5,554	721	6,275	2,245
Legacies	0	0	0	40,326
Subscriptions	750	1,114	1,894	2,871

Activities for generating Funds				
Fund raising	10,249	109	10,358	10,260
Total Fund generated	10,249	109	10,358	10,260

3. Investment Income

Description	2024	2023
Bank/Building Society Interest	£2,218	£1,857

Investment Income	£2,218	£1,857

4. Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2024	Total in 2023
Grants	£0	£0	£0	£5000
Sale of Goods/Transcriptions	£0	£0	£0	£0
Income by Charitable Activities	£0	£0	£0	£5000

5. Cost of Generating Funds

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2024	Total in 2023
Cost of generating voluntary Income				
Donations	£40	£0	£40	£228
Subscriptions	£384	£130	£514	£750
Head Office Funding	£0	£0	£0	5,328
Total cost of generating funds	£424	£130	£554	£6,216

Fundraising Trading Costs

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2024	Total in 2023
Fundraiser Fees	£3,462	0	£3,462	£3,760
Fundraising expenses	0	0	0	0
Conference expenses	8,244	582	8,826	11,194

Advertising	1,090	0	1,090	1,780
Fundraising trading costs	12,796	582	13,378	16,734

6. Charitable Activities

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2024	Total in 2023
Staff cost	£44,716	0	£44,716	£44,096
Development worker program	0	0	0	0
Shared spaces Campaign	£1,929	0	£1,929	£4,622
Bank charges and interest	0	0	0	0
Office costs	£13,741	£1,459	£15,200	£10,116
Depreciation	£2,400	0	£2,400	£2,400

Cost of charitable activities	£62,786	£1,459	£64,245	£61,234

7. Governance Costs

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2024	Total in 2023
Branch meeting expenses	0	£1,052	£1,052	£2,363
Branch travel	0	£551	£551	£482
Executive council expenses	0	0	0	0
Accountancy fees	0	0	0	0
Governance costs	0	£1,603	£1,603	£2,845

8. Net Outgoing Resources

	2024	2023
This is stated after Depreciation:	£2,400	£2,400

9. Staff Costs and Numbers

Description	Total in 2024	Total in 2023
Salaries	£39,841	£38,353
Social security costs	£4,875	£5,743
Staff costs	£44,716	£44,096
Numbers: Administration	2	2

10. Trustee Remuneration

No trustees received any remuneration during the year.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the Year (2022-2023)

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

Description	Freehold Property	Fixtures&Fittings	Total
Cost			
At 1 January 2024	£120,000	£22,957	£142,957
Addition	0	0	0

Disposal	0	0	0
At 31 December 2024	£120,000	£22,957	£142,957
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2024	£45,600	£22,956	£63,756
Charge for year on Disposals	£2,400	0	£2,400
At 31 December 2024	£48,000	£22,956	£66,156
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2024	£74,200	£1	£72,001

At 31 December 2023	£74,400	£1	£74,401

The freehold property was revalued to £120,000 on 1 April 2005 by Vickers Carnley an independent firm of commercial property agents, on an open market existing use basis. The trustees are not aware of any material change in the value since the date of valuation.

If the freehold property had not been included at valuation it would have been included at the historical cost value of £60,850.

13. Investments

Description	2024	2023
Charifund Accumulated Units		
Market Value at 1 January	£105,041	£105,253
Disposals		
Additions	0	0
Unrealised Gain/(Loss)	£13,858	£-212

Market Value at 31 December	£118,899	£105,041

All Investments are held in the UK and are managed by Charities Investment Managers Limited.

13. Debtors

Description	2024	2023
Other Debtors	0	0
Prepayments	£331	£331
Total Debtors	£331	£331

14. Cash at Bank and in Hand

Description	2024	2023
General Account	£4,532	£4,373
Conference Current	£1,267	£2,361
CAF Gold	£48,226	104,229
CAF Cash	£78	£74
Branches Deposits	£24,790	£26,559
Cash	£2	£2
Campaign Account	£2,796	£2,432
	£81,691	£140,030

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

Description	2024	2023
Creditors	0	0
Accruals	£1,524	£1,524
	£1,524	£1,524

16. Revaluation Reserve

Description	2024	2023
Balance at 1 January and 31 December	£64,052	£64,052

17. Movement of Funds

Description	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditures	Investment Gain	Funds Transfers	Balance 31 Dec 2024
Restricted Funds						
Special Equipment	£1,517	0	0	0	0	£1,517
Accumulated	£500	0	0	0	0	£500
Branches/accum	£875	0	0	0	0	£875
Total	£2,892	0	0	0	0	£2,892
General and Restricted	£306,016	21,993	£79,780	£0	0	£148,229
Branch Funds						
Total	£306,016	£21,993	£79,780	£0	0	£248,229

Appendix - Reports from NFBUK Branches

STOCKPORT BRANCH REPORT

Our Branch does not hold regular meetings, as there are only two members who live in Stockport itself, namely myself as Secretary and Ben Harland as Chairman. We chat regularly either on the phone or when we meet face-to-face which is quite frequent. I am in contact with our out-of-area members by e-mail, most of whom are on Merseyside, as former members of the Liverpool and Wirral Branches.

Between us we represent the Branch on the Stockport Disability Forum, and the Transport and Access Forum. We are also connected with Disability Stockport and the local Blind Society.

During the year, we have been involved with access issues for the new bus station in Stockport.

Stockport has now become part of the Bee Network for transport services in Greater Manchester. Although some of the new buses have speech announcements, I so far haven't found a talking bus, and some of my friends tell me that sometimes the announcements are not working, or are incorrect, giving the wrong names for stops.

I have received several enquiries via Head Office from people who think we may be able to help them, including Wirral Council and enquiries regarding bus services in Bolton.

I have served for a number of years on the local Police Independent Advisory Group, but this group is now being disbanded and those of us who are interested in joining the new version of the group have been asked to re-apply. I have done so, but as yet have heard nothing, but then other former members of the group have also heard nothing.

Peter Wilkins
Stockport Branch Secretary

West of Scotland branch

Report on the branch and its activities for the year ending 31 December 2024.

The annual general meeting (AGM) was held in January. The 2023 annual report and accounts were adopted: Election of office bearers – the following were re-elected: Michael McCabe as chairperson. Margaret Cowie (O.B.E.) as Vice Chairperson. Douglas Gilroy Secretary.

The following were elected to represent us on the following bodies:

Transport Scotland's "Roads for all Forum": Douglas Gilroy.

Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance (SATA): Michael McCabe.

Scottish Council on Voluntary Organisations (SCVO): Michael McCabe.

Glasgow Access Panel: Joyce MacPherson.

North Lanarkshire Access panel: Joyce MacPherson.

We were sorry to learn that due to economic reasons, SATA decided in 2024 to dissolve the organisation.

As can be seen from the foregoing list, the membership of the branch is small but very dedicated in flying the federation flag.

Branch meetings were scheduled for: Monday 5 March 2024, Monday 15 April 2024, Monday 3 June 2024, Monday 22 July 2024, Monday 2 September 2024, Monday 14 October 2024, Monday 25 November 2024. Unfortunately, due to the chairperson being on holiday and the ill health of the secretary, one meeting had to be abandoned.

Ordinarily meetings are held by telephone conference calls. For those not familiar with the lay out or geography of the West of Scotland, it might be useful to paint a verbal picture, for the need to use conference calls i.e. by road south to north from Carlisle to Glasgow it is approximately 100 miles: From Glasgow going further north to Fort William again it is approximately another 100 miles and from Fort William

to the North West peninsula is approximately 80-100 miles. This is a vast geographical area and underlines the need to recruit new members in order to spread the workload and increase the number of our branches.

Douglas Gilroy
Past President
Branch secretary

LEEDS & DISTRICT BRANCH REPORT FOR 2024

This year we have had a number of meetings with Connecting Leeds from Leeds City Council in regard to the Woodhouse Gateway which extends from Leeds City Centre through to Headingley

This year we were unfortunate to lose two members. February saw the passing of Steve Goulding MBE., a long time Vice Chairman. We attended his funeral in March. Our President, Karl Farrell attended representing the Executive Council.

A few months later, in May, our Treasurer, Philip Hepworth, died in hospital, and his funeral was later in the month. This was very well attended.

In June Mr Bernard Whitley was asked if he would take on the position of Treasurer of Leeds & District Branch which he accepted.

Since then he and Anne Steele, in her position of Assistant Treasurer, have been extremely busy sorting out bank books and signatures.

This years annual AGM was held @ the end of September @ the Village Hotel North, Otley Road, were we also celebrated the 75th Anniversary of Leeds & District Branch,

Socially we have had a number of visitors to our meetings. Bill Scully came to recite poems with a broad Yorkshire accent, and he also attended our Christmas party with his wife. The Archivist, from Kirkstall Abbey Museum, Patrick Bourne, came one month with a number of small artefacts which we were allowed to handle. This is always very interesting and well appreciated by members.

Our Christmas Party, held at our meeting in December was very well attended. Food brought in by members was very good and entertainment was provided by the aforementioned Bill Scully and member Bryan Matthews brought his guitar so we could sing carols It has to be said we were not very good. We then dispersed wishing everyone a Happy Christmas.

Chair' Secretary's Report for the London Branch AGM on Saturday 25 January 2025

At our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January 2024, I was elected as Secretary for the Branch and Darren Vickers was elected as Chairperson. However, after two months Darren resigned and so for the rest of the year, with the permission of the Executive Council, I acted in both capacities. The branch elected a new Treasurer, to succeed our long-standing incumbent of this post, David Bamber, at that same AGM. After a couple of months, he also resigned due to study commitments and whilst we managed to find a replacement, he too eventually resigned as his wife was seriously ill. By the end of the year, it had been agreed that Karl Farrell, who had now been relieved of long-standing national Treasurer commitments, was able to take on that branch role.

All of our branch meetings were held by Zoom. We felt that there would be an advantage in holding live meetings once more, provided they were hybrid, to encourage comradeship amongst members and to reduce isolation. However, despite our efforts we didn't manage to find a venue at a suitable cost and which was available at a convenient time. We will continue to look for such a venue and we hope that we may be able to develop a scheme to help those who have difficulty in travelling to come to meetings with an escort.

For our first meeting of the year in February, we were joined by Sarah Gayton, our Research and Campaigns Officer and Street Access Campaigns Coordinator. She updated us on our campaign against bus-stop bypasses and similar installations. She also mentioned a recent

important meeting at Port Cullis House, where she had shown her film footage on this subject to MPS and their researchers, which had made a significant impact. She also reported on a recent meeting we had had on this subject with the Department of Transport and a pan-disability webinar with Inclusion London, where many disabled people with differing access needs had spoken out against bus-stop bypasses. In addition, she reported on our campaign activity to ban e-scooters and regulate the use of e-bikes.

In March we discussed the forthcoming London hustings and issues that might be addressed to the candidates standing for the Mayoral and London Assembly elections in May. These were mainly of an environmental nature. I attended that meeting, together with Kasia Kubasek, Hyacinth Malcolm and Sarah Gayton and I reported back to our Branch Meeting in April.

During the next few months, we had useful discussions on campaign issues.

Access to finance, or rather the lack of it as far as vision impaired people are concerned, has been a common topic of discussion. As a result, we put forward a proposal to nationally work on this issue at our national AGM. London members, Clive Lever and Pardy Gill, have formed half of the Sub-Committee to take forward issues regarding our exclusion to financial access.

At our September meeting, London Branch had compiled 12 questions to be tabled at the national AGM in Leeds. Because of delays in producing our national Annual Report, these could not be fully considered at the AGM and a meeting to discuss them, and other questions has been arranged for 1 February.

In November we were due to have a talk from our national representative on the DBC (Disability Benefits Consortium), Sandra

Kane. She was unable to attend, but as I had deputised for her at the most recent DBC meeting I was able to report on those proceedings. Anxiety had been expressed by our members, particularly about possible changes in the administration of PIP. I was able to report back on this, but unfortunately not to alleviate their fears, as despite a change in Government, due to the dire state of central finance, such proposals have not been ruled out.

We realise that we need to improve our communications amongst members. To alleviate this problem, I produced two branch newsletters in late summer and early autumn. However, due to other commitments I have been unable to continue to do this, although I have forwarded circulars and items of interest, which have come from our Head Office and other sources, such as consultations by Transport for London.

A number of our members have been active in organising social events. In the main these have been meals out, one of which was coupled with a walk in St James Park. There has also been a visit to Kenwood House and the Royal Academy of Music for a demonstration of keyboard and stringed instruments. Two Christmas meals were organised, one north of the river at the Travelers Rest in Kenton and one south of the river at the Railway in Blackheath. These were both well attended.

We felt it was important to try and continue to organise a weekend away. Brighton was suggested as a venue, but in the end, it was decided to stick to the familiar resort of Eastbourne. Because of lack of resources for organisation, we settled for a fairly low-key affair, without organised activities, at the Da Vinci Hotel. This was attended by seven members. It was a very relaxing weekend. The Hotel was bed and breakfast only, but we enjoyed going out for meals locally and the restaurants were easy to locate. We only needed an evening meal as the breakfasts in the hotel were so generous.

Andrew Hodgson

Annual Report from Nottingham Branch covering 2024

2024 has been an incredibly difficult year for Nottingham Branch.

In February we lost our Secretary, Neana Lawson, who had been a long time member of the National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom (NFBUK). Branch members were disappointed with the lack of contact from the Executive Council having lost such a key member of the team. We acknowledge that an email was sent by our EC link, however, the email address was not monitored by anyone at the time (having been monitored by Neana) and no follow-up contact was received, so we were left feeling that we had been 'left to get on with it'. I am very proud of regular attendees to Nottingham branch meetings as we all pulled together and shared Neana's role between us. To keep the branch moving forward. Within 3 months of Neana's passing, two regular attendees at meetings were matched with Guide Dogs and were required to undergo training with their new dogs. Immediately following this the chairperson needed to take some time out due to personal circumstances.

Despite all of the above, members have continued to support the branch and we have played an active role in campaigning locally. We have maintained contact with Trent Barton buses regarding their next stop announcements, attended regular meetings regarding the accessibility of Nottingham railway station, liaised with the local council regarding proposed bus stop bypasses and regularly expressed an interest in attending Disability Involvement Group meetings hosted by the local council when they were rearranged. We have continued to meet regularly via Zoom.

Karina Gregory – Chairperson, Nottingham Branch.

SOUTHEND AND ESSEX BRANCH

Mrs Jill Allen-King, OBE,

The AGM of the Southend and Essex Branch was held on January 14th 2025. Jill Allen-King gave a report on all the outside bodies that the

Branch was represented on. These include the Southend and District Bus Users Group, C2C Rail Passenger Panel, Southend Association of Voluntary Service, and Southend Airport Group.

The Branch continue to campaign for a lift being installed at Chalkwell station, and they campaigned to stop ticket offices being closed earlier in the year.

At the Bus Users AGM in September the Branch questioned bus operators on the irregularity of services and the lack of bus services to our local theatre, sea front, Chalkwell and Westcliff railway stations.

Jill travelled by car to the Guide Dogs AGM in Leamington Spa, and raised questions about the My Guide service, the long wait for replacement guide dogs, and money not being used solely for the training of dogs. Jill's guide dog had died suddenly in February, and she is still waiting for a replacement.

Jill had written many letters to the local paper and all were published. They covered Chalkwell lift and ticket offices, the state of pavements and parked cars, electric cars and e-bikes, and proposed use of wheely bins, as well as lack of bus services. Also Overhanging branches, etc.

Our previous Member of Parliament, Anna Firth, who has supported the Branch and our campaigns, lost her seat in the election. Although the new MP has responded to e-mails and had a forty minute phone call with Jill, he would not support the Branch to stop the winter fuel allowance being cut.

The Branch's on-going campaign is to have audio description provided at both the local theatres, and this will be the main campaign for the next year.

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

England & Wales - Charity number 236629

Accounts

NFBUK
The Voice of Blind People

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Charity Number (England & Wales): 236629
Charity Number (Scotland): SC040134

NFBUK

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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NFBUK

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended

31 December 2023

Report of the Trustees

The President (Chairperson) and trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name: National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom

English Reference:	236629
Scottish Reference:	SC040134
Registered Office:	Sir John Wilson House, 215 Kirkgate, Wakefield, WF1 1JG
Email:	admin@nfbuk.org
Tel:	01924 291313

Governing Document: Rules & Constitution dated June 1947 (as amended) and then revised 2010

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Solicitors: Wrigleys Solicitors, 19 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AG

Accountant & Independent Examiners:
Stewart & Co Chartered Accountants, Castlecroft Business Centre, Tom Johnston Road, Dundee, DD4 8XD

Patron: Professor Ian Bruce CBE

Trustees and Executive Council 2023

President:	Karl Farrell
Vice-President:	Jill Allen-King O.B.E
Honorary General Secretary:	Dr Devaki Sivasubramanian
Honorary General Treasurer:	Karl Farrell (Acting)
Ordinary Executive Council Members:	
	Liz Silver
	Clive Lever (from September 2022)
	Andrew Hodgson (from September 2022)
	Tesfai Berhane (from September 2022)

NFBUK
Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Report of the Trustees

1. Foreword

The Trustees of NFBUK welcome readers to this, their 2023 report and accounts. We have provided an overview of the current status of the organisation and the purpose it serves. The Trustees welcome whatever support that readers might choose to give.

2. Aims and Objectives

The Federation is an independent, non-political, self-help campaigning pressure group and registered charity. Registered under the National Assistance Act, 1948 (as amended), and the Charities Act, 1961 (as amended). Today it is still managed by blind and partially sighted people.

Through representation and campaigning, the Federation strives to improve aspects and quality of daily life for all blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability, in the United Kingdom.

The organisation seeks to:
take action to improve the life conditions of blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability by making representations and working towards the improvement of information provided for them.

In furtherance of the above, the Federation has been involved in a number of issues over the past year and this report is a summary of some of these issues.

3. Structure, Governance and Management

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).

Governing Document

National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom is a registered charity and is governed by the Rules and Constitution dated June 1947, (Revised April 2002 & October 2010).

Risk Management

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and will continue to increase reserves where possible, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems and will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks. The Trustees are confident that internal controls are adequate, both at national and local levels.

The Charity is managed by an elected Executive Council which normally meets at least every two months and implements decisions following suggestions and discussions with members

and branches. Branches manage their own affairs under the oversight of the Executive Council.

From our national office in Wakefield we service our members and branches which are situated throughout the UK, including one postal branch, Central Branch. We employ one part-time office administrator who is supported by unpaid volunteers. This member of staff was managed in the year under review by the Honorary General Secretary and they received instructions from the Executive Council. From 2018, we also employed a part-time Shared Space Campaign Coordinator managed by the President.

Our Executive, branch officers and members all work on an unpaid voluntary basis. All members of the Executive Council, (with the exception of any co-opted members), are regarded as Trustees. They are ultimately collectively responsible for all actions of the Federation nationally and locally.

There have been no changes in the aims or objectives during this current year and we continue our support for blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability.

Executive Officers serve for a period of three years but no more than six consecutive years.

Branches

The Federation has 7 branches throughout the United Kingdom, each branch having its own Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Each branch is governed by the Constitution and Rules of the Federation and is obliged to send minutes to the National Office. The Federation also has associate members and membership is also open to affiliated organisations.

4. Office Administration and Service to Members

In addition to the foregoing work, from our national office in Wakefield we service over 500 members and 7 branches around the UK. As approximately 70% of our members are blind or partially sighted, individual communications require to be sent out in many formats including Braille, audio, large print and E-mail, all of which require a specialist range of skills from our office staff and additional finance.

The majority of our members are over 65 and being blind or partially sighted, many may live alone and rely on their regular audio USB sticks or Braille communications from the Federation, which arrive 2 or 3 times per month, keeping them up to date with news about their local area, changes in Government benefits and legislation in addition to Federation activities. Each month they receive a Federation magazine i.e. one month "FedNews", giving them items of information and interest from a World, European, UK and local perspective. On alternative months they receive a further Federation internal magazine on USB stick entitled "FedTalk", on which they can both listen and talk to the Executive, and also to other blind friends and members from across the country. This valuable service comprises a large workload of our Office

5. Review of Progress and Achievements

President's Report

NFBUK Has completed another year in campaigning and consultation to defend and improve aspects and quality of daily life for all blind, partially

sighted and deaf-blind people, and those whose sight impairment is part of multi-disability. Issues related to street access have attracted most of our campaigning and consulting attention, both at Branch level and nationally.

Cycling lobbyists all over the UK have demanded more space and more safety for cyclists on busy roads around cities and towns. As streets in built-up areas cannot be easily widened, big changes are being put in place to provide for cycle tracks.

Some streets are being converted to one-way traffic and others are being pedestrianised to allow for safer cycling and to stop cars and trucks from taking short cuts through residential areas. This can result in less car fumes but also more carefree cycling. Unfortunately, cyclists want to also cycle on footways and not have to stop for lights if they can get away with it. This behaviour makes many pedestrians and particularly blind and partially sighted people feel insecure and vulnerable.

Several of our Branches continued to consult with their local authorities and other organisations on street access and to raise issues on behalf of their members generally. These links have been established over many years.

Sarah Gayton, our national Research and Campaigns Officer and Street Access Campaigns Coordinator, has presented several petitions to the Prime Minister. This is a right that all citizens have and Sarah has organised small deputations of NFBUK members and representatives from allied organisations to carry the petitions to the door of No 10 Downing Street and talk to the media about it.

Early in January, an NFBUK petition was handed in at No 10 on safety and accessibility at bus stops which was also signed by over 160 other organisations who agreed with our opinion. The petition was covered in BBC Scotland Radio News, BBC East Midlands TV, BBC London Radio, RNIB Connect Radio, My London, Glasgow Live and Leicester Mercury. Following this, Sarah Gayton was able to get a meeting room in Parliament to show some of her film footage that illustrates the problems occurring at bus stops to parliamentarians. The publicity helps to make known our cause to the country's legislators.

Late in 2022, an NFBUK member had been able to ask the Mayor of London at a public meeting to stop putting in bus stop bypasses. In March 2023 several of our members attended the London Assembly where that question was considered and they were able to talk with people about the issues.

The Mayor of London encouraged us to meet with Living Streets to discuss their research on bus stop bypasses and borders prior to any meeting with him. Later in the year, Sarah Gayton and several members met with Living Streets in London. They provided evidence as to why floating bus stops and shared use bus boarders do not work for blind and partially sighted people and why the design should not be used in active travel schemes. Although Living Streets clearly state that floating bus stops are a problem for blind and visually impaired bus users in certain areas, they also think there could be areas where they could work. However the NFBUK group were very clear that they wanted direct access to and from the bus from the pavement and stated that the designs were inherently discriminatory.

Nationally, NFBUK's evidence against floating bus stops and the like has been uploaded to the Transport Select Committees website which is given at this link
https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/120877/pdf/

As well as showing her films to MPs and local government, Sarah Gayton has placed them on Facebook and Twitter and on YouTube. This includes members speaking at meetings and demonstrating the problems we face.

NFBUK films have also inspired journalists to write about those problems highlighted. A member was filmed getting off a bus at a bus stop border in East London. At these stops the cycle track can run along the kerb where passengers step off the bus. Our member was filmed being almost sandwiched between two moving cyclists. The film was shown to a Daily Mail journalist who then wrote an article supportive to our concerns.

NFBUK visits to Downing Street during 2023 include:

January, A petition on the closure of Barclays Bank in Tamworth, which was compiled to support a new member of the Midlands Connect Branch;

February where six petitions were delivered from ten disability organisations and individuals about the accessibility of trains;

June, protesting about cuts to BBC local radio, supported by 6 Members of the House of Lords, 36 MPs and 221 organisations;

August, emergency petition to stop the closure of ticket offices across the UK and emergency showing of NFBUK film on the need for ticket offices and guards on trains, shown in Portcullis House, London;

NFBUK was at the emergency meeting with the Minister for Transport, Huw Merriman, where he announced the complete withdrawal of the proposals to close rail ticket offices. This was fitting because the appearances of NFBUK members in the media helped to sway public opinion.

Surveys have shown that two out of three blind people don't go out alone. For those that do venture out independently, it is accepted that pavements can be obstructed and badly maintained and road crossings can feel unsafe. To encourage more blind people and, indeed, everyone to come out, to walk in the streets and be part of the local community, pavements and indeed streets need to become more welcoming.

A positive plea for footway improvements might make us and our supporters feel good in a time when pedestrians are said to be top of the hierarchy according to the modern highway code. But increasingly we find pedestrian rights playing second fiddle to the need for provision for cyclists at bus stops, road crossings and street intersections in our cities and towns. Cyclists claim that, because bicycles are smaller, they pose little threat to people on foot and can cycle around pedestrians crossing the road in front of them. But pedestrians have been killed and injured in collisions with speeding cyclists on footways and carriageways.

Sarah Gayton, has photographed and filmed much evidence of the bad experiences of blind bus users and others struggling to cross cycle tracks. Sarah has publicized much of that film footage on YouTube and other modern media where the movers and shakers in society can view it. She has shown her films to MPs in Parliament and local councilors and borough officials as proof that NFBUK concerns are real.

When Sarah Gayton attends meetings with national or local government officials or with other organisations, she is accompanied by NFBUK members who wish to campaign. They can speak publicly or with individuals of their experiences.

NFBUK met with PACTS (the Parliamentary Advisory Committee on Transport Safety) twice in 2023. We explained why we oppose the

provision of bus stop bypasses and shared use bus borders. We also shared with them our evidence on the dangers of e-scooters both private and rental. PACTS are undertaking further research on injuries not being reported to the police from private e-scooters.

Sarah Gayton has attended meetings and events in Manchester, Newcastle, Birmingham, Oxford, almost always in company with members. She has travelled to many boroughs to film the use of e-scooters and cycles to evidence local conditions, particularly to monitor their e-scooter rental schemes and their cluttering of pavements. Such monitoring cannot be limited to daylight hours and the resulting data seems to be far more comprehensive than any other non-government agency's evidence. NFBUK evidence has often revealed antisocial behaviour of e-scooter users where, otherwise, government would have remained silent.

'During 2023, NFBUK became increasingly concerned that the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (GDBA), was unable to provide new guide dogs for existing users whose dog needed to be retired through ill health or old age, without a very long wait. Those guide dog users were inevitably dependent on their dog to pursue their active lives. Lead by our Vice President, NFBUK raised its concerns with GDBA and reached out to guide dog users to highlight GDBA's problems in training and support for this vital service. During the year, the provision of dogs for new and existing users declined even more.'

On support for sight loss, there has been very little take-up in 2023. This issue is a project that will take years to develop. It also requires the active involvement of lots of members to bear witness that blind and partially sighted people are not getting the support they need to cope with changes in their lives.

We have sadly had to record the closure of two of our historic Branches, In Coventry and Birmingham, mainly due to an aging membership. We clearly have to appeal to people of working age who these days have lots of choice in leisure and learning. But we do have resources and a working structure in NFBUK that, with renewed vigor, can further the causes of blind and partially sighted people in the United Kingdom.

I would like to close by thanking everyone who has contributed to our work during the past year, both at national and branch level, in our

campaigns, socially and in giving to our funds. I would particularly like to thank our employees, our Administrator/Communications Co-Ordinator Louisa Pouncett for keeping the office running on a day-to-day basis and serving the admin needs of the EC and members in general and Sarah Gayton our Research and Campaigns Officer and Street Access Campaigns Coordinator, for her energetic and tireless work. I would also like to thank Carol Hudson for her freelance fundraising on our behalf, particularly in a time where donors are becoming cautious.

Karl Farrell

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Future Plans

NFBUK has a continuing need to examine the way it operates with regard to its governance and communication by developing, maintaining and regularly updating a Policy Statement that embraces the ambitions of blind, deafblind and partially-sighted people.

External priorities

Legislative:

- Protect the interests of all visually impaired people with regard to the reform of benefits such as Personal Independence Payments & Universal Credit;
- Influence the Government and the local authorities together with other likeminded organizations, in the reform of social care and health legislation, funding and related benefits. We must assert our need for the provision of habilitation, rehabilitation and mobility training support services so that we can then live our own lives;

Mobility:

- Call on local authorities to provide safe and attractive footways for pedestrians on all streets, defined by a kerb and clear of badly parked bicycles and abandoned e-scooters;
- Work to secure equal access to all forms of public transport encouraging staff awareness training, and access to information prior to and during journeys;
- Continue to campaign against "island" or "floating" style bus stops with their priority cycleway and associated zebra crossings;
- Work with cycling organisations to raise the awareness among cyclists about the needs of visually impaired pedestrians;

Political:

- Lobby the Government, broadcasting organisations and the media in general on improving access to the media for visually impaired people, including access to television and the Internet;

Social:

Campaign for the provision of information to access support for all newly diagnosed visually impaired people;

Internal priorities

- Aim to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) thus reducing the liability for trustees;
- To support the Executive Council in training to update their skills;
- Effective budgeting by strengthening all financial and resource matters;
- ensure the efficient running of the office and support of admin staff;

- widening income streams through various means of fundraising, ia the internet and social media and seeking donations from corporates and trusts.

Communication priorities for action include:

- Overseeing the effectiveness of Fed News and Fed Talk and of our website;

- Encourage the development of new branches and the functionality of existing ones, where applicable;

- Strengthen the effectiveness and working of Central Branch by exploring ways in which its members can more effectively communicate;

Strengthen the relationship between the branches and the EC by improving internal communication and collaboration;

- We will aim to democratise our campaign aims by consulting our membership on which campaigns they wish to prioritise;

Improve, partially by funding, the participation of members in involvement with local and national activities;

- Encourage the development of social activities within the organisation;

- Continue to update our functionally sustainable website, and encourage members to join and communicate via our e-group for active members, and the development of other online and social media tools which support existing and prospective members;

- Raise the profile of NFBUK and our campaigns in the media;

- Recruit and retain new members, strengthen involvement and attract more people to contribute directly and indirectly to our campaigns, including sighted volunteers and campaigners

We will take action to update and agree our business plan, taking into account these planned ambitions and if necessary, seek outside assistance to do so.

Karl Farrell
President

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7. Financial Review 2023

Since its inception in 1947, NFBUK has supported the interests of blind and partially sighted people both at local and national level. Our Charity's income in 2023 was £69462 as against £58,548 in 2022. But we also spent £87029 as against £96251 in 2022. We must increase Our regular annual income because we can't rely on occasional legacies to cancel out our annual deficits.

Collectively, our Branches' deficit rose from £2,218 in 2022 to £7,896 in 2023. Four Branches ended the year with a deficit and two Branches closed. Branches held an average of £3,794 by the end of 2023. Midlands Connect Branch did not submit any return for examination.

Our Head Office income jumped from £33,134 in 2022 to £58,214 in 2023. But spending also rose from £66,381 to £70,729. Our Fundraiser collected only £8,369 for Head Office funds at a cost of £3,760. Donations from Life Members and other Members, as well as well-wishers, fell from £19,279 in 2022 to £2,711 in 2023.

We were fortunate, though, to receive a legacy of £40,326 from a former member and a grant of £5,000 from the Fairness Foundation. The grant is provided to help members improve their skills using smartphones and computers.

Of the fifteen items of spending listed for Head Office this year, eight show reductions over the previous year. These include insurance expense, Advertising, Postage and Telephone, Printing and Stationery, Fundraiser fees, Repairs and audio equipment, donations, and Water Rates.

I would remind readers that funds held by Branches are regarded as restricted to use by those Branches. Any Head Office funds donated for a specific purpose must be spent as requested. Therefore, any money paid into our CAF Bank Campaigns Fund can only be spent in that cause.

We hope to raise more funds to support our activities. It is only reasonable that funders want to know what a charity will do with their donation so our freelance fundraiser led a workshop with the Executive Council recently on planning projects to attract more funds.

Karl Farrell
Acting Honorary General Treasurer

8. Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:
Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

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 accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Rules and Constitution. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Karl Farrell
President

Devaki Sivasubramanian
Honorary General Secretary

Date: 25/10/24

Date: 25/10/24

Financial Report

An Independent Examination of the financial statements is required under Charity Regulations.

We report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 as set out within these financial statements.

Respective Responsibilities of Committee and Independent Examiner

The Management Committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities Act 2011, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and they consider that the audit requirement of the Charities Act 2011 and of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 does not apply.

It is our responsibility to examine the accounts in accordance with relevant legal requirements and based on our examination to report our opinion

Basis of opinion

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosure in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from the Committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the Accounts.

We have carried out such investigations as were necessary to enable us to form an opinion as to whether proper accounting records adequate for the purposes of the Charity have been kept and the accounts of the Charity were in accordance with the accounting records and that the view given in the accounts for the year is in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Opinion

In our opinion, according to the best of our knowledge and belief and in accordance with the information and explanations given to us:

a) the Charity satisfied the conditions from exemption from an audit of the Accounts for the year specified;

b) the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet and notes thereon have been properly prepared from the records of the Charity, and are in agreement therewith;

c) the accounts comply with the terms of the Charities Act 2011, Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005;

The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the founding Constitution of the Charity.

d) The accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting in accordance with The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Description	2023	2022
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	£74,401	£76,801
Investments	£125,627	£105,253
Fixed Assets	£200,028	£182,054

Current Assets		
Debtors	**£331**	**£331**
Cash at bank and in hand	**£140,030**	**£172,082**
	£	
Current Assets	**£140,030**	**£172,082**
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	**£1524**	**£1524**
Net Current Assets	**£138,837**	**£170,558**

Net Assets	**£338,865**	**£352,612**
Funds of the Charity		
Revaluation Reserve	**£64,052**	**£64,052**
Restricted Funds	**£2,892**	**£2,892**
Unrestricted Funds	**£133,856**	**£144,069**
Restricted Funds-Investment Bond	**£109,073**	**£105,253**

Funds of the Charity	**£338,865**	**£352,612**

Approved by the Trustees and Signed on behalf of the Federation:

Karl Farrell - President

Date: 25/10/24

Karl Farrell – Acting Treasurer

Date: 25/10/24

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, with the exception that investments are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993

1.2 Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for the use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity. Unrestricted funds include a revaluation reserve representing the valuation of the freehold property.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor.

1.3 Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary Income is received by way of grants, donations and subscriptions and is included in the

SOFA. Grants are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Cash in transit is not included until received.

Investment income and associated income tax refunds are accounted for when receivable

Incoming resources from fundraising and social events are accounted for when earned.

1.4 Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the cash associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising and social events

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity.

1.5 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and valued at historic cost.

The annual Depreciation Rates are as follows:

Fixtures and Fittings	20% per annum straight line basis
Freehold Property	2% per annum straight line basis

The part of the annual depreciation charge on revalued assets which relates to the revaluation surplus is transferred from the revaluation reserve to the profit and loss account

1.6 Fixed Asset Investments

Investments are stated at market value as at the balance sheet date. The SOFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

2. Incoming Resources from Generated Funds

Description	Unrestricted Funds in £	Restricted Funds in £	Total in £ 2023	Total in £ 2022
Voluntary Income				
Donations	2,169	76	2,245	20,977
Legacies	40,326	0	40,326	0
Subscriptions	1,128	1,743	2,871	3,474

Activities for generating Funds				
Fund raising	8,369	1,891	10,260	13,843
Total Fund generated	8,369	1,891	10,260	13,843

3. Investment Income

Description	2023	2022
Bank/Building Society Interest	£1,857	£330
Investment Income	£1,857	£330

4. Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2023	Total in 2022
Grants	£5000	0	£5000	£0
Sale of Goods/Transcriptions	£0	£0	£0	£822
Income by Charitable Activities	£5000	£0	5000	£822

5. Cost of Generating Funds

Description	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total in 2023	Total in 2022

	Funds	Funds		
Cost of generating voluntary Income				
Donations	£0	£228	£228	£689
Subscriptions	£600	£150	£750	£535
Head Office Funding	£0	£5,238	£5,328	£200
Total cost of generating funds	£600	£5,616	£6,216	£1,424

Fundraising Trading Costs

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2023	Total in 2022
Fundraiser Fees	£3,760	0	£3,760	£5,890
Fundraising expenses	0	0	0	0
Conference expenses	8,987	2,207	11,194	26,411
Advertising	1,780	0	1,170	2,215

Fundraising trading costs	14,527	2,207	16,734	34,516

6. Charitable Activities

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2023	Total in 2022
Staff cost	£44,096	0	£44,096	£41,760
Development worker program	0	0	0	0
Shared spaces Campaign	£4,622	0	£4,622	£2,300
Bank charges and interest	0	0	0	0
Office costs	£8,126	£1,990	£10,116	£11,344
Depreciation	£2,400	0	£2,400	£2,400
Cost of charitable activities	£59,244	£1,990	£61,234	£57,804

7. Governance Costs

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2023	Total in 2022
Branch meeting expenses	0	£2,363	£2,263	£2,079
Branch travel	0	£482	£482	£428
Executive council expenses	0	0	0	0
Accountancy fees	0	0	0	0
Governance costs	0	£2,845	£2,845	£2,507

8. Net Outgoing Resources

	2023	2022
This is stated after Depreciation:	£2,400	£2,400

9. Staff Costs and Numbers

Description	Total in 2023	Total in 2022
Salaries	£38,353	£37,745
Social security costs	£5,743	£4,015
Staff costs	£44,096	£41,760
Numbers: Administration	2	2

10. Trustee Remuneration

No trustees received any remuneration during the year.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the Year (2022-2023)

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

Description	Freehold Property	Fixtures&Fittings	Total
Cost			
At 1 January 2023	£120,000	£22,957	£142,957
Addition	0	0	0
Disposal	0	0	0

At 31 December 2023	£120,000	£22,957	£142,957
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	£43,200	£22,956	£63,756
Charge for year on Disposals	£2,400	0	£2,400
At 31 December 2023	£45,600	£22,956	£66,156
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2023	£74,400	£1	£74,401
At 31 December 2022	£76,800	£1	£76,801

The freehold property was revalued to £120,000 on 1 April 2005 by Vickers Carnley an independent firm of commercial property agents, on an open market existing use basis. The trustees are not aware of any material change in the value since the date of valuation.

If the freehold property had not been included at valuation it would have been included at the historical cost value of £60,850.

13. Investments

Description	2023	2022
Charifund Accumulated Units		
Market Value at 1 January	£105,253	£105,465
Disposals		
Additions	0	0
Unrealised Gain/(Loss)	£-212	£-212
Market Value at 31 December	£105,041	£105,253

All Investments are held in the UK and are managed by Charities Investment Managers Limited.

13. Debtors

Description	2023	2022
Other Debtors	0	0
Prepayments	£331	£331
Total Debtors	£331	£331

14. Cash at Bank and in Hand

Description	2023	2022

General Account	£4,373	£5,093
Conference Current	£2,361	£2,361
CAF Gold	£104,229	£67,327
CAF Cash	£74	£62
Branches Deposits	£26,559	£34,456
Cash	£2	£2
Campaign Account	£2,432	£1,890
	£140,030	£171,751

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

Description	2023	2022

Creditors	0	0
Accruals	£1,524	£1,524
	£1,524	£1,524

16. Revaluation Reserve

Description	2023	2022
Balance at 1 January and 31 December	£64,052	£64,052

17. Movement of Funds

Description	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditures	Investment Gain	Funds Transfers	Balance 31 Dec 2023

Restricted Funds						
Special Equipment	£1,517	0	0	0	0	£1,517
Accumulated	£500	0	0	0	0	£500
Branches/accum	£875	0	0	0	0	£875
Total	£2,892	0	0	0	0	£2,892
General and Restricted	£323,583	£69,462	£87,029	£0	0	£306,016
Branch Funds						
Total	£323,583	£69,462	£87,029	£0	0	£306,016

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

England & Wales - Charity number 236629

Accounts

NFBUK
The Voice of Blind People

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Charity Number (England & Wales): 236629
Charity Number (Scotland): SC040134

NFBUK

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

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NFBUK
Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Report of the Trustees

The President (Chairperson) and trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name: National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom

English Reference:	236629
Scottish Reference:	SC040134
Registered Office:	Sir John Wilson House, 215 Kirkgate, Wakefield, WF1 1JG
Email:	admin@nfbuk.org
Tel:	01924 291313

Governing Document: Rules & Constitution dated June 1947 (as amended) and then revised 2010

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Solicitors: Wrigleys Solicitors, 19 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AG

Accountant & Independent Examiners:

Stewart & Co Chartered Accountants, Castlecroft Business Centre, Tom Johnston Road, Dundee, DD4 8XD

Patron: Professor Ian Bruce CBE

Trustees and Executive Council 2022

President: Andrew Hodgson

Vice-President: Karl Farrell
Honorary General Secretary: Dr Devaki Sivasubramanian
Honorary General Treasurer: Karl Farrell (Acting)
Ordinary Executive Council Members:
Pardeep Gill (to September 2022)
Karina Gregory
Yemi Dada (to September 2022)
Fiona Musgrove
Steve Springthorpe (from September 2022)
Liz Silver (from September 2022)

NFBUK
Report and Financial Statements for
the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Report of the Trustees (cont.)

1. Foreword

The Trustees of NFBUK welcome readers to this, their 2022 report and accounts. We have provided an overview of the current status of the organisation and the purpose it serves. The Trustees welcome whatever support that readers might choose to give.

2. Aims and Objectives

The Federation is an independent, non-political, self-help campaigning pressure group and registered charity. Registered under the National Assistance Act, 1948 (as amended), and the Charities Act, 1961 (as amended). Today it is still managed by blind and partially sighted people.

Through representation and campaigning, the Federation strives to improve aspects and quality of daily life for all blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability, in the United Kingdom.

The organisation seeks to:
take action to improve the life conditions of blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability by making representations and working towards the improvement of information provided for them.

In furtherance of the above, the Federation has been involved in a number of issues over the past year and this report is a summary of some of these issues.

3. Structure, Governance and Management

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).

Governing Document

National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom is a registered charity and is governed by the Rules and Constitution dated June 1947, (Revised April 2002 & October 2010).

Risk Management

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and will continue to increase reserves where possible, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems and will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks. The Trustees are confident that internal controls are adequate, both at national and local levels.

The Charity is managed by an elected Executive Council which normally meets at least every two months and implements decisions following suggestions and discussions with members and branches. Branches manage their own affairs under the oversight of the Executive Council.

From our national office in Wakefield we service our members and branches which are situated throughout the UK, including one postal branch, Central Branch. We employ one part-time office administrator who is supported by unpaid volunteers. This member of staff was managed in the year under review by the Honorary General Secretary and they received instructions from the Executive Council. From 2018, we also employed a part-time Shared Space Campaign Coordinator managed by the President.

Our Executive, branch officers and members all work on an unpaid voluntary basis. All members of the Executive Council, (with the exception of any co-opted members), are regarded as Trustees. They are ultimately collectively responsible for all actions of the Federation nationally and locally.

There have been no changes in the aims or objectives during this current year and we continue our support for blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability.

Executive Officers serve for a period of three years but no more than six consecutive years.

Branches

The Federation has 10 branches throughout the United Kingdom, each branch having its own Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Each branch is governed by the Constitution and Rules of the Federation and is obliged to send minutes to the National Office. The Federation also has associate members and membership is also open to affiliated organisations.

4. Office Administration and Service to Members

In addition to the foregoing work, from our national office in Wakefield we service over 500 members and 10 branches around the UK. As approximately 70% of our members are blind or partially sighted, individual communications require to be sent out in many formats including Braille, audio, large print and E-mail, all of which require a specialist range of skills from our office staff and additional finance.

The majority of our members are over 65 and being blind or partially sighted, many may live alone and rely on their regular audio USB sticks or Braille communications from the Federation, which arrive 2 or 3 times per month, keeping them up to date with news about their local area, changes in Government benefits and legislation in addition to Federation activities. Each month they receive a Federation magazine i.e. one month "FedNews", giving them items of information and interest from a World, European, UK and local perspective. On alternative months they receive a further Federation internal magazine on USB stick entitled "FedTalk", on which they can both listen and talk to the Executive, and also to other blind friends and members from across the country. This valuable service comprises a large workload of our Office

5. Review of Progress and Achievements

Review of Progress and Achievements

NFBUK Has continued to punch above its weight in profile during the past year in its raison d'etre of striving "to improve aspects and quality of daily life for all blind, partially sighted and deaf-blind people, and those whose sight impairment is part of multi-disability…." This has especially been the case with

regard to our campaigns on street access and transport. There have been some small gains and much publicity making our causes known to other organisations with similar aims and to the general public as a whole.

The highlight of our year took place in September with the celebration of our 75th anniversary, held at the University of Loughborough conference Centre, Burleigh Court, on the weekend of 23-25 September. The weekend began with lively afternoon workshops on street access and Support for Sight loss. The evening's activities consisted of an anniversary dinner, followed by guest speakers, principally Paralympian Libby Clegg, an outline of our history, reflections on our past from living past Presidents and contributions from members on our present and future aspirations. This was followed by a quiz and entertainment. The following day we held the AGM, featuring the usual items, and workshops in the afternoon on becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and developing a campaigns forum.

On the campaign front we still strive to achieve a ban on the use of e-scooters, and we stand out as a charity in this respect. Publicity which we gave to dangerous fires caused by the batteries of these vehicles in confined spaces led to a ban being imposed on their carriage on network rail and the London underground. Some cities have imposed temporary or permanent bans on the scooters themselves, and there may be some evidence that they are declining in popularity, but an outright ban is still a long way off. PACTS (the Parliamentary Advisory Committee on Transport Safety) greatly valued our research on this subject and in their report went some way in

warning MPs of the dangers of e-scooters. As a result of our input, we were invited to attend a reception at RAC headquarters in Central London, which was a good networking opportunity.

We have continued to point out the dangers of dockless bikes and e-scooters being dumped and parked on our footways. We had a meeting with the London Borough of Westminster concerning this matter and they were sympathetic to our views but have not yet come up with a satisfactory solution.

Cycle infrastructure continues to be a challenge and problem. Changing the behaviour of Cyclists is often seen to be the solution. We maintain that this is only half the story. However, following approaches from representatives from the Metropolitan Police we have in turn carried out awareness sessions with them and joined forces with them in educating cyclists by making them aware of the needs of vision impaired people, with the aim of improving their behaviour.

We still campaign against bus-stop bypasses and are in dialogue with local government officials, especially in London. Our profile was raised by one of our members having the chance to question the Deputy Mayor of London at a question time session in the London Borough of Redbridge concerning the dangers and unsuitability of these structures. This in turn led to media publicity involving Mayor Sadiq Kahn himself, but we are still awaiting a meeting with him to progress our case.

A contrasting experience took place in the city of Sheffield during an outreach event at the time of their Cycle City event. At this event, hosted by us at the local blind society, traffic engineers rejected the idea of bus-stop bypasses on inclusivity

grounds, coming up with an alternative solution and pledging not to allow them to be built in their city.

It is still the concern of our members that many railway stations do not have tactile marking on the edge of platforms. This need has been highlighted by ourselves and other charities such as RNIB following much publicity being given to a fatality involving a partially-sighted person in Orpington some years ago. We attended the World Railway Research Conference in Birmingham to promote this need.

Our Support for Sight Loss Campaign, following little acknowledgement of our specialist rehabilitation needs by central Government, has suffered from a lack of impetus at local level. This could be increased by the strengthening of our existing branches and the establishment of new ones.

Our internal magazine, 'Fed News' now has an expanded editorial team, which has strengthened its output and frequency, attracting new readers as a result. We will also be reviving our audio magazine 'Fed Talk' and have had an offer of a new Editor. The revival of this magazine will enable some of our more isolated and elderly members to communicate with each other and with the executive.

In the near future we will be organizing training sessions for members in their use of computers and smart phones. These may be online or live, at local and national level. We feel this is important to equip our membership to serve our organization, but also to equip them for employment, mobility or tasks within the home. Communication is an essential part of our daily lives and there is always a danger that vision impaired people can rapidly fall behind in this respect, with the ever-changing advancement in technology.
It is good that we are influenced by world events, both positive and negative. This shows that we are playing a full part in

society. Few people can have been unmoved by the plight of the Ukrainian nation, following that country's invasion by Russian troops in February of 2022. The needs of vision impaired people in the Ukraine were highlighted by the World Blind Union, which organized an online international concert featuring vision impaired artists and NFBUK was pleased to be able to donate £500 in response.

Andrew Hodgson

6. Future Plans

We will Campaign to Protect the interests of all visually impaired people with regard to the reform of benefits such as Personal Independence Payments & Universal Credit;

We will campaign to Influence the Government and the local authorities with other likeminded organizations, in the reform of social care and health legislation, funding and related benefits, especially to strengthen the provision of habilitation, rehabilitation and mobility training support services;

We will continue to campaign to keep streets clear of obstacles, to promote inclusive design, stop the introduction of level surface or shared space schemes and minimise risks from electric vehicles, working in particular towards the ban of electric scooters;

We will work to secure equal access to all forms of public transport encouraging staff awareness training, and access to information prior to and during journeys;

We will continue to campaign to abolish "island" or "floating" style bus stops with their priority cycleway and associated zebra crossings;

We will work with cycling organisations to raise the awareness among cyclists about the needs of visually impaired pedestrians;

We will lobby the Government, broadcasting organisations and the media in general on improving access to the media for visually impaired people, including access to television and the Internet;

We will encourage the provision of information to access support for all newly diagnosed visually impaired people.

We will work towards becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) thus reducing the liability for trustees.

Andrew Hodgson

7. Financial Review

This year again our Charity incurred a deficit of income over spending, which was £37,915. Nevertheless, our income from 2016 to 2022 shows a surplus of £89,627 and this year's income was up again to £58,548 compared with £27,548 the year before. Our freelance fundraiser is helping to improve our Head Office income performance.

Total Branch income this year was greatly inflated when the London Branch bank account was used to receive payments for the popular Eastbourne social weekend. But, unfortunately, most Branches registered a deficit in the year and collectively they were £2218 the poorer. However, By December 2022 our Branches still held a total of £34,456 in their accounts between them.

Our Head Office figures also show a large increase in income, from £20,098 in 2021 to £34,526. But spending also went up from £59,333 to £70,023.

In NFBUK, we are observing restrictions on how some of our funds may be used. So money received by our Branches should be spent according to Branches' wishes. Similarly, money received into our Campaigns Fund must be spent on campaigning. It has been found that it is up to the Executive Council to declare whether or not these funds should be further restricted.

Karl Farrell
Acting Honorary General Treasurer

8. Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:
Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

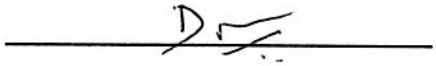
State whether applicable accounting standards have been

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 accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Rules and Constitution. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.



Andrew Hodgson
President

Date: 09 | 11 | 2023

Devaki Sivasubramanian
Honorary General Secretary

Date: 09/11/2023

c) the accounts comply with the terms of the Charities Act 2011, Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005; The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the founding Constitution of the Charity.
d) The accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting in accordance with The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102)

Stewart & Co, Chartered Accountants & Independent Examiners
Castlecroft Business Centre, Tom Johnston Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, DD4 8XD

Signed

Date 09/11/2023

Membership Body: ICAS

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members on the Unaudited Accounts of the National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom

We report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2022 as set out on within these financial statements.

Respective Responsibilities of Committee and Independent Examiner

The Management Committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities Act 2011, The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and they consider that the audit requirement of the Charities Act 2011 and of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 does not apply.
It is our responsibility to examine the accounts in accordance with relevant legal requirements and based on our examination to report our opinion.

Basis of opinion

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosure in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from the Committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the Accounts.

We have carried out such investigations as were necessary to enable us to form an opinion as to whether proper accounting records adequate for the purposes of the Charity have been kept and the accounts of the Charity were in accordance with the accounting records and that the view given in the accounts for the year is in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Opinion

In our opinion, according to the best of our knowledge and belief and in accordance with the information and explanations given to us:

a) the Charity satisfied the conditions from exemption from an audit of the Accounts for the year specified;
b) the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet and notes thereon have been properly prepared from the records of the Charity, and are in agreement therewith;

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	NOTE	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds - Bond £	Restricted Funds - Branch £	Restricted Funds - Campaign £	Restricted Funds - other £	Revaluation Reserve £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Incoming Resources									
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds:									
Voluntary Income		21171	0	22370	12	0	0	43553	23036
Activities for Generating Funds		12213	0	1630	0	0	0	13843	2819
Investment Income		320	0	10	0	0	0	330	11
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities		822	0	0	0	0	0	822	1270
Total Incoming Resources		34526	0	24010	12	0	0	58548	27136
Resources Expended									
Costs of Generating Funds:									
Cost for Voluntary Income		796	0	628	0	0	0	1424	842
Fundraising Trading Costs		13579	0	20937	0	0	0	34516	5455
Charitable Activities		55648	0	2156	0	0	0	57804	59483
Governance Costs		0	0	2507	0	0	0	2507	763
		70023	0	26228	0	0	0	96251	66543
Net (Outgoing) Resources before transfers		-35497	0	-2218	12	0	0	-37703	-39407
Transfers									
Gross Transfers between funds				0		0	0	0	0
Net (Outgoing) Resources before Other recognised Gains		-35497	0	-2218	12	0	0	-37703	-39407
Other Recognised (Gains/Losses)									
Realised and unrealised Gains on Investment Assets		0	-212	0	0	0	0	-212	16877
Net Movement in Funds		-35497	-212	-2218	12	0	0	-37915	-22530
Reconciliation of Funds									
Total Funds Brought forward		179566	105465	36674	1878	2892	64052	390527	413057
Transfer fundbetween Bank Accounts									
Total Funds Carried Forward		144069	105253	34456	1890	2892	64052	352612	390527

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	£	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets		76801	79201
Investments		105253	105465
		182054	184666
Current Assets			
Debtors	331		331
Cash at Bank and in Hand	171751		207054
	172082		207385
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	1524		1524
Net Current Assets		170558	205861
Net Assets		352612	390527
Funds of the Charity			
Revaluation Reserve		64052	64052
Restricted Funds		2892	2892
Unrestricted Funds		144069	179566
Restricted Funds - Investment Bond		105253	105465
Restricted Funds - Branch Funds		34456	36674
Restricted Funds - Campaign Funds		1890	1878
		352612	390527

Approved by the Trustees and Signed on behalf of the Federation:

Andrew Hodgson

Date:

Karl Farrell - Treasurer

Date:

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. Accounting Policies
The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

1.1 Basis of Accounting
The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, with the exception that investments are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommencded Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993

1.2 Fund Accounting
Unrestricted funds are available for the use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity. Unrestricted funds include a revaluation reserve representing the valuation of the freehold property.
Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor.

1.3 Incoming Resources
All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary Income is received by way of grants, donations and subscriptions and is included in the SOFA. Grants are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Cash in transit is not included until received.

Investment income and associated income tax refunds are accounted for when receivable

Incoming resources from fundraising and social events are accounted for when earned.

1.4 Resources Expended
Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the cash associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising and social events

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity.

1.5 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation
All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and valued at historic cost.

The annual Depreciation Rates are as follows:

Fixtures and Fittings	20% per anum straight line basis
Freehold Property	2% per anum straight line basis

The part of the annual depreciation charge on revalued assets which relates to the revaluation surplus is transferred from the revaluation reserve to the profit and loss account

1.6 Fixed Asset Investments
Investments are stated at market value as at the balance sheet date. The SOFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

2. Incoming Resources from Generated Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Voluntary Income				
Donations	19929	1048	20977	19380
Legacies	0	0	0	0
Subscriptions	1242	2232	3474	3656
Other	0	19090	19090	
	21171	22370	43541	23036
Activities for Generating Funds				
Fundraising	12213	1630	13843	2819
	12213	1630	13843	2819

3. Investment Income

	2022 £	2021 £
Bank/Building Society Interest	330	11
	330	11

4. Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Bank compensation	0	0	0	1270
Sale of goods/Transcriptions	822	0	822	0
	822	0	822	1270

5. Cost of Generating Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Costs of Generating Voluntary Income				
Donations	471	218	689	150
Subscriptions	325	210	535	692
Head office funding	0	200	200	0
	796	628	1424	842
Fundraising Trading Costs				
Fundraiser fee	5890	0	5890	4700
Fundraising expenses	0	0	0	195
Conference expenses	5474	20937	26411	210
Advertising	2215	0	2215	350
	13579	20937	34516	5455

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

6. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Staff Costs	41760	0	41760	40322
Development worker program	0	0	0	0
Shared Spaces Campaign	2300	0	2300	2495
Bank Charges and Interest	0	0	0	0
Office costs	9188	2156	11344	14266
Depreciation	2400	0	2400	2400
	55648	2156	57804	59483

7. Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Branch Meeting Expenses	0	2079	2079	357
Branch Travel	0	428	428	406
Executive Council Expenses	0	0	0	0
Accountancy Fees	0	0	0	0
	0	2507	2507	763

9. Net Outgoing Resources for the Year

	2022 £	2021 £
This is stated after:		
Depreciation	2400	2400

10. Staff Costs and Numbers

	2022 £	2021 £
Salaries	37745	36290
Social Security Costs	4015	4032
	41760	40322
Numbers: Administration	2	2

11. Trustee Remuneration

No trustees received any remuneration during the year.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the Year (2021-£Nil)

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

12. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2022	120000	22957	142957
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 December 2022	120000	22957	142957
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2022	40800	22956	63756
Charge for year	2400	0	2400
On Disposals			
At 31 December 2022	43200	22956	66156
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2022	76800	1	76801
At 31 December 2021	79200	1	79201

The freehold property was revalued to £120,000 on 1 April 2005 by Vickers Carnley an independent firm of commercial property agents, on an open market existing use basis. The trustees are not aware of any material change in the value since the date of valuation.

If the freehold property had not been included at valuation it would have been included at the historical cost value of £60,850.

13. Investments Charifund Accumulated Units	2022 £	2021 £
Market Value at I January	105465	88588
Disposals		
Additions	0	0
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments	-212	16877
Market Value as at 31 December	105253	105465

All Investments are held in the UK and are managed by Charities Investment Managers Limited.

14. Debtors	2022 £	2021 £
Other Debtors	0	0
Prepayments	331	331
	331	331

15. Cash at Bank and in Hand	2022 £	2021 £
General Account	5093	1978
Conference Current	2361	2361
Current Account	67327	103579
Shawbrook Bank	60560	60560
CAF Cash	62	22
Branches Deposits	34456	36674
Campaign Account	1890	1878
Cash	2	2
	171751	207054

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Creditors	0	0
Accruals	1524	1524
	1524	1524

17. Revaluation Reserve

	2022 £	2021 £
Balance at 1 January and 31 December	81112	81112

18. Movement of Funds

Restricted Funds	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment Gains £	Funds Transfers £	Balance 31-Dec 2021 £
Special Equipment	1517	0	0	0	0	1517
Accumulated	500	0	0	0	0	500
Brances Accum	875	0	0	0	0	875
Total	2892	0	0	0	0	2892

General and Restricted Branch Funds	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment Gains £	Funds Transfers £	Balance 31-Dec 2022 £
	323583	58548	96251	-212	0	285668
Total	323583	58548	96251	-212	0	285668

NFBUK
The Voice of Blind People

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Charity Number (England & Wales): 236629
Charity Number (Scotland): SC040134

NFBUK

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

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NFBUK
Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Report of the Trustees

The President (Chairperson) and trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name: National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom

English Reference:	236629
Scottish Reference:	SC040134
Registered Office:	Sir John Wilson House, 215 Kirkgate, Wakefield, WF1 1JG
Email:	admin@nfbuk.org
Tel:	01924 291313

Governing Document: Rules & Constitution dated June 1947 (as amended) and then revised 2010

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Solicitors: Wrigleys Solicitors, 19 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AG

Accountant & Independent Examiners:

Stewart & Co Chartered Accountants, Castlecroft Business Centre, Tom Johnston Road, Dundee, DD4 8XD

Patron: Professor Ian Bruce CBE

Trustees and Executive Council 2022

President: Andrew Hodgson

Vice-President: Karl Farrell
Honorary General Secretary: Dr Devaki Sivasubramanian
Honorary General Treasurer: Karl Farrell (Acting)
Ordinary Executive Council Members:
Pardeep Gill (to September 2022)
Karina Gregory
Yemi Dada (to September 2022)
Fiona Musgrove
Steve Springthorpe (from September 2022)
Liz Silver (from September 2022)

NFBUK
Report and Financial Statements for
the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Report of the Trustees (cont.)

1. Foreword

The Trustees of NFBUK welcome readers to this, their 2022 report and accounts. We have provided an overview of the current status of the organisation and the purpose it serves. The Trustees welcome whatever support that readers might choose to give.

2. Aims and Objectives

The Federation is an independent, non-political, self-help campaigning pressure group and registered charity. Registered under the National Assistance Act, 1948 (as amended), and the Charities Act, 1961 (as amended). Today it is still managed by blind and partially sighted people.

Through representation and campaigning, the Federation strives to improve aspects and quality of daily life for all blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability, in the United Kingdom.

The organisation seeks to:
take action to improve the life conditions of blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability by making representations and working towards the improvement of information provided for them.

In furtherance of the above, the Federation has been involved in a number of issues over the past year and this report is a summary of some of these issues.

3. Structure, Governance and Management

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).

Governing Document

National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom is a registered charity and is governed by the Rules and Constitution dated June 1947, (Revised April 2002 & October 2010).

Risk Management

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and will continue to increase reserves where possible, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems and will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks. The Trustees are confident that internal controls are adequate, both at national and local levels.

The Charity is managed by an elected Executive Council which normally meets at least every two months and implements decisions following suggestions and discussions with members and branches. Branches manage their own affairs under the oversight of the Executive Council.

From our national office in Wakefield we service our members and branches which are situated throughout the UK, including one postal branch, Central Branch. We employ one part-time office administrator who is supported by unpaid volunteers. This member of staff was managed in the year under review by the Honorary General Secretary and they received instructions from the Executive Council. From 2018, we also employed a part-time Shared Space Campaign Coordinator managed by the President.

Our Executive, branch officers and members all work on an unpaid voluntary basis. All members of the Executive Council, (with the exception of any co-opted members), are regarded as Trustees. They are ultimately collectively responsible for all actions of the Federation nationally and locally.

There have been no changes in the aims or objectives during this current year and we continue our support for blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability.

Executive Officers serve for a period of three years but no more than six consecutive years.

Branches

The Federation has 10 branches throughout the United Kingdom, each branch having its own Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Each branch is governed by the Constitution and Rules of the Federation and is obliged to send minutes to the National Office. The Federation also has associate members and membership is also open to affiliated organisations.

4. Office Administration and Service to Members

In addition to the foregoing work, from our national office in Wakefield we service over 500 members and 10 branches around the UK. As approximately 70% of our members are blind or partially sighted, individual communications require to be sent out in many formats including Braille, audio, large print and E-mail, all of which require a specialist range of skills from our office staff and additional finance.

The majority of our members are over 65 and being blind or partially sighted, many may live alone and rely on their regular audio USB sticks or Braille communications from the Federation, which arrive 2 or 3 times per month, keeping them up to date with news about their local area, changes in Government benefits and legislation in addition to Federation activities. Each month they receive a Federation magazine i.e. one month "FedNews", giving them items of information and interest from a World, European, UK and local perspective. On alternative months they receive a further Federation internal magazine on USB stick entitled "FedTalk", on which they can both listen and talk to the Executive, and also to other blind friends and members from across the country. This valuable service comprises a large workload of our Office

5. Review of Progress and Achievements

Review of Progress and Achievements

NFBUK Has continued to punch above its weight in profile during the past year in its raison d'etre of striving "to improve aspects and quality of daily life for all blind, partially sighted and deaf-blind people, and those whose sight impairment is part of multi-disability…." This has especially been the case with

regard to our campaigns on street access and transport. There have been some small gains and much publicity making our causes known to other organisations with similar aims and to the general public as a whole.

The highlight of our year took place in September with the celebration of our 75th anniversary, held at the University of Loughborough conference Centre, Burleigh Court, on the weekend of 23-25 September. The weekend began with lively afternoon workshops on street access and Support for Sight loss. The evening's activities consisted of an anniversary dinner, followed by guest speakers, principally Paralympian Libby Clegg, an outline of our history, reflections on our past from living past Presidents and contributions from members on our present and future aspirations. This was followed by a quiz and entertainment. The following day we held the AGM, featuring the usual items, and workshops in the afternoon on becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and developing a campaigns forum.

On the campaign front we still strive to achieve a ban on the use of e-scooters, and we stand out as a charity in this respect. Publicity which we gave to dangerous fires caused by the batteries of these vehicles in confined spaces led to a ban being imposed on their carriage on network rail and the London underground. Some cities have imposed temporary or permanent bans on the scooters themselves, and there may be some evidence that they are declining in popularity, but an outright ban is still a long way off. PACTS (the Parliamentary Advisory Committee on Transport Safety) greatly valued our research on this subject and in their report went some way in

warning MPs of the dangers of e-scooters. As a result of our input, we were invited to attend a reception at RAC headquarters in Central London, which was a good networking opportunity.

We have continued to point out the dangers of dockless bikes and e-scooters being dumped and parked on our footways. We had a meeting with the London Borough of Westminster concerning this matter and they were sympathetic to our views but have not yet come up with a satisfactory solution.

Cycle infrastructure continues to be a challenge and problem. Changing the behaviour of Cyclists is often seen to be the solution. We maintain that this is only half the story. However, following approaches from representatives from the Metropolitan Police we have in turn carried out awareness sessions with them and joined forces with them in educating cyclists by making them aware of the needs of vision impaired people, with the aim of improving their behaviour.

We still campaign against bus-stop bypasses and are in dialogue with local government officials, especially in London. Our profile was raised by one of our members having the chance to question the Deputy Mayor of London at a question time session in the London Borough of Redbridge concerning the dangers and unsuitability of these structures. This in turn led to media publicity involving Mayor Sadiq Kahn himself, but we are still awaiting a meeting with him to progress our case.

A contrasting experience took place in the city of Sheffield during an outreach event at the time of their Cycle City event. At this event, hosted by us at the local blind society, traffic engineers rejected the idea of bus-stop bypasses on inclusivity

grounds, coming up with an alternative solution and pledging not to allow them to be built in their city.

It is still the concern of our members that many railway stations do not have tactile marking on the edge of platforms. This need has been highlighted by ourselves and other charities such as RNIB following much publicity being given to a fatality involving a partially-sighted person in Orpington some years ago. We attended the World Railway Research Conference in Birmingham to promote this need.

Our Support for Sight Loss Campaign, following little acknowledgement of our specialist rehabilitation needs by central Government, has suffered from a lack of impetus at local level. This could be increased by the strengthening of our existing branches and the establishment of new ones.

Our internal magazine, 'Fed News' now has an expanded editorial team, which has strengthened its output and frequency, attracting new readers as a result. We will also be reviving our audio magazine 'Fed Talk' and have had an offer of a new Editor. The revival of this magazine will enable some of our more isolated and elderly members to communicate with each other and with the executive.

In the near future we will be organizing training sessions for members in their use of computers and smart phones. These may be online or live, at local and national level. We feel this is important to equip our membership to serve our organization, but also to equip them for employment, mobility or tasks within the home. Communication is an essential part of our daily lives and there is always a danger that vision impaired people can rapidly fall behind in this respect, with the ever-changing advancement in technology.
It is good that we are influenced by world events, both positive and negative. This shows that we are playing a full part in

society. Few people can have been unmoved by the plight of the Ukrainian nation, following that country's invasion by Russian troops in February of 2022. The needs of vision impaired people in the Ukraine were highlighted by the World Blind Union, which organized an online international concert featuring vision impaired artists and NFBUK was pleased to be able to donate £500 in response.

Andrew Hodgson

6. Future Plans

We will Campaign to Protect the interests of all visually impaired people with regard to the reform of benefits such as Personal Independence Payments & Universal Credit;

We will campaign to Influence the Government and the local authorities with other likeminded organizations, in the reform of social care and health legislation, funding and related benefits, especially to strengthen the provision of habilitation, rehabilitation and mobility training support services;

We will continue to campaign to keep streets clear of obstacles, to promote inclusive design, stop the introduction of level surface or shared space schemes and minimise risks from electric vehicles, working in particular towards the ban of electric scooters;

We will work to secure equal access to all forms of public transport encouraging staff awareness training, and access to information prior to and during journeys;

We will continue to campaign to abolish "island" or "floating" style bus stops with their priority cycleway and associated zebra crossings;

We will work with cycling organisations to raise the awareness among cyclists about the needs of visually impaired pedestrians;

We will lobby the Government, broadcasting organisations and the media in general on improving access to the media for visually impaired people, including access to television and the Internet;

We will encourage the provision of information to access support for all newly diagnosed visually impaired people.

We will work towards becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) thus reducing the liability for trustees.

Andrew Hodgson

7. Financial Review

This year again our Charity incurred a deficit of income over spending, which was £37,915. Nevertheless, our income from 2016 to 2022 shows a surplus of £89,627 and this year's income was up again to £58,548 compared with £27,548 the year before. Our freelance fundraiser is helping to improve our Head Office income performance.

Total Branch income this year was greatly inflated when the London Branch bank account was used to receive payments for the popular Eastbourne social weekend. But, unfortunately, most Branches registered a deficit in the year and collectively they were £2218 the poorer. However, By December 2022 our Branches still held a total of £34,456 in their accounts between them.

Our Head Office figures also show a large increase in income, from £20,098 in 2021 to £34,526. But spending also went up from £59,333 to £70,023.

In NFBUK, we are observing restrictions on how some of our funds may be used. So money received by our Branches should be spent according to Branches' wishes. Similarly, money received into our Campaigns Fund must be spent on campaigning. It has been found that it is up to the Executive Council to declare whether or not these funds should be further restricted.

Karl Farrell
Acting Honorary General Treasurer

8. Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:
Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

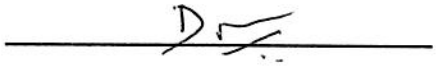
State whether applicable accounting standards have been

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 accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Rules and Constitution. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.



Andrew Hodgson
President

Date: 09 | 11 | 2023

Devaki Sivasubramanian
Honorary General Secretary

Date: 09/11/2023

c) the accounts comply with the terms of the Charities Act 2011, Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005; The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the founding Constitution of the Charity.
d) The accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting in accordance with The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102)

Stewart & Co, Chartered Accountants & Independent Examiners
Castlecroft Business Centre, Tom Johnston Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, DD4 8XD

Signed

Date 09/11/2023

Membership Body: ICAS

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members on the Unaudited Accounts of the National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom

We report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2022 as set out on within these financial statements.

Respective Responsibilities of Committee and Independent Examiner

The Management Committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities Act 2011, The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and they consider that the audit requirement of the Charities Act 2011 and of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 does not apply.
It is our responsibility to examine the accounts in accordance with relevant legal requirements and based on our examination to report our opinion.

Basis of opinion

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosure in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from the Committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the Accounts.

We have carried out such investigations as were necessary to enable us to form an opinion as to whether proper accounting records adequate for the purposes of the Charity have been kept and the accounts of the Charity were in accordance with the accounting records and that the view given in the accounts for the year is in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Opinion

In our opinion, according to the best of our knowledge and belief and in accordance with the information and explanations given to us:

a) the Charity satisfied the conditions from exemption from an audit of the Accounts for the year specified;
b) the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet and notes thereon have been properly prepared from the records of the Charity, and are in agreement therewith;

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

England & Wales - Charity number 236629

Accounts

NFBUK

The Voice of Blind People

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Charity Number (England & Wales): 236629
Charity Number (Scotland): SC040134

NFBUK

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

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NFBUK
Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Report of the Trustees

The President (Chairperson) and trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name: National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom

English Reference: 236629

Scottish Reference: SC040134

Registered Office: Sir John Wilson House, 215 Kirkgate, Wakefield, WF1 1JG

Email: admin@nfbuk.org

Tel: 01924 291313

Governing Document: Rules & Constitution dated June 1947 (as amended) and then revised 2010

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Solicitors: Wrigleys Solicitors, 19 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AG

Accountant & Independent Examiners:

Stewart & Co Chartered Accountants, Castlecroft Business Centre, Tom Johnston Road, Dundee, DD4 8XD

Patron: Professor Ian Bruce CBE

Trustees and Executive Council 2021

President:	Andrew Hodgson
Vice-President:	Karl Farrell
Honorary General Secretary:	Dr Devaki Sivasubramanian
Honorary General Treasurer:	Karl Farrell (Acting)
Ordinary Executive Members:	Pardeep Singh Gill
	Karina Gregory
	Yemi Dada
	Sandy Taylor (to September 2021)
	Fiona Musgrove (from September 2021)

NFBUK
Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Report of the Trustees (cont)

1. Foreword

The Trustees of NFBUK welcome readers to this, their 2021 report and accounts. We have provided an overview of the current status of the organisation and the purpose it serves. The Trustees welcome whatever support that readers might choose to give.

2. Aims and Objectives

The Federation is an independent, non-political, self-help campaigning pressure group and registered charity. Registered under the National Assistance Act, 1948 (as amended), and the Charities Act, 1961 (as amended). Today it is still managed by blind and partially sighted people.

Through representation and campaigning, the Federation strives to improve aspects and quality of daily life for all blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability, in the United Kingdom.

The organisation seeks to:
take action to improve the life conditions of blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability by making representations and working towards the improvement of information provided for them.

In furtherance of the above, the Federation has been involved in a number of issues over the past year and this report is a summary of some of these issues.

3. Structure, Governance and Management

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).

Governing Document

National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom is a registered charity and is governed by the Rules and Constitution dated June 1947, (Revised April 2002 & October 2010).

Risk Management

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and will continue to increase reserves where possible, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems and will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks. The Trustees are confident that internal controls are adequate, both at national and local levels.

The Charity is managed by an elected Executive Council which normally meets at least every two months and implements decisions following suggestions and discussions with members and branches. Branches manage their own affairs under the oversight of the Executive Council.

From our national office in Wakefield we service our members and branches which are situated throughout the UK, including one postal branch, Central Branch. We employ one part-time office administrator who is supported by unpaid volunteers. This member of staff was managed in the year under review by the Honorary General Treasurer and they received instructions from the Executive Council. From 2018, we also employed a part-time Shared Space Campaign Coordinator managed by the Executive Council member designated the Street Executive.

Our Executive, branch officers and members all work on an unpaid voluntary basis. All members of the Executive Council, (with the exception of any co-opted members), are regarded as Trustees. They are ultimately collectively responsible for all actions of the Federation nationally and locally.

There have been no changes in the aims or objectives during this current year and we continue our support for blind, deaf-blind, partially sighted people and those whose sight impairment is part of multi disability.

Executive Officers serve for a period of three years but no more than six consecutive years.

Branches

The Federation has 9 branches throughout the United Kingdom, each branch having its own Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Each branch is governed by the Constitution and Rules of the Federation and is obliged to send minutes to the National Office. The Federation also has associate members and membership is also open to affiliated organisations.

4. Office Administration and Service to Members

In addition to the foregoing work, from our national office in Wakefield we service over 500 members and 10 branches around the UK. As approximately 70% of our members are blind or partially sighted, individual communications require to be sent out in many formats including Braille, audio, large print and E-mail, all of which require a specialist range of skills from our office staff and additional finance.

The majority of our members are over 65 and being blind or

partially sighted, many may live alone and rely on their regular audio USB sticks or Braille communications from the Federation, which arrive 2 or 3 times per month, keeping them up to date with news about their local area, changes in Government benefits and legislation in addition to Federation activities. Each month they receive a Federation magazine i.e. one month "FedNews", giving them items of information and interest from a World, European, UK and local perspective. On alternative months they receive a further Federation internal magazine on USB stick entitled "FedTalk", on which they can both listen and talk to the Executive, and also to other blind friends and members from across the country. This valuable service comprises a large workload of our Office

5. Review of Progress and Achievements

During the year under review our lives have continued to be very much affected by the Covid 19 virus with its various strains. During 2021 there were a few months during the summer when restrictions were limited, but NFBUK continued to be cautious in its activities as many of our members are of an older age group and therefore vulnerable to its effects. As a result of these restrictions, we continued to make use of the Zoom facility and this has in many ways expanded the flexibility of our operations, enabling meetings on campaigning and other impromptu meetings to facilitate the smooth running of our charity both centrally and within branches. Some branches have also made use of Zoom as a social tool, lessening the isolation of their members at a time when people have become more isolated leading to problems of a mental health nature.

In the year under review there has continued to be much activity in our branches, both social and campaigning. It is important that our branches thrive as these are often the first point of contact for our members and can be a gateway to more diverse activity in the vision impairment world.

In recent years we have had major victories in gaining a moratorium on shared spaces and stopping the abolition of the BBC's Red Button service. In campaigning these victories are rare, particularly in an environment where disability legislation is often given merely lip service. During 2021 we did achieve a minor victory in London with the abolition of Rainbow crossings. These highly coloured road crossings had been introduced to show solidarity with the LGBTQ+ movement, but after we and other organisations had submitted evidence to the Access Association for their report showing that these features were confusing to vision impaired people and to those with learning difficulties, the Mayor of London called a halt to their installation.

We had input into the update of the guidance on tactile paving, and into new guidance about street design which Scotland has started to work up. A change to the UK specification to clarify that there should always be a kerb height of 60mm, which we argued for and was supported by other organisations, was dropped at publication stage in January 2022, and a trapezoidal section edging that cannot usually be detected by guide dogs or by long cane users, inserted instead.

The design of new housing estates is of interest to many of our members, and we are seeking to ensure all builders are well-advised about the importance of proper crossings and pavements being included . This takes forward work done prior to the pandemic where NFBUK had kerbed pavements introduced into a private estate in Swindon being funded by a major building society, and a housing association development in Cornwall.

The spread of the unpopular bus stop bypasses has also continued with the cycle lobbies still having considerable influence on large organisations such as Transport for London and Sustrans, which put pressure on local councils to adopt street scapes, which are not only unpopular with vision impaired people, but also with other groups such as wheelchair users and older people in general.

Our Research and Campaigns Officer and Street Access Campaigns Coordinator, Sarah Gayton and our leading campaigner, Sandy Taylor, attended the United Nations COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow at which they tirelessly lobbied to numerous delegates and dignitaries that sustainability must go hand in hand with accessibility. They focused on the issue of bus stop bypasses, but also on the many other hazards which are facing Blind, partially-sighted and deafblind people on a daily basis as they attempt to independently get around.

We have continued to tirelessly collect evidence to prove the unsuitability of escooters, as a form of transport for their users and as a hazard to pedestrians, particularly on the pavement.

There is still large-scale use of illegal e-scooters which are sold by venders not warning the buyer of their unsuitability and they are bought with many users not worrying or caring that they are only for use on private ground. Thus, they are used on the pavement and on the roads illegally. The trials for commercially hired models continue to go ahead, despite the fact that the e-scooters are often left lying on the pavement when not in use and the wracks for storing them are also pavement hazards for those vision impaired people wishing to navigate pavements independently.

Our Support for Sight Loss campaign has continued in its aim of trying to abolish the postcode lottery in the provision of rehabilitation and habilitation services. In the spring former NFBUK Presidents Professor Fred Reid and Lord Colin Low, together with Lord David Blunkett, met with the Minister of Health and Social Care and convinced her of the justice and seriousness of our cause. In July there was a follow up meeting with relevant civil servants in which we in more detail advocated for the improvement of these services. In this meeting the same team was joined by Mary Naylor from our Leeds and District branch, who ably made the case for improving the service based on her many years of work in the field and in her observations on how rehabilitation has benefited members of her branch. A danger sign was detected where officials were making links with the occupational therapy profession. We feel it would be wholly inappropriate for occupational therapists to take on board VI rehabilitation as they wouldn't have the necessary skills and it would devalue the thorough and detailed training of rehab workers.

In September, the Government published its plan on the reform of Health and social care. Much to our disappointment there was no mention of the issues which we have been raising with them. We were somewhat surprised when the White Paper followed in December, finding that once again our needs had been ignored.

Having been largely ignored by all the political parties, The way forward on Support for Sight Loss is therefore going to need to be largely working at a local level with our members and branches publicizing our concerns to local councillors and other organisations who will listen to enlist their support to publicise this dearth in provision.

This campaign by its name is a broad one and it gives us the opportunity to help each other, sharing our skills and experiences of sight loss. Our Executive Council also realizes the inequality in our skills, particularly in the use of technology and social media, and we wish to organize future events, both online and in situ, in which we can disseminate training and learn from each other to improve our quality of life.

The EC also wishes to involve more sighted volunteers in our work, encouraging them to become Associate Members, to improve the quality of our local meetings and to campaign alongside us.

Members have also taken part in discussions on the future of rail travel, social distancing, and access to anti-Covid vaccination. In all cases our views were listened to.

We have continued to organize campaign meetings by Zoom but feel that these need to be more focused and structured. The EC feels that our campaigns need to be more democratic in origin with more members having a voice, but the strategy being worked out amongst a smaller group of people.

We have re-joined EGDF (European Guide Dog Federation) with the hope that we can amplify our members' voice in the provision of service for guide dog owners in training, access and in travel facilities.

We have also become a partner in Visionary, the nationwide umbrella organization of charities concerned with sight loss. In this I believe we are the only true ODP and so our angle of approach is often different. Nevertheless, I think we can gain from the opportunity and potential for publicity that this opportunity affords.

The EC in its meetings has discussed future possible changes in governance, which we will be introducing to our members at our forthcoming AGM. We have also held meetings on improving our communications with each other and with the membership as a whole.

Andrew Hodgson

6. Future Plans

We will continue to campaign to Protect the interests of all visually impaired people with regard to the reform of benefits such as Personal Independence Payments & Universal Credit;

We will campaign to Influence the Government and the local authorities with other likeminded organizations, in the reform of social care and health legislation, funding and related benefits, especially to strengthen the provision of habilitation, rehabilitation and mobility training support services;

We will continue to campaign to keep streets clear of obstacles, to promote inclusive design, stop the introduction of level surface or shared space schemes and minimise risks from electric vehicles, working in particular towards the ban of electric scooters;

We will work to secure equal access to all forms of public transport encouraging staff awareness training, and access to information prior to and during journeys;

We will continue to campaign to abolish "island" or "floating" style bus stops with their priority cycleway and associated zebra crossings;

We will work with cycling organisations to raise the awareness among cyclists about the needs of visually impaired pedestrians;

We will lobby the Government, broadcasting organisations and the media in general on improving access to the media for visually impaired people, including access to television and the Internet;

We will encourage the provision of information to access support for all newly diagnosed visually impaired people.

Andrew Hodgson

7. Financial Review

Overall, our Charity's incoming resources, at £27,136, in 2021 almost doubled compared with our receipts in 2020. But our resources expended in 2021 were also higher, at £66,543, compared with £56216 in 2020. Early in 2021 we engaged a fundraiser whose efforts have led to our increase in Head Office income.

Generally, in 2021 our Branches fared better financially than in the year before. The restrictions on people going out continued well into 2021 but Branches found ways to get things done. Total Branch income this year went back up by £2972, to £7038; but spending was down by £1334 to £3568.

By December 2021 our Branches held a total of £36674 in their accounts. Among nine branches, that's an average of over £4000 each. Nottingham, Leeds and London survived the year well and only two Branches, West of Scotland and Southend, ended this year with a deficit. Overall the branch surplus was £3470 as against just £163 in 2020.

Our Head Office figures also show a large increase in income, from £9,741 in 2020 to £20,098 in 2021. But spending also went up from £47,713 to £59,333. Income was boosted by a contribution of £7050 from fundraising, which is part of the figure of £15,682 attributed to "Donations" in Head Office income.

The increase in spending on salaries in 2021 from £33,319 to £40,322 is partly due to the increase in working hours for our Shared Space Co-ordinator. From November 2020, her hours increased from 24 to 32 a week.

Most items of Head Office spending increased in 2021. But Advertising, Printing and Stationery, and Volunteers, Travel and Meetings were significantly reduced. While face-to-face meetings were stopped, in 2021 our Shared Space Co-ordinator was able to travel out and film footage of e-scooter usage.

In NFBUK, there are restrictions on how some of our funds may be used. So money received by our now ten Branches should be spent according to Branches' wishes. Similarly, money received into our Campaigns Fund must be spent on campaigning. It has been found that it is up to the Executive Council to declare whether or not these funds should be further restricted.

Karl Farrell

Acting Honorary General Treasurer

8. Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

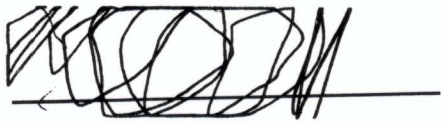
The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:
Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them

consistently;
Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

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 accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Rules and Constitution. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.



Andrew Hodgson
President

Date: 13/11/2022

Devaki Sivasubramanian
Honorary General Secretary

Date: 13/11/2022

Financial Report

As I intimated at the start of the presentation, an Independent Examination of the financial statements is required under Charity Regulations, and I would like to read this report to you:

We report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2021 as set out within these financial statements.

Respective Responsibilities of Committee and Independent Examiner

The Management Committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities Act 2011, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and they consider that the audit requirement of the Charities Act 2011 and of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 does not apply.

It is our responsibility to examine the accounts in accordance with relevant legal requirements and based on our examination to report our opinion

Basis of opinion

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosure in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from the Committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the Accounts.

We have carried out such investigations as were necessary to enable us to form an opinion as to whether proper accounting records adequate for the purposes of the Charity have been kept and the accounts of the Charity were in accordance with the accounting records and that the view given in the accounts for the year is in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Opinion

In our opinion, according to the best of our knowledge and belief and in accordance with the information and explanations given to us:

a) the Charity satisfied the conditions from exemption from an audit of the Accounts for the year specified;

b) the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet and notes thereon have been properly prepared from the records of the Charity, and are in agreement therewith;

c) the accounts comply with the terms of the Charities Act 2011, Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005; The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the founding Constitution of the Charity.

d) The accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting in accordance with The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102)

DAVID ARMOUR STEWART BCL CA
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

Description	2021	2020
Fixed Assets		£81,601
Tangible Assets	£79,201	£81,601
Investments	£105,465	£88,588
Fixed Assets	£184,66	£170,189

Current Assets		
Debtors	**£331**	**£331**
Cash at bank and in hand	**207**	**£244,392**
	£	
Current Assets	**£207,385**	**£244,392**
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	**£1524**	**£1524**
Net Current Assets	**£205,861**	**£242,868**

Net Assets	**£390,527**	**£413,057**
Funds of the Charity		
Revaluation Reserve	**£64,052**	**£64,052**
Restricted Funds	**£2,892**	**£2,892**
Unrestricted Funds	**£179,566**	**£219,212**
Restricted Funds-Investment Bond	**£105,465**	**£88,588**
Restricted Funds-Branch Funds	**£35,674**	**£33,204**

Funds of the Charity	£390,527	£413,057

Approved by the Trustees and Signed on behalf of the Federation:

Andrew Hodgson-President

Date: 13TH NOVEMBER 2022

Karl Farrell – Acting Treasurer

Date: 13TH NOVEMBER 2022

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, with the exception that investments are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993

1.2 Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for the use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity. Unrestricted funds include a revaluation reserve representing the valuation of the freehold property.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor.

1.3 Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary Income is received by way of grants, donations and subscriptions and is included in the

SOFA. Grants are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Cash in transit is not included until received.

Investment income and associated income tax refunds are accounted for when receivable

Incoming resources from fundraising and social events are accounted for when earned.

1.4 Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the cash associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising and social events

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity.

1.5 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and valued at historic cost.

The annual Depreciation Rates are as follows:

Fixtures and Fittings	20% per annum straight line basis
Freehold Property	2% per annum straight line basis

The part of the annual depreciation charge on revalued assets which relates to the revaluation surplus is transferred from the revaluation reserve to the profit and loss account

1.6 Fixed Asset Investments

Investments are stated at market value as at the balance sheet date. The SOFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

2. Incoming Resources from Generated Funds

Description	Unrestricted Funds in £	Restricted Funds in £	Total in £ 2021	Total in £ 2020
Voluntary Income				
Donations	18,538	842	19,380	7,931
Legacies	0	0	0	1,000
Subscriptions	1,551	2,105	3,656	3,028

Activities for generating Funds				
Fund raising	0	2,819	2,819	2,202
Total Fund generated	0	2,819	2,819	2,202

3. Investment Income

Description	2021	2020
Bank/Building Society Interest	£11	£184
Investment Income	£11	£184

4. Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2021	Total in 2020
Grants	0	0	0	£0
Sale of Goods/Transcriptions	£0	£0	£0	£462
Income by Charitable Activities	£0	£0	£0	£462

5. Cost of Generating Funds

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2021	Total in 2020
Cost of generating voluntary Income				
Donations	0	£150	£150	£600

Subscriptions	£412	£280	£692	£452
Head Office Funding	£0	£0	£0	£1000
Total cost of generating funds	£412	£430	£842	£2052

Fundraising Trading Costs

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2021	Total in 2020
Social events expenses	0	0	0	0
Fundraising expenses	£195	0	£195	£3,800
Conference expenses	0	£210	£210	£201
Advertising	£350	0	£350	£1,096
Fundraising trading costs	£5,245	£210	£5,455	£5,097

6. Charitable Activities

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2021	Total in2020
Staff cost	£40,322	0	£40,322	£33,319
Development worker program	0	0	0	0
Shared spaces Campaign	£2,495	0	£2,495	£143
Bank charges and interest	0	0	0	0
Office costs	£12,101	£2,165	£14,266	£12,366
Depreciation	£2,400	0	£2,400	£2,400
Cost of charitable activities	£57,318	£2,165	£59,483	£48,228

7. Governance Costs

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total in 2021	Total in2020
Branch meeting expenses	0	£357	£357	£694
Branch travel	0	£406	£406	£145
Executive council expenses	0	0	0	0
Accountancy fees	0	0	0	0
Governance costs	0	£763	£763	£839

8. Net Outgoing Resources

	2021	2020
This is stated after Depreciation:	£2,400	£2,400

9. Staff Costs and Numbers

Description	Total in 2021	Total in2020
Salaries	£36,290	£30,809
Social security costs	£4,032	£2,510
Staff costs	£40,322	£33,319
Numbers: Administration	2	2

10. Trustee Remuneration

No trustees received any remuneration during the year.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the Year 2021

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

Description	Freehold Property	Fixtures&Fittings	Total
Cost			
At 1 January 2021	£120,000	£22,957	£142,957
Addition	0	0	0
Disposal	0	0	0
At 31 December 2021	£120,000	£22,957	£142,957

Depreciation			
At 1 January 2021	£38,400	£22,956	£61,358
Charge for year on Disposals	£2,400	0	£2,400
At 31 December 2021	£40,800	£22,956	£63,758
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2021	£79,200	£1	£79,201
At 31 December 2020	£81,600	£1	£81,601

The freehold property was revalued to £120,000 on 1 April 2005 by Vickers Carnley an independent firm of commercial property agents, on an open market existing use basis. The trustees are not aware of any material change in the value since the date of valuation.

If the freehold property had not been included at valuation it would have been included at the historical cost value of £60,850.

12. Investments

Description	2021	2020
Charifund Accumulated Units		
Market Value at 1 January	£88,588	£81,112
Disposals		
Additions	0	0
Unrealised Gain/(Loss)	£16,877	£7,476
Market Value at 31 December	£105,465	£88,588

All Investments are held in the UK and are managed by Charities Investment Managers Limited.

13. Debtors

Description	2021	2020
Other Debtors	0	0
Prepayments	£331	£331
Total Debtors	£331	£331

14. Cash at Bank and in Hand

Description	2021	2020
General Account	£1,978	£1,318
Conference Current	£2,361	£2,361
CAF Gold	£103,579	£122,055
CAF Cash	£22	£12
Branches Deposits	£36,674	£33,204
Cash	£2	£2
Campaign Account	£1,878	£5,109
	£207,054	£244,061

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

Description	2021	2020
Creditors	0	0
Accruals	£1,524	£1,524
	£1,524	£1,524

16. Revaluation Reserve

Description	2021	2020
Balance at 1 January and 31 December	£81,112	£81,112

17. Movement of Funds

Description	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditures	Investment Gain	Funds Transfers	Balance 31 Dec 2021
Restricted Funds						
Special Equipment	£1,517	0	0	0	0	£1,517
Accumulated	£500	0	0	0	0	£500
Branches/accum	£875	0	0	0	0	£875

Total	£2,892	0	0	0	0	£2,892
General and Restricted	£346,113	£27,136	£66,543	£16,877	0	£323,583
Branch Funds						
Total	£346,113	£27,136	£66,543	£16,877	0	£323,583