

INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

England & Wales · Charity number 250605

Details

Other names ICLR, THE LAW REPORTS

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [00005034](#)

Registered 1967-03-04

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: 1) THE PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION, IN A CONVENIENT FORM, AT A MODERATE PRICE, AND UNDER GRATUITOUS PROFESSIONAL CONTROL, OF REPORTS OF JUDICIAL DECISIONS OF THE SUPERIOR AND APPELLATE COURTS IN ENGLAND. 2) THE ISSUE, PERIODICALLY OR OCCASIONALLY, OF ANY SUBSIDIARY OR OTHER PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LEGAL SUBJECTS WHICH IT MAY BE CONSIDERED EXPEDIENT TO COMBINE WITH THE PUBLICATION OF SUCH REPORTS, INCLUDING THE STATUTES OF THE REALM, OR ANY PART THEREOF IF DEEMED EXPEDIENT.

Activities: The preparation and publication, in a convenient form, at a moderate price, and under gratuitous Professional control, of [The Law] Reports of Judicial Decisions of the Superior and Appellate Courts in England and Wales

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Anguilla
- Antigua And Barbuda
- Australia
- Austria
- Barbados
- Belgium
- Belize
- Bermuda
- British Virgin Islands
- Canada
- Cayman Islands
- China
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Dominican Republic
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Hong Kong
- India
- Ireland
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Kenya
- Malaysia
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Montserrat

- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Northern Ireland
- Norway
- Russia
- Saint Vincent
- Scotland
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- St Kitts And Nevis
- St Lucia
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- The Bahamas
- Trinidad And Tobago
- Turks And Caicos Islands
- United States
- Zambia
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£6,146,767	£5,482,135	£6,906,138	56
2023-12-31	£5,946,508	£5,287,391	£6,109,239	54
2022-12-31	£5,696,595	£5,174,884	£5,280,121	53
2021-12-31	£5,433,826	£4,873,113	£5,443,021	50
2020-12-31	£5,263,523	£4,672,906	£2,713,743	48

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
RICHARD JOHN HUGO FLECK CBE	Chair	2012-10-19
Abigail Jessica Bright		2022-06-15
Alastair Hubert Norris		2012-10-18
Dr Mary Margaret Malecka		2019-04-24
HIS HONOUR JUDGE DAVID HODGE QC		
Jamie Clarke		2019-02-14
Kenneth Hamer		2016-06-14
LINDA KAREN HADFIELD LEE		2016-10-18
Lucy Clementine Moores Rigby MP		2024-12-02
MARGARET RUTH BOWRON QC		
Mark Stephen Anderson		2022-07-08
Muhammad Faisal Sadiq		2020-07-01
Peter Joseph Susman QC		2016-05-03
Professor James Simon Francis Lee		2021-08-02
Richard Hermer		2024-07-05
Richard James Francis Atkinson		2024-10-09
SIR MARK GEORGE TURNER		2013-02-26
SIR PETER MARCEL ROTH		
Sushila Abraham		2016-09-14

INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

England & Wales - Charity number 250605

Accounts

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 00005034
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 250605**

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

**PUBLISHERS OF THE LAW REPORTS, THE WEEKLY LAW REPORTS,
THE INDUSTRIAL CASES REPORTS, THE BUSINESS LAW REPORTS
AND THE PUBLIC AND THIRD SECTOR LAW REPORTS**

MEGARRY HOUSE, 119 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON WC2A 1PP

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Chairman - R Fleck Esq. CBE
Vice Chairman – Miss M Bowron KC

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

The Attorney-General - The Rt. Hon. Lord Hermer KC
The Solicitor-General – Lucy Rigby KC MP
The President of The Law Society – R J F Atkinson Esq.

NOMINATED MEMBERS

Lincoln's Inn
His Honour Judge D R Hodge KC
The Hon. Sir Alastair Norris

Middle Temple
The Hon. Mr Justice Roth
P Susman Esq. KC

Inner Temple
Miss M Bowron KC
Dr M Malecka

Gray's Inn
J Clarke Esq.
The Hon. Mr Justice Turner

The Law Society
Mrs S Abraham
M Anderson Esq.

ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected by the Council on the nomination of the General Council of the Bar

Ms A J Bright

F Sadiq Esq.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

R Fleck Esq. CBE
K Hamer Esq
Prof J Lee
Ms L K H Lee
Ms S Thomas

SECRETARY / CEO

Andy Redman Esq.

Registered Address:
Megarry House, 119 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP

ADVISORS

Solicitors
Bird & Bird
15 Fetter Lane
London EC4A 1JP

Independent Auditor
HaysMac LLP
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG

Bankers
National Westminster Bank Plc
156 Fleet Street
London EC4A 2DX

Stockbrokers
Quilter Cheviot
1 Kingsway
London WC2B 6AN

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The members of the Council, being the trustees under Charity law and the directors under company law, submit their report and the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024. Details of members are given on page 1.

During the year there were the following changes to the members of the Council:

Appointments		Resignations	
The Rt Hon Lord Hermer KC	05 July 2024	Mr Robert Courts KC MP	05 July 2024
Mrs Sarah Rebecca Sackman	09 July 2024	The Rt. Hon. Victoria Prentis KC MP	05 July 2024
Mr Richard James Francis Atkinson	09 October 2024	N P Emmerson Esq.	09 October 2024
The Rt Hon Lucy Rigby KC MP	02 December 2024	Mrs Sarah Rebecca Sackman	02 December 2024

No trustees received any remuneration during the year. No trustees received any reimbursement in respect of expenses incurred in performing their duty.

The number of members of the Council shall not exceed twenty. Three, namely the Attorney General, the Solicitor General and the President of The Law Society are appointed members by virtue of their office. Ten members, two from each of Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple, Middle Temple, Gray's Inn and The Law Society are nominated by each of these societies. Two members are elected to represent the Bar Council. Other co-opted members, not exceeding five in total, are appointed by the Council.

New members are provided with the articles of association, 'The Essential Trustee' document from the Charity Commission, the latest accounts and the minutes from the most recent Executive Committee meeting. They are also given the opportunity to ask the Chief Executive Officer any questions that they may have.

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Key management personnel include the Chief Executive Officer, The Editor, the Head of Product Development and Online Content, The Assistant Editor of the Weekly Law Reports and the Head of the Electronic Publishing Group. This five-member senior management team meet regularly to consider and discuss operational issues. The remuneration for the senior management team is set by the Executive Committee, usually at the March meeting. Membership of the senior management team was expanded in January 2025 to include a Chief Finance Officer.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

STRATEGIC REPORT

OBJECTS AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

1. The preparation and publication, in a convenient form, at a moderate price and under gratuitous professional control, of Reports of Judicial Decisions of the Superior and Appellate Courts in England and Wales.
2. The issue, periodically or occasionally, of any subsidiary or other publications relating to legal subjects which it may be considered expedient to combine with the publication of such reports, including the Statutes of the Realm, or any part thereof, if deemed expedient.

The principal activities of the Council are the publication of *The Law Reports*, *The Weekly Law Reports*, *The Industrial Cases Reports*, *The Business Law Reports* and *The Public and Third Sector Law Reports*. Following Practice Directions from Lord Woolf in 2001 and Lord Judge in 2012, the Official Law Reports must always be cited in preference to other law reports. The function to publish law reports of judicial decisions of the superior and appellate courts in England and Wales makes a significant contribution to the administration of justice in England and Wales. This independent role is free from political and shareholder influence.

The Council was formed in 1865, incorporated on 28 July 1870, registered as a charity on 17 November 1971, and is now a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The liability of members is limited to ten pounds per member.

The Council's primary object is, in substance, to record in a reliably accurate manner the development and application of judge-made law and to disseminate the knowledge of that law, its development and judicial application, in a way which is essential to the study of the law. Its purposes in doing so are (i) to assist the administration and development of the law by the courts and (ii) to make the law known, or at least accessible, to all members of the community, including professional lawyers whose advice on legal matters is likely to be sought by other members of the community, thereby making a sound knowledge and understanding of the law more available to all. In 1971 those purposes were held by the Court of Appeal in *Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales v Attorney-General* [1972] Ch 73, 88, 95, 104 to be of "general public utility" and "beneficial to the community". Nothing has changed in any relevant respect since 1971 and the Council continues to believe that substantial public benefit results from those activities.

The Council is run on a not-for-profit basis whilst offering preferential rates in respect of its publications to academic institutions, students, law lecturers and other charities. Any surplus is retained in the Council for future operations. The trustees have taken due regard of the information issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In 2024 the Council's publishing programme included adding over 4,500 judgments to its online service and assessing all of these against its reportability guidelines. 575 cases were deemed to be reportable, and a full law report was prepared and published for each. The majority of these were accompanied by rapid publication of a Weekly Law Report Daily case note. Only a small proportion of the law reports are selected for inclusion in the official version of record for citation, *The Law Reports*. 111 new cases were added to the Law Reports in 2024, each including a full statement of the arguments presented in the case.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

These accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the valuation of investments to market value, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales. Income in 2024 was £6,146,767, an increase of £200,259 (3.4%) on 2023. The higher income is primarily attributable to the continuing rise in revenue from online publications and higher royalty revenue.

Costs have been kept under tight control. Total expenditure at £5,482,135 was only £194,744 (3.7%) higher than in 2023.

This has resulted in an operating surplus of £664,632, slightly higher than the £659,117 operating surplus reported for 2023.

The operating surplus moves to an overall surplus of £796,899 (£829,118 surplus in 2023) once the downwards remeasurement of £61,000 of the pension scheme liability and £193,267 gain on investments are included.

Creditors (amounts falling due within one year) amount to £4.0m. £3.0m of this total refers to deferred income and is recorded as an equal and opposite value in current assets. The remaining £0.9m relates to accrued expenditure that has been incurred but not paid at year end.

At the year end, total unrestricted funds were £6,906k, an £797k increase from £6,109k reported at the end of 2023.

KEY MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION POLICY

The members of Council have identified the Chief Executive Officer, Editor and Head of Product Development and Online Content as key management personnel of the charity and they are in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The pay of all staff is reviewed annually with average increases normally in line with inflation.

RISKS

A risk register is maintained and periodically reviewed at Council meetings. Areas currently identified with significant inherent risk include the risk that demand for ICLR content on paper declines to a level that results in an unsustainable loss and the risk that operational or archive data is lost. Controls have been put in place to mitigate these risks, these include developing alternative sources of revenue and ensuring data is regularly backed up and held in multiple locations. Continuity of service for the online platform is also considered a risk. The security of the platform is regularly reviewed to ensure the appropriate measures are in place. A continuous long period of high inflation could be a risk to future financial stability. This risk is mitigated by the level of reserves and the ability to react to inflation pressures over the longer term.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Quilter Cheviot were appointed discretionary managers for the Council's investment portfolio in September 2015. The investment strategy falls within the wealth preservation category including a mixture of asset classes (approximate breakdown: UK equities (30%), overseas equities (40%), fixed interest (15%), property and infrastructure (15%)). The trustees regularly monitor the performance of the investment managers. The investment managers are periodically requested to present the investment performance at Executive Committee meetings.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

The Council operates a defined benefit pension scheme that was closed to new members in 1999 and closed to future accrual in 2010. The Council and pension scheme trustees are both committed to ensuring the appropriate level of funding to allow the full payment of accrued pensions from the scheme. The increase in gilt yield in the second half of 2022 resulted in a significant improvement in the funding position of the scheme. In consultation with the scheme trustees and scheme actuary, the Council stopped making deficit recovery payments from September 2022.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Council will continue to seek to improve the efficiency of the publishing process and will explore new opportunities for expanding the Council's content and improving the functionality of the online platform in order to meet customers' demands.

RESERVES

Free reserves, being total unrestricted reserves less tangible and intangible fixed assets stand at £5,320,639 (2023: £4,464,994). The free reserves provide working capital for the operations of the charity and provide a safety net in the event that there is a significant change to the balance of income streams and a corresponding change to business models. The trustees consider that an optimum level of reserves would provide for continuity of operations throughout the transitional period required to implement a new strategic plan. These scenarios will be kept under review, but the current assessment of the trustees is that, in order to be confident that the charity can navigate such a transition, the charity should aim to build reserves towards a current target of £11m. The current level of reserves is considered satisfactory but not optimum, and the charity aims to add incrementally to reserves whilst maintaining its current publishing and service offerings. Amounts reported in tangible and intangible fixed assets are excluded because they are not readily available to the charity for spending.

TANGIBLE ASSETS

The movements in tangible assets during the year are set out in note 10 to the accounts. The Trustees are aware that there is a material favourable difference between the disclosed carrying value of freehold properties (£1.5m) in these accounts and the current market value, but do not believe that there is value, commensurate with the associated cost, in ascertaining that market value at this time.

AUDITOR

A resolution proposing that HaysMac LLP be reappointed for the ensuing year will be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL

The Council members have confirmed that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware and that they have taken all the reasonable steps that they ought to have taken as members in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

APPRECIATION

The Council wishes to express its thanks to His Majesty's Judges and to both branches of the Profession for the aid afforded by them to the Editors and Reporters in the discharge of their duties and to record their appreciation of the efforts of the Editors, Reporters, and staff in maintaining the high quality of the published law reports.

By Order of the Council

.....

Mr Andy Redman
Company Secretary

Date: 19 June 2025

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL

The trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as we are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

In approving the Trustee's report the trustees also approve the strategic report in their capacity as company directors.

This report was approved by the Executive Committee on 19 June 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Mr Richard Fleck CBE
Chairman

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

We have audited the financial statements of The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Council. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Report of the Council for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Council has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Council.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charitable company; or
- the charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to charity law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, corporation tax, payroll tax and sales tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to the posting of inappropriate journal entries and management bias in accounting estimates and judgements. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted that significantly impact on the result for the year, posting in areas subject to significant judgements or estimates, postings in accounts that are considered higher risk; and

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES (continued)

- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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

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

Use of our report

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

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Thomas Wilson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of HaysMac LLP, Statutory Auditor
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG
Date:

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted and total funds 2024 £	Unrestricted and total funds 2023 £
INCOME FROM:			
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Sales of print publications	3	527,862	574,538
Online, licensing and other income	3	5,366,685	5,159,326
<i>Investments</i>			
Interest receivable		104,595	61,098
Listed investments		92,625	92,692
<i>Other</i>			
Rental income		55,000	58,854
TOTAL		6,146,767	5,946,508
EXPENDITURE ON:			
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Costs of publications and services	4	5,386,948	5,198,450
Distribution costs	4	95,580	88,941
TOTAL		5,482,528	5,287,391
Net income for the year before investment gains		664,239	659,117
Net gains on investments		193,660	235,001
Net income for the year		857,899	894,118
Other recognised gains and losses			
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability	16	(61,000)	(65,000)
Net movement in funds for the year		796,899	829,118
Funds brought forward at 1 January	15	6,109,239	5,280,121
Funds carried forward at 31 December	15	6,906,138	6,109,239

All gains and losses arising in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities above and arose from continuing activities.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		1,510,313		1,499,877
Intangible assets	11		75,186		144,368
Investments	12		4,242,196		3,542,685
			<u>5,827,695</u>		<u>5,186,930</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		59,753		61,024	
Debtors	13	1,219,724		2,071,512	
Cash at bank and in hand		3,817,182		2,422,651	
		<u>5,096,659</u>		<u>4,555,187</u>	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(4,018,216)</u>		<u>(3,632,878)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>1,078,443</u>		<u>922,309</u>
NET ASSETS excluding pension liability			<u>6,906,138</u>		<u>6,109,239</u>
Pension liability	16		-		-
NET ASSETS			<u><u>6,906,138</u></u>		<u><u>6,109,239</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds					
- Accumulated reserve	15		6,906,138		6,109,239
- Pension reserve	15		-		-
			<u><u>6,906,138</u></u>		<u><u>6,109,239</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Council and were signed on its behalf on 19 June 2025 by:

.....
 Mr Richard Fleck CBE
Chairman

Company Registration Number 5034 (England & Wales)

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	a	1,724,030	469,893
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends and interest		197,220	153,789
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(20,868)	-
Proceeds from sale of investments		631,581	658,772
Purchase of investments		(1,137,432)	(777,464)
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		(329,499)	35,097
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		1,394,531	504,991
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	b	2,422,651	1,917,660
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	b	3,817,182	2,422,651

Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

a) Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

Net income for the year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)		857,899	894,118
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges		10,432	7,362
Amortisation		69,182	69,183
(Gains) on investments		(193,660)	(235,001)
Dividends and interest from investments		(197,220)	(153,789)
Decrease/(Increase) in stock		1,271	(899)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors		851,788	(137,170)
Increase in creditors		385,338	91,089
Difference between pension movement and cash contributions		(61,000)	(65,000)
Net cash provided by operating activities		1,724,030	469,893
b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash in hand		2,317,182	922,651
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)		1,500,000	1,500,000
Total cash and cash equivalents		3,817,182	2,422,651

No analysis of changes in net debt has been presented as the charitable company has no borrowings.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) General information

The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales (“the Council”) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales (Company registration no. 5034) and registered with the Charity Commission (Charity registration no. 250605). The Council’s registered office address is Megarry House, 119 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP.

(b) Accounting convention and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of fixed asset investments, which are included at their market value at the balance sheet date. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP FRS 102) Second edition effective 1 January 2019, the Companies Act 2006 and applicable accounting standards (FRS 102).

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

(c) Going concern

The trustees consider that, after taking into account financial and cashflow forecasts for the next 5 years, there are no material uncertainties regarding the Council’s ability to continue as a going concern.

(d) Income

All income, including income from publications, subscriptions and licensing agreements is accrued and included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Council is legally entitled to (or has received) the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income received relating to future accounting periods is deferred and recognised as a creditor within the balance sheet. Subscriptions in respect of the following financial year are raised in advance and are due for payment by 31 December and these are shown within trade debtors and deferred income.

(e) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Direct charitable expenditure relates to salaries and expenditure incurred in preparing, publishing and distributing content and related services.

Support costs consist of central management, administration and governance costs. The amount spent on raising funds and other activities is considered to be immaterial and all support costs are allocated to costs of publications and services within charitable activities.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets, other than freehold land, to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight-line basis using the following rates:

Freehold buildings	-	2%
Fixtures and fittings	-	10%
Electrical and computer equipment	-	20%

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(g) Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation is provided on all intangible assets, to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight-line basis using the following rates:

Online Platform and Content Management System -	20%
Licences of transcripts	- 10%

In respect of the transcript licences, the trustees consider that, given the length of time that cases can be considered or cited, it is not possible to make a reliable estimate of the useful life and therefore have adopted the presumed useful life of 10 years as set out in the Charity SORP.

Amortisation is recognised as costs of publications and services within expenditure on charitable activities in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(h) Investments

Investments are included at market value on the Balance Sheet date. Net gains or losses on revaluation and disposal of investments are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(i) Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(j) Financial instruments – assets and liabilities

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within current liabilities.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rates are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(k) Employee benefits

The Council provides a range of benefits to employees including paid holiday arrangements and defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans.

Short term benefits

Short term benefits, including holidays and other similar non-monetary benefits are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Defined contribution pension plans

The Council operates a group personal pension scheme under which the Council makes fixed contributions to a separate entity. The Council also makes contributions to self-employed reporters appointed prior to 1989 which they invest in personal pension schemes. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they fall due. The assets of the pension plans are held separately from the Council in independently administered funds.

Defined benefit pension scheme

The Council has a defined benefit pension scheme for employees that was closed to future accrual on 15th June 2010, the assets of which are administered by trustees. The liability recognised in the balance sheet in respect of the defined benefit pension scheme is the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting date less the fair value of the scheme assets at the reporting date.

The defined benefit obligation is calculated using the projected unit credit method. Annually the Council engages an independent actuary to calculate the obligation. The present value is determined by discounting the estimated future payments using market yields on high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in sterling and that have terms approximating the estimated period of the future periods ("discount rate"). The fair value of the scheme assets is measured in accordance with the FRS 102 fair value hierarchy and includes the use of appropriate valuation techniques.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions are charged or credited to other comprehensive income. These amounts together with the return on plan assets, less amounts included in net interest, are disclosed as "remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability".

The net interest cost is calculated by applying the discount rate to the net balance of the defined benefit obligation and the fair value of the scheme assets. The cost is recognised within other pension costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In preparing these financial statements, management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the Council’s accounting policies and the reported assets, liabilities, income and expenditure and the disclosures made in the financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Key areas subject to judgement and estimation are as follows:

Defined benefit pension scheme

The Council has obligations to pay pension benefits under a defined benefit pension scheme. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors including; life expectancy, salary increases, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates the factors in determining the net pension obligation in the balance sheet, and the assumptions are agreed with the scheme’s actuary on the basis of historical experience and current trends.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gain and losses. Where the scheme is determined to be in a deficit position, this is recognised in full as a liability. Where the scheme is determined to be in a surplus position, a surplus is recognised as an asset only to the extent that this can be recovered in future years through reduction in employer contributions or through a specific refund/reimbursement from the scheme. The pension scheme, at 31 December 2024, is calculated to be £1,381,000 in surplus. However, because the cost of buying out the scheme with an insurance company is likely to be significantly more than this, it is unlikely that any surplus will be returned to ICLR. The asset is therefore recorded in the balance sheet at £nil.

Classification between Property, Plant and Equipment and Investment Properties

Management determines whether a property qualifies as an investment property and has developed criteria in making that judgement. An investment property is a property held to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both. Whilst an element of a property owned by the charity is currently leased out to provide a rental income, the property is retained primarily to aid in contingency planning if ICLR were required to change its business model. In this event, the lease would be terminated and the whole property would be occupied by ICLR’s extended operational headcount. In addition, the proportion of the property currently leased out cannot be disposed of as a discrete asset, as the lift shaft is an integrated structure and maintenance can only be conducted through access within the part of the property currently leased out. Therefore, the whole property has been accounted for as Property, Plant and Equipment. The net book value of this property as at 31 December 2024 was £1,481,362 (2023: £1,483,379).

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

A geographical division of charitable income is given below:

	2024	2023
	£	£
United Kingdom	4,788,820	4,666,219
Overseas	1,105,727	1,067,645
	<u>5,894,547</u>	<u>5,733,864</u>
	<u><u>5,894,547</u></u>	<u><u>5,733,864</u></u>

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4. COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Fees and Salaries £	Other Direct Costs £	Support Costs (Note 5) £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Costs of publications and services	3,018,770	733,740	1,634,438	5,386,948	5,198,450
Distribution costs	-	95,580	-	95,580	88,941
Total	3,018,770	829,320	1,634,438	5,482,528	5,287,391

COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (2023)

	Direct Fees and Salaries £	Other Direct Costs £	Support Costs (Note 5) £	2023 Total £
Costs of publications and services	3,036,832	721,164	1,440,454	5,198,450
Distribution costs	-	88,941	-	88,941
Total	3,036,832	810,105	1,440,454	5,287,391

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries, wages, NI, health insurance and pension costs	959,930	930,348
Office rent and running costs	126,152	136,292
Office supplies and services	97,395	129,479
Depreciation	16,432	13,362
Amortisation	63,182	63,183
Other support costs	352,772	149,540
Governance costs – audit and accountancy fees	18,575	18,250
	1,634,438	1,440,454

6. NET INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the financial year is stated after charging the following:		
Auditor's remuneration:		
- audit	16,075	14,950
- accountancy	2,500	2,350

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

7. FEES AND SALARIES	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,850,741	2,758,426
Social security costs	319,986	303,471
Employer pension costs	346,564	321,975
Staff healthcare costs	89,612	94,846
	<u>3,606,903</u>	<u>3,478,718</u>
Self-employed reporters' and editors' fees and related costs	371,797	377,371
	<u>3,978,700</u>	<u>3,856,089</u>
The monthly average number of employees was	<u>56</u>	<u>54</u>

In addition, the Council utilises the services of 6 (2023: 7) self-employed reporters and editors.

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
The emoluments of higher paid staff within the following range were:		
£60,000 - £69,999	8	9
£70,000 - £79,999	4	3
£80,000 - £89,999	4	5
£90,000 - £99,999	2	1
£130,000 - £139,999	1	1
£170,000 - £179,999	-	1
£180,000 - £189,999	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

The key management personnel of the Council consist of the five (2023: three) members of the senior management team. Total compensation (including employer's national insurance contributions) for key management personnel for the year was £661,831 (2023: £466,340).

8. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REMUNERATION AND TRANSACTIONS

No members of the Council received any remuneration during the year (2023: £nil). No members were reimbursed expenses during the year (2023: No member reimbursed £nil).

9. TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and, as its income is applied to charitable purposes, there is no liability to corporation tax.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

10. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Electrical and computer equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2024	2,178,224	151,299	82,606	2,412,129
Additions	-	1,953	18,915	20,868
Disposals	-	-	(5,561)	(5,561)
At 31 December 2024	2,178,224	153,252	95,960	2,427,436
Accumulated depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	694,845	136,834	80,573	912,252
Charge for the year	2,017	3,276	5,139	10,432
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(5,561)	(5,561)
At 31 December 2024	696,862	140,110	80,151	917,123
Net book values				
At 31 December 2024	1,481,362	13,142	15,809	1,510,313
At 31 December 2023	1,483,379	14,465	2,033	1,499,877

All assets are considered to be held for charitable purposes.

11. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Online platform and content management system £	Transcript Licence £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2024	819,183	60,000	879,183
At 31 December 2024	819,183	60,000	879,183
Accumulated amortisation			
At 1 January 2024	692,815	42,000	734,815
Charge for the year	63,182	6,000	69,182
At 31 December 2024	755,997	48,000	803,997
Net book values			
At 31 December 2024	63,186	12,000	75,186
At 31 December 2023	126,368	18,000	144,368

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12. INVESTMENTS	Fixed interest stock £	Listed equities and funds £	Total £
Analysis of movements in the year			
Market value at 1 January 2024	751,803	2,790,882	3,542,685
Additions at cost	367,692	769,740	1,137,432
Sales proceeds	(31,639)	(599,942)	(631,581)
Realised (losses)/gains on disposals	(520)	46,926	46,406
Unrealised gains on revaluation	(21,425)	168,679	147,254
Market value			
At 31 December 2024	1,065,911	3,176,285	4,242,196
Cost			
At 31 December 2024	1,015,017	2,555,822	3,570,839
At 31 December 2023	684,122	2,101,527	2,785,649
13. DEBTORS		2024	2023
		£	£
Due within one year:			
Trade debtors		905,946	1,826,585
Other debtors		98,688	49,856
Prepayments		215,090	195,071
		1,219,724	2,071,512
14. CREDITORS		2024	2023
		£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:			
Trade creditors		98,255	43,358
Accruals		378,321	440,197
Deferred income		3,067,563	2,718,103
Tax and social security		463,267	421,031
Other creditors		10,810	10,189
		4,018,216	3,632,878

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

15. FUNDS	Accumulated Fund £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2023	5,280,121	-	5,280,121
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Surplus for the year	829,118	-	829,118
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2024	6,109,239	-	6,109,239
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Surplus for the year	796,899	-	796,899
Balance as at 31 December 2024	6,906,138	-	6,906,138

Included within the accumulated fund are unrealised gains on investments totalling £671,357 (2023: unrealised gains of £757,036).

16. PENSIONS

(i) Pension and Life Assurance Scheme

The company operates a defined benefit pension scheme in the UK, the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales Pension and Life Assurance Scheme (1975), in respect of office, editorial and warehouse staff, and reporters appointed subsequently to 6 April 1989. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company, being invested in various investment vehicles with LGT Wealth Management LLP and Quilter Cheviot. The scheme was closed to new members in October 1999 and to future accrual on 15th June 2010. No contributions to the scheme were made in 2024 (2023: £nil).

The most recent triennial review as at 1 April 2022 stated that the value of the scheme assets was £9,860,000 which represented 92% of the benefits that had accrued to members, after allowing for future increases in earnings. This is equivalent to a deficit of £818,000. The major assumptions used in the valuation as at 1 April 2022 are given below.

Rate of increase of salaries	4.0% pa
Rate of increase of pensions in payment	3.7% pa
Rate of Investment return – before retirement	3.9% pa
Rate of Investment return – after retirement	2.2% pa
Retail price index increases	3.9% pa
Consumer price index increases	3.3% pa
Rate of increases in pensions in deferment:	
Pre 6 April 2019 accrual	3.3%
Post 6 April 2019 accrual	2.5%

The funding position was subsequently updated to 30 September 2022, at which point there was no technical provisions deficit. All deficit recovery payments have therefore been suspended following the movement in funding to a surplus position.

For the purpose of providing the disclosures required by Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Scheme actuary has prepared a valuation of the Scheme using the projected unit method in order to assess the liabilities of the Scheme at 31 December 2024. The major assumptions used by the actuary as at 31 December 2024 were as follows:

16. PENSIONS (continued)

	31 December 2024	31 December 2023
Discount Rate	5.4%	4.5%
Salary increases	3.2%	3.1%
LPI Pension increases	3.1%	3.0%
Retail price index	3.2%	3.1%
Consumer price index	2.7%	2.4%

Mortality assumptions

The underlying mortality assumption is based upon the standard table known as S3PA on a year of birth usage with CMI_2023 future improvement factors and a long-term rate of future improvement of 1.0% p.a. (2023: S3PA with CMI_2022 future improvement factors and a long-term rate of future improvement of 1.0% p.a). This results in the following life expectancies:

Life expectancy for a current 65 year old - males	86 years	86 years
- females	89 years	89 years

Amounts Recognised in the Balance Sheet

	31 December 2024 £	31 December 2023 £
Market value of scheme assets	7,650,000	8,301,000
Present value of scheme liabilities	(6,269,000)	(6,961,000)
Surplus on scheme not recoverable	(1,381,000)	(1,340,000)
Net defined benefit asset	-	-

Amounts Recognised in the Income and Expenditure account

	31 December 2024 £	31 December 2023 £
Interest cost on net defined benefit liability	(61,000)	(65,000)
Total charge	(61,000)	(65,000)

Changes in the present value of the scheme liabilities

	31 December 2024 £	31 December 2023 £
Opening present value of scheme liabilities	6,961,000	6,788,000
Interest cost on scheme liabilities	305,000	321,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(636,000)	43,000
Benefits paid	(361,000)	(191,000)
Closing present value of scheme liabilities	6,269,000	6,961,000

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

16. PENSIONS (continued)

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets

	31 December 2024 £	31 December 2023 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	8,031,000	8,141,000
Interest on scheme assets	366,000	386,000
Return on assets less interest included in I&E	(656,000)	(35,000)
Employer contributions	-	-
Benefits paid	(361,000)	(191,000)
Closing fair value of scheme assets	<u>7,650,000</u>	<u>8,301,000</u>
Actual return on scheme assets	<u>(290,000)</u>	<u>351,000</u>

The major categories of Scheme assets as a percentage of total Scheme assets are as follows:

	At 31 December 2024	At 31 December 2023
Equities and Property	31%	44%
Bonds	35%	41%
Cash	34%	15%
Total	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

The scheme has no investments in property occupied by, assets used by or financial instruments issued by the charitable company.

Analysis of amount recognisable in other recognised gains and losses

	31 December 2024 £	31 December 2023 £
Return on assets, less interest recognised in I&E	(656,000)	(35,000)
Experience gains and losses arising on scheme liabilities	-	-
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of scheme liabilities	636,000	(43,000)
Adjustment for unrecognised asset	(41,000)	13,000
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability recognised in other recognised gains and losses	<u>(61,000)</u>	<u>(65,000)</u>

16. PENSIONS (continued)

Movement in net defined benefit asset/(liability) during the year

	31 December 2024	31 December 2023
	£	£
Net defined benefit liability at start of year	-	-
Income and expenditure charge	61,000	65,000
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability recognised in other recognised gains and losses	(20,000)	(78,000)
Employer contributions	-	-
Adjustment for unrecognised asset	(41,000)	13,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net defined benefit asset at end of year	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(ii) Defined contribution pension scheme arrangements

ICLR operates a defined contribution pension scheme for eligible employees called the ICLR Group Personal Pension Plan (GPPP). All eligible employees are automatically enrolled into the scheme and ICLR contributes between 4% and 14.5% of pensionable salaries. ICLR also makes contributions to employee personal pension schemes through pension salary exchange. The total expense for the year in respect of defined contribution pension schemes was £334,894 (2023: £308,885). Contributions totalling £28,459 (2023: £27,236) were payable in respect of these arrangements at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

(iii) Retirement reserve for appointed reporters

The Council pays annual pension increments to self-employed reporters appointed prior to April 1989 which they invest in their individual pension arrangements. The charge for the year, included in cost of publications and services, was £34,496 (2023: £40,396). Contributions totalling £24,708 (2023: £30,463) were payable in respect of this scheme at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At the balance sheet date, the Council had no future capital commitments (2023: £nil).

18. LEASE RENTALS RECEIVABLE

The Council lets part of its freehold buildings under a lease agreement. The future minimum lease rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Minimum lease rentals receivable in:		
less than one year	50,417	-
two to five years	141,396	-
	<u>191,813</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>191,813</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

No contingent rents have been included in this disclosure or recognised in the period.

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in the current or previous year.

20. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There are no post balance sheet events to report.

INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

England & Wales - Charity number 250605

Accounts

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 00005034
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 250605**

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**PUBLISHERS OF THE LAW REPORTS, THE WEEKLY LAW REPORTS,
THE INDUSTRIAL CASES REPORTS, THE BUSINESS LAW REPORTS
AND THE PUBLIC AND THIRD SECTOR LAW REPORTS**

MEGARRY HOUSE, 119 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON WC2A 1PP

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Chairman - R Fleck Esq. CBE
Vice Chairman – Miss M Bowron QC

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

The Attorney-General - The Rt. Hon. Victoria Prentis KC MP
The Solicitor-General – Robert Courts KC MP
The President of The Law Society – N P Emmerson Esq.

NOMINATED MEMBERS

Lincoln's Inn
His Honour Judge D R Hodge KC
The Hon. Sir Alastair Norris

Middle Temple
The Hon. Mr Justice Roth
P Susman Esq. KC

Inner Temple
Miss M Bowron KC
Dr M Malecka

Gray's Inn
J Clarke Esq.
The Hon. Mr Justice Turner

The Law Society
Mrs S Abraham
M Anderson Esq.

ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected by the Council on the nomination of the General Council of the Bar

Ms A J Bright

F Sadiq Esq.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

R Fleck Esq. CBE
K Hamer Esq
Prof J Lee
Ms L K H Lee
Ms S Thomas

SECRETARY / CEO

Kevin Laws Esq.

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London EC4A 2DX

Stockbrokers
Quilter Cheviot
1 Kingsway
London WC2B 6AN

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The members of the Council, being the trustees under Charity law and the directors under company law, submit their report and the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023. Details of members are given on page 1.

During the year there were the following changes to the members of the Council:

Appointments		Resignations	
N P Emmerson Esq.	11 October 2023	Mr Michael Tomlinson KC MP	07 December 2023
Mr Robert Courts KC MP	07 December 2023		

No trustees received any remuneration during the year. No trustees received any reimbursement (2022: One trustee was reimbursed £126) in respect of expenses incurred in performing their duty.

The number of members of the Council shall not exceed twenty. Three, namely the Attorney General, the Solicitor General and the President of The Law Society are appointed members by virtue of their office. Ten members, two from each of Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple, Middle Temple, Gray's Inn and The Law Society are nominated by each of these societies. Two members are elected to represent the Bar Council. Other co-opted members, not exceeding five in total, are appointed by the Council.

New members are provided with the articles of association, 'The Essential Trustee' document from the Charity Commission, the latest accounts and the minutes from the most recent Executive Committee meeting. They are also given the opportunity to ask the Chief Executive Officer any questions that they may have.

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Key management personnel include the Chief Executive Officer, The Editor and the Head of Product Development and Online Content. This three-member senior management team meet regularly to consider and discuss operational issues. The remuneration for the senior management team is set by the Executive Committee, usually at the March meeting. Membership of the senior management team will be expanded in January 2024 to include the Assistant Editor of The Weekly Law Reports and the Head of the Electronic Publishing Group.

STRATEGIC REPORT

OBJECTS AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

1. The preparation and publication, in a convenient form, at a moderate price and under gratuitous professional control, of Reports of Judicial Decisions of the Superior and Appellate Courts in England and Wales.
2. The issue, periodically or occasionally, of any subsidiary or other publications relating to legal subjects which it may be considered expedient to combine with the publication of such reports, including the Statutes of the Realm, or any part thereof, if deemed expedient.

The principal activities of the Council are the publication of *The Law Reports*, *The Weekly Law Reports*, *The Industrial Cases Reports*, *The Business Law Reports* and *The Public and Third Sector Law Reports*. Following Practice Directions from Lord Woolf in 2001 and Lord Judge in 2012, the Official Law Reports must always be cited in preference to other law reports. The function to publish law reports of judicial decisions of the superior and appellate courts in England and Wales makes a significant contribution to the administration of justice in England and Wales. This independent role is free from political and shareholder influence.

The Council was formed in 1865, incorporated on 28 July 1870, registered as a charity on 17 November 1971, and is now a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The liability of members is limited to ten pounds per member.

The Council's primary object is, in substance, to record in a reliably accurate manner the development and application of judge-made law and to disseminate the knowledge of that law, its development and judicial application, in a way which is essential to the study of the law. Its purposes in doing so are (i) to assist the administration and development of the law by the courts and (ii) to make the law known, or at least accessible, to all members of the community, including professional lawyers whose advice on legal matters is likely to be sought by other members of the community, thereby making a sound knowledge and understanding of the law more available to all. In 1971 those purposes were held by the Court of Appeal in *Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales v Attorney-General* [1972] Ch 73, 88, 95, 104 to be of "general public utility" and "beneficial to the community". Nothing has changed in any relevant respect since 1971 and the Council continues to believe that substantial public benefit results from those activities.

The Council is run on a not-for-profit basis whilst offering preferential rates in respect of its publications to academic institutions, students, law lecturers and other charities. Any surplus is retained in the Council for future operations. The trustees have taken due regard of the information issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Further improvements to the online platform have been progressing, including using AI technology to generate 100-word summaries of unreported judgments.

There is also the implementation of a system under which judges and practitioners will be able to flag cases that they think are important and justify a full law report. It is thought that this will be a useful additional step to reduce the risk of overlooking reportable judgments.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

These accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the valuation of investments to market value, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales. Income in 2023 was £5,946,508, an increase of £249,913 (4%) on 2022. The higher income is primarily attributable to the continuing rise in revenue from online publications and higher royalty revenue.

Costs have been kept under tight control. Total expenditure at £5,287,391 was only £112,507 (2%) higher than in 2022.

This has resulted in an operating surplus of £659,117, higher than the £521,711 operating surplus reported for 2022.

The operating surplus moves to an overall surplus of £829,118 (£162,900 deficit in 2022) once the downwards remeasurement of £65,000 of the pension scheme liability and £235,001 gain on investments are included.

Creditors (amounts falling due within one year) amount to £3.6m. £2.7m of this total refers to deferred income and is recorded as an equal and opposite value in current assets. The remaining £0.9m relates to accrued expenditure that has been incurred but not paid at year end.

At the year end, total unrestricted funds were £6,109k, an £829k increase from £5,280k reported at the end of 2022.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

KEY MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION POLICY

The members of Council have identified the Chief Executive Officer, Editor and Head of Product Development and Online Content as key management personnel of the charity and they are in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The pay of all staff is reviewed annually with average increases normally in line with inflation.

RISKS

A risk register is maintained and periodically reviewed at Council meetings. Areas currently identified with significant inherent risk include the risk that demand for ICLR content on paper declines to a level that results in an unsustainable loss and the risk that operational or archive data is lost. Controls have been put in place to mitigate these risks, these include developing alternative sources of revenue and ensuring data is regularly backed up and held in multiple locations. Continuity of service for the online platform is also considered a risk. The security of the platform is regularly reviewed to ensure the appropriate measures are in place. A continuous long period of high inflation could be a risk to future financial stability. This risk is mitigated by the level of reserves and the ability to react to inflation pressures over the longer term.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Quilter Cheviot were appointed discretionary managers for the Council's investment portfolio in September 2015. The investment strategy falls within the wealth preservation category including a mixture of asset classes (approximate breakdown: UK equities (30%), overseas equities (40%), fixed interest (15%), property and infrastructure (15%)). The trustees regularly monitor the performance of the investment managers. The investment managers are periodically requested to present the investment performance at Executive Committee meetings.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

The Council operates a defined benefit pension scheme that was closed to new members in 1999 and closed to future accrual in 2010. The Council and pension scheme trustees are both committed to ensuring the appropriate level of funding to allow the full payment of accrued pensions from the scheme. The increase in gilt yield in the second half of 2022 resulted in a significant improvement in the funding position of the scheme. In consultation with the scheme trustees and scheme actuary, the Council stopped making deficit recovery payments from September 2022.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Council will continue to seek to improve the efficiency of the publishing process and will explore new opportunities for expanding the Council's content and improving the functionality of the online platform in order to meet customers' demands.

RESERVES

Free reserves, being total unrestricted reserves less tangible and intangible fixed assets stand at £4,464,994 (2022: £3,559,331). The free reserves provide working capital for the operations of the charity and the trustees consider that a secure level of reserves would amount to enough to cover two years' worth of expenditure (approx. £10m). Amounts reported in tangible and intangible fixed assets are excluded because they are not readily available to the charity for spending.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

TANGIBLE ASSETS

The movements in tangible assets during the year are set out in note 10 to the accounts. The Trustees are aware that there is a material favourable difference between the disclosed carrying value of freehold properties (£1.5m) in these accounts and the current market value, but do not believe that there is value, commensurate with the associated cost, in ascertaining that market value at this time.

AUDITOR

A resolution proposing that Haysmacintyre LLP be reappointed for the ensuing year will be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL

The Council members have confirmed that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware and that they have taken all the reasonable steps that they ought to have taken as members in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

APPRECIATION

The Council wishes to express its thanks to His Majesty's Judges and to both branches of the Profession for the aid afforded by them to the Editors and Reporters in the discharge of their duties and to record their appreciation of the efforts of the Editors, Reporters, and staff in maintaining the high quality of the published law reports.

By Order of the Council

Mr Kevin Laws
Company Secretary

Date:

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL

The trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as we are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

In approving the Trustee's report the trustees also approve the strategic report in their capacity as company directors.

This report was approved by the Executive Committee on 20 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Mr Richard Fleck CBE
Chairman

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

We have audited the financial statements of The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Council. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Report of the Council for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Council has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Council.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to charity law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, corporation tax, payroll tax and sales tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to the posting of inappropriate journal entries and management bias in accounting estimates and judgements. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted that significantly impact on the result for the year, posting in areas subject to significant judgements or estimates, postings in accounts that are considered higher risk; and

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES (continued)

- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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

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

Use of our report

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

Thomas Wilson (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP, Statutory Auditor

10 Queen Street Place

London EC4R 1AG

Date:

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted and total funds 2023 £	Unrestricted and total funds 2022 £
INCOME FROM:			
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Sales of print publications	3	574,538	658,772
Online, licensing and other income	3	5,159,326	4,902,400
<i>Investments</i>			
Interest receivable		61,098	1,029
Listed investments		92,692	74,255
<i>Other</i>			
Rental income		58,854	60,139
TOTAL		5,946,508	5,696,595
EXPENDITURE ON:			
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Costs of publications and services	4	5,198,450	5,082,017
Distribution costs	4	88,941	92,867
TOTAL		5,287,391	5,174,884
Net income for the year before investment gains		659,117	521,711
Net gains/(losses) on investments		235,001	(520,611)
Net income for the year		894,118	1,100
Other recognised gains and losses			
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability	16	(65,000)	(164,000)
Net movement in funds for the year		829,118	(162,900)
Funds brought forward at 1 January	15	5,280,121	5,443,021
Funds carried forward at 31 December	15	6,109,239	5,280,121

All gains and losses arising in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities above and arose from continuing activities.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		1,499,877		1,507,239
Intangible assets	11		144,368		213,551
Investments	12		3,542,685		3,189,222
			<u>5,186,930</u>		<u>4,910,012</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		61,024		60,125	
Debtors	13	2,071,512		1,934,342	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,422,651		1,917,660	
		<u>4,555,187</u>		<u>3,912,127</u>	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(3,632,878)</u>		<u>(3,542,018)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>922,309</u>		<u>370,109</u>
NET ASSETS excluding pension liability			<u>6,109,239</u>		<u>5,280,121</u>
Pension liability	16		-		-
NET ASSETS			<u><u>6,109,239</u></u>		<u><u>5,280,121</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds					
- Accumulated reserve	15		6,109,239		5,280,121
- Pension reserve	15		-		-
			<u><u>6,109,239</u></u>		<u><u>5,280,121</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Council and were signed on its behalf on 20 June 2024 by:

.....
 Mr Richard Fleck CBE
 Chairman

Company Registration Number 5034 (England & Wales)

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	a	469,893	952,773
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends and interest		153,789	75,284
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		-	(855)
Proceeds from sale of investments		658,772	401,697
Purchase of investments		(777,464)	(584,659)
Net cash used in by investing activities		<u>35,097</u>	<u>844,240</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		504,991	844,240
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	b	<u>1,917,660</u>	<u>1,073,420</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	b	<u><u>2,422,651</u></u>	<u><u>1,917,660</u></u>

Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

a) Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

Net income for the year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)		894,118	1,100
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges		7,362	13,867
Amortisation		69,183	111,808
(Gains) on investments		(235,001)	520,611
Dividends and interest from investments		(153,789)	(75,284)
(Increase)/Decrease in stock		(899)	5,409
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors		(137,170)	476,079
Increase in creditors		91,089	38,183
Difference between pension movement and cash contributions		(65,000)	(139,000)
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>469,893</u>	<u>952,773</u>
b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash in hand		922,651	1,167,660
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)		1,500,000	750,000
Total cash and cash equivalents		<u><u>2,422,651</u></u>	<u><u>1,917,660</u></u>

No analysis of changes in net debt has been presented as the charitable company has no borrowings.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) General information

The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales (“the Council”) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales (Company registration no. 5034) and registered with the Charity Commission (Charity registration no. 250605). The Council’s registered office address is Megarry House, 119 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP.

(b) Accounting convention and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of fixed asset investments, which are included at their market value at the balance sheet date. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP FRS 102) Second edition effective 1 January 2019, the Companies Act 2006 and applicable accounting standards (FRS 102).

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

(c) Going concern

The trustees consider that, after taking into account financial and cashflow forecasts for the next 5 years, there are no material uncertainties regarding the Council’s ability to continue as a going concern.

(d) Income

All income, including income from publications, subscriptions and licensing agreements is accrued and included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Council is legally entitled to (or has received) the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income received relating to future accounting periods is deferred and recognised as a creditor within the balance sheet. Subscriptions in respect of the following financial year are raised in advance and are due for payment by 31 December and these are shown within trade debtors and deferred income.

(e) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Direct charitable expenditure relates to salaries and expenditure incurred in preparing, publishing and distributing content and related services.

Support costs consist of central management, administration and governance costs. The amount spent on raising funds and other activities is considered to be immaterial and all support costs are allocated to costs of publications and services within charitable activities.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets, other than freehold land, to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight-line basis using the following rates:

Freehold buildings	-	2%
Fixtures and fittings	-	10%
Electrical and computer equipment	-	20%

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(g) Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation is provided on all intangible assets, to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight-line basis using the following rates:

Online Platform and Content Management System -	20%
Licences of transcripts	- 10%

In respect of the transcript licences, the trustees consider that, given the length of time that cases can be considered or cited, it is not possible to make a reliable estimate of the useful life and therefore have adopted the presumed useful life of 10 years as set out in the Charity SORP.

Amortisation is recognised as costs of publications and services within expenditure on charitable activities in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(h) Investments

Investments are included at market value on the Balance Sheet date. Net gains or losses on revaluation and disposal of investments are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(i) Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(j) Financial instruments – assets and liabilities

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within current liabilities.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rates are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(k) Employee benefits

The Council provides a range of benefits to employees including paid holiday arrangements and defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans.

Short term benefits

Short term benefits, including holidays and other similar non-monetary benefits are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Defined contribution pension plans

The Council operates a group personal pension scheme under which the Council makes fixed contributions to a separate entity. The Council also makes contributions to self-employed reporters appointed prior to 1989 which they invest in personal pension schemes. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they fall due. The assets of the pension plans are held separately from the Council in independently administered funds.

Defined benefit pension scheme

The Council has a defined benefit pension scheme for employees that was closed to future accrual on 15th June 2010, the assets of which are administered by trustees. The liability recognised in the balance sheet in respect of the defined benefit pension scheme is the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting date less the fair value of the scheme assets at the reporting date.

The defined benefit obligation is calculated using the projected unit credit method. Annually the Council engages an independent actuary to calculate the obligation. The present value is determined by discounting the estimated future payments using market yields on high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in sterling and that have terms approximating the estimated period of the future periods ("discount rate"). The fair value of the scheme assets is measured in accordance with the FRS 102 fair value hierarchy and includes the use of appropriate valuation techniques.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions are charged or credited to other comprehensive income. These amounts together with the return on plan assets, less amounts included in net interest, are disclosed as "remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability".

The net interest cost is calculated by applying the discount rate to the net balance of the defined benefit obligation and the fair value of the scheme assets. The cost is recognised within other pension costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In preparing these financial statements, management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the Council’s accounting policies and the reported assets, liabilities, income and expenditure and the disclosures made in the financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Key areas subject to judgement and estimation are as follows:

Defined benefit pension scheme

The Council has obligations to pay pension benefits under a defined benefit pension scheme. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors including; life expectancy, salary increases, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates the factors in determining the net pension obligation in the balance sheet, and the assumptions are agreed with the scheme’s actuary on the basis of historical experience and current trends.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gain and losses. Where the scheme is determined to be in a deficit position, this is recognised in full as a liability. Where the scheme is determined to be in a surplus position, a surplus is recognised as an asset only to the extent that this can be recovered in future years through reduction in employer contributions or through a specific refund/reimbursement from the scheme. The pension scheme, at 31 December 2023, is calculated to be £1,340,000 in surplus. However, because the cost of buying out the scheme with an insurance company is likely to be significantly more than this, it is unlikely that any surplus will be returned to ICLR. The asset is therefore recorded in the balance sheet at £nil.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

2023
£

2022
£

A geographical division of charitable income is given below:

United Kingdom	4,666,219	4,542,551
Overseas	1,067,645	1,018,621
	<u>5,733,864</u>	<u>5,561,172</u>

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4. COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Fees and Salaries £	Other Direct Costs £	Support Costs (Note 5) £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Costs of publications and services	3,036,832	721,164	1,440,454	5,198,450	5,082,017
Distribution costs	-	88,941	-	88,941	92,867
Total	3,036,832	810,105	1,440,454	5,287,391	5,174,884

COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (2022)

	Direct Fees and Salaries £	Other Direct Costs £	Support Costs (Note 5) £	2022 Total £
Costs of publications and services	2,937,690	792,308	1,352,019	5,082,017
Distribution costs	-	92,867	-	92,867
Total	2,937,690	885,175	1,352,019	5,174,884

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries, wages, NI, health insurance and pension costs	930,348	874,485
Office rent and running costs	136,292	78,946
Office supplies and services	129,479	132,878
Depreciation	13,362	19,867
Amortisation	63,183	105,808
Other support costs	149,540	124,285
Governance costs – audit and accountancy fees	18,250	15,750
	1,440,454	1,352,019

6. NET INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the financial year is stated after charging the following:		
Auditor's remuneration:		
- audit	14,950	13,600
- accountancy	2,350	2,150

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

7. FEES AND SALARIES	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,724,703	2,452,856
Social security costs	303,471	296,825
Employer pension costs	321,975	488,445
Staff healthcare costs	94,846	91,717
	<u>3,444,995</u>	<u>3,329,843</u>
Self-employed reporters' and editors' fees and related costs	411,094	468,582
	<u>3,856,089</u>	<u>3,798,425</u>
The monthly average number of employees was	<u>54</u>	<u>53</u>

In addition, the Council utilises the services of 7 (2022: 7) self-employed reporters and editors.

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
The emoluments of higher paid staff within the following range were:		
£60,000 - £69,999	9	8
£70,000 - £79,999	3	3
£80,000 - £89,999	5	3
£90,000 - £99,999	1	-
£120,000 - £129,999	-	1
£130,000 - £139,999	1	-
£160,000 - £169,999	-	1
£170,000 - £179,999	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

The key management personnel of the Council consist of the three (2022: three) members of the senior management team. Total compensation (including employer's national insurance contributions) for key management personnel for the year was £466,340 (2022: £431,126).

8. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REMUNERATION AND TRANSACTIONS

No members of the Council received any remuneration during the year (2022: £nil). No members were reimbursed expenses during the year (2022: No member reimbursed £nil).

9. TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and, as its income is applied to charitable purposes, there is no liability to corporation tax.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Electrical and computer equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	2,178,224	151,299	82,606	2,412,129
At 31 December 2023	2,178,224	151,299	82,606	2,412,129
Accumulated depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	692,828	133,742	78,320	904,890
Charge for the year	2,017	3,092	2,253	7,362
At 31 December 2023	694,845	136,834	80,573	912,252
Net book values				
At 31 December 2023	1,483,379	14,465	2,033	1,499,877
At 31 December 2022	1,485,396	17,557	4,286	1,507,239

All assets are considered to be held for charitable purposes.

11. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Online platform and content management system £	Transcript Licence £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2023	819,183	60,000	879,183
At 31 December 2023	819,183	60,000	879,183
Accumulated amortisation			
At 1 January 2023	629,632	36,000	665,632
Charge for the year	63,183	6,000	69,183
At 31 December 2023	692,815	42,000	734,815
Net book values			
At 31 December 2023	126,368	18,000	144,368
At 31 December 2022	189,551	24,000	213,551

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12. INVESTMENTS	Fixed interest stock £	Listed equities and funds £	Total £
Analysis of movements in the year			
Market value at 1 January 2023	615,218	2,574,004	3,189,222
Additions at cost	386,156	391,308	777,464
Sales proceeds	(266,130)	(392,642)	(658,772)
Realised (losses)/gains on disposals	(12,952)	1,690	(11,262)
Unrealised gains on revaluation	29,511	216,522	246,033
Market value			
At 31 December 2023	751,803	2,790,882	3,542,685
Cost			
At 31 December 2023	684,122	2,101,527	2,785,649
At 31 December 2022	608,499	2,060,592	2,669,091
13. DEBTORS		2023	2022
		£	£
Due within one year:			
Trade debtors		1,826,585	1,732,834
Other debtors		49,856	44,982
Prepayments		195,071	156,526
		2,071,512	1,934,342
14. CREDITORS		2023	2022
		£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:			
Trade creditors		43,358	91,228
Accruals		440,197	387,799
Deferred income		2,718,103	2,656,368
Tax and social security		421,031	398,805
Other creditors		10,189	7,818
		3,632,878	3,542,018

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

15. FUNDS	Accumulated Fund £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2022	5,418,021	25,000	5,443,021
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Deficit for the year	(137,900)	(25,000)	(162,900)
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2023	5,280,121	-	5,280,121
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Surplus for the year	829,118	-	829,118
Balance as at 31 December 2023	6,109,239	-	6,109,239

Included within the accumulated fund are unrealised losses on investments totalling £234,771 (2022: unrealised gains of £520,611).

16. PENSIONS

(i) Pension and Life Assurance Scheme

The company operates a defined benefit pension scheme in the UK, the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales Pension and Life Assurance Scheme (1975), in respect of office, editorial and warehouse staff, and reporters appointed subsequently to 6 April 1989. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company, being invested in various investment vehicles with LGT Wealth Management LLP and Quilter Cheviot. The scheme was closed to new members in October 1999 and to future accrual on 15th June 2010. No contributions to the scheme were made in 2023 (2022: £138,000).

The most recent triennial review as at 1 April 2022 stated that the value of the scheme assets was £9,860,000 which represented 92% of the benefits that had accrued to members, after allowing for future increases in earnings. This is equivalent to a deficit of £818,000. The major assumptions used in the valuation as at 1 April 2022 are given below.

Rate of increase of salaries	4.0% pa
Rate of increase of pensions in payment	3.7% pa
Rate of Investment return – before retirement	3.9% pa
Rate of Investment return – after retirement	2.2% pa
Retail price index increases	3.9% pa
Consumer price index increases	3.3% pa
Rate of increases in pensions in deferment:	
Pre 6 April 2019 accrual	3.3%
Post 6 April 2019 accrual	2.5%

The funding position was subsequently updated to 30 September 2022, at which point there was no technical provisions deficit. All deficit recovery payments have therefore been suspended following the movement in funding to a surplus position.

For the purpose of providing the disclosures required by Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Scheme actuary has prepared a valuation of the Scheme using the projected unit method in order to assess the liabilities of the Scheme at 31 December 2023. The major assumptions used by the actuary as at 31 December 2023 were as follows:

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

16. PENSIONS (continued)

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
Discount Rate	4.5%	4.8%
Salary increases	3.1%	3.2%
LPI Pension increases	3.0%	3.2%
Retail price index	3.1%	2.5%
Consumer price index	2.4%	3.1%

Mortality assumptions

The underlying mortality assumption is based upon the standard table known as S3PA on a year of birth usage with CMI_2020 future improvement factors and a long-term rate of future improvement of 1.0% p.a. (2022: S3PA with CMI_2019 future improvement factors and a long-term rate of future improvement of 1.0% p.a). This results in the following life expectancies:

Life expectancy for a current 65 year old - males	86 years	86 years
- females	89 years	89 years

Amounts Recognised in the Balance Sheet

	31 December 2023 £	31 December 2022 £
Market value of scheme assets	8,301,000	8,141,000
Present value of scheme liabilities	(6,961,000)	(6,788,000)
Surplus on scheme not recoverable	(1,340,000)	(1,353,000)
Net defined benefit asset	-	-

Amounts Recognised in the Income and Expenditure account

	31 December 2023 £	31 December 2022 £
Interest cost on net defined benefit liability	(65,000)	(1,000)
Total charge	(65,000)	(1,000)

Changes in the present value of the scheme liabilities

	31 December 2023 £	31 December 2022 £
Opening present value of scheme liabilities	6,788,000	10,478,000
Interest cost on scheme liabilities	321,000	198,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	43,000	(3,724,000)
Benefits paid	(191,000)	(164,000)
Closing present value of scheme liabilities	6,961,000	6,788,000

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

16. PENSIONS (continued)

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets

	31 December 2023 £	31 December 2022 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	8,141,000	10,503,000
Interest on scheme assets	386,000	199,000
Return on assets less interest included in I&E	(35,000)	(2,535,000)
Employer contributions	-	138,000
Benefits paid	(191,000)	(164,000)
	<u>8,301,000</u>	<u>8,141,000</u>
Closing fair value of scheme assets	8,301,000	8,141,000
Actual return on scheme assets	<u>351,000</u>	<u>(2,336,000)</u>

The major categories of Scheme assets as a percentage of total Scheme assets are as follows:

	At 31 December 2023	At 31 December 2022
Equities and Property	44%	55%
Bonds	41%	30%
Cash	15%	15%
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>
Total	100%	100%

The scheme has no investments in property occupied by, assets used by or financial instruments issued by the charitable company.

Analysis of amount recognisable in other recognised gains and losses

	31 December 2023 £	31 December 2022 £
Return on assets, less interest recognised in I&E	(35,000)	(2,535,000)
Experience gains and losses arising on scheme liabilities	-	(242,000)
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of scheme liabilities	(43,000)	3,966,000
Adjustment for unrecognised asset	13,000	(1,353,000)
	<u>(65,000)</u>	<u>(164,000)</u>
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability recognised in other recognised gains and losses	(65,000)	(164,000)

16. PENSIONS (continued)

Movement in net defined benefit asset/(liability) during the year

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
	£	£
Net defined benefit liability at start of year	-	25,000
Income and expenditure charge	65,000	1,000
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability recognised in other recognised gains and losses	(78,000)	1,189,000
Employer contributions	-	138,000
Adjustment for unrecognised asset	13,000	(1,353,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net defined benefit asset at end of year	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(ii) Defined contribution pension scheme arrangements

ICLR operates a defined contribution pension scheme for eligible employees called the ICLR Group Personal Pension Plan (GPPP). All eligible employees are automatically enrolled into the scheme and ICLR contributes between 4% and 14.5% of pensionable salaries. ICLR also makes contributions to employee personal pension schemes through pension salary exchange. The total expense for the year in respect of defined contribution pension schemes was £308,885 (2022: £265,969). Contributions totalling £27,236 (2022: £22,122) were payable in respect of these arrangements at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

(iii) Retirement reserve for appointed reporters

The Council pays annual pension increments to self-employed reporters appointed prior to April 1989 which they invest in their individual pension arrangements. The charge for the year, included in cost of publications and services, was £40,396 (2022: £42,722). Contributions totalling £30,463 (2022: £34,101) were payable in respect of this scheme at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At the balance sheet date, the Council had no future capital commitments (2022: £nil).

18. LEASE RENTALS RECEIVABLE

The Council lets part of its freehold buildings under a lease agreement. The future minimum lease rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Minimum lease rentals receivable in:		
less than one year	-	44,248
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>	<u>44,248</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

No contingent rents have been included in this disclosure or recognised in the period.

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in the current or previous year.

20. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There are no post balance sheet events to report.

INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

England & Wales - Charity number 250605

Accounts

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 5034
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 250605**

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

**PUBLISHERS OF THE LAW REPORTS, THE WEEKLY LAW REPORTS,
THE INDUSTRIAL CASES REPORTS, THE BUSINESS LAW REPORTS
AND THE PUBLIC AND THIRD SECTOR LAW REPORTS**

MEGARRY HOUSE, 119 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON WC2A 1PP

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Chairman - R Fleck Esq. CBE
Vice Chairman – Miss M Bowron KC

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

The Attorney-General - The Rt. Hon. Victoria Prentis KC MP
The Solicitor-General – Michael Tomlinson KC MP

NOMINATED MEMBERS

Lincoln's Inn
His Honour Judge D R Hodge KC
The Hon. Sir Alastair Norris

Middle Temple
The Hon. Mr Justice Roth
P Susman Esq. KC

Inner Temple
Miss M Bowron KC
Dr M Malecka

Gray's Inn
J Clarke Esq.
The Hon. Mr Justice Turner

The Law Society
Mrs S Abraham
M Anderson Esq.

ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected by the Council on the nomination of the General Council of the Bar

Ms A J Bright

F Sadiq Esq.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

R Fleck Esq. CBE
K Hamer Esq
Prof J Lee
Ms L K H Lee
Ms S Thomas

SECRETARY / CEO

Kevin Laws Esq.

Registered Address:
Megarry House, 119 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP

ADVISORS

Solicitors
Bird & Bird
15 Fetter Lane
London EC4A 1JP

Independent Auditor
Haysmacintyre LLP
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG

Bankers
National Westminster Bank Plc
156 Fleet Street
London EC4A 2DX

Stockbrokers
Quilter Cheviot
1 Kingsway
London WC2B 6AN

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The members of the Council, being the trustees under Charity law and the directors under company law, submit their report and the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022. Details of members are given on page 1.

During the year there were the following changes to the members of the Council:

Appointments		Resignations	
Ms A J Bright	15 June 2022	Ms M Coutino	15 June 2022
M Anderson Esq.	08 July 2022	J M Turner Esq. KC	24 June 2022
The Rt. Hon. Victoria Prentis KC MP	25 October 2022	Mr Alex Chalk KC MP	05 July 2022
Mr Michael Tomlinson KC MP	07 September 2022	The Rt. Hon Suella Braverman KC MP	06 September 2022
		Ingrid Stephanie Boyce	12 October 2022

No trustees received any remuneration during the year. One trustee was reimbursed £126 (2021: no trustees were reimbursed) in respect of expenses incurred in performing their duty.

The number of members of the Council shall not exceed twenty. Three, namely the Attorney General, the Solicitor General and the President of The Law Society are appointed members by virtue of their office. At the time of signing these accounts the President of the Law Society has not yet formally consented to be a member of the Council. Ten members, two from each of Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple, Middle Temple, Gray's Inn and The Law Society are nominated by each of these societies. Two members are elected to represent the Bar Council. Other co-opted members, not exceeding five in total, are appointed by the Council.

New members are provided with the articles of association, 'The Essential Trustee' document from the Charity Commission, the latest accounts and the minutes from the most recent Executive Committee meeting. They are also given the opportunity to ask the Chief Executive Officer any questions that they may have.

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Key management personnel include the Chief Executive Officer, The Editor and the Head of Product Development and Online Content. This three member senior management team meet regularly to consider and discuss operational issues. The remuneration for the senior management team is set by the Executive Committee, usually at the March meeting.

STRATEGIC REPORT

OBJECTS AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

1. The preparation and publication, in a convenient form, at a moderate price and under gratuitous professional control, of Reports of Judicial Decisions of the Superior and Appellate Courts in England and Wales.
2. The issue, periodically or occasionally, of any subsidiary or other publications relating to legal subjects which it may be considered expedient to combine with the publication of such reports, including the Statutes of the Realm, or any part thereof, if deemed expedient.

The principal activities of the Council are the publication of *The Law Reports*, *The Weekly Law Reports*, *The Industrial Cases Reports*, *The Business Law Reports* and *The Public and Third Sector Law Reports*. Following Practice Directions from Lord Woolf in 2001 and Lord Judge in 2012, the Official Law Reports must always be cited in preference to other law reports. The function to publish law reports of judicial decisions of the superior and appellate courts in England and Wales makes a significant contribution to the administration of justice in England and Wales. This independent role is free from political and shareholder influence.

The Council was formed in 1865, incorporated on 28 July 1870, registered as a charity on 17 November 1971, and is now a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The liability of members is limited to ten pounds per member.

The Council's primary object is, in substance, to record in a reliably accurate manner the development and application of judge-made law and to disseminate the knowledge of that law, its development and judicial application, in a way which is essential to the study of the law. Its purposes in doing so are (i) to assist the administration and development of the law by the courts and (ii) to make the law known, or at least accessible, to all members of the community, including professional lawyers whose advice on legal matters is likely to be sought by other members of the community, thereby making a sound knowledge and understanding of the law more available to all. In 1971 those purposes were held by the Court of Appeal in *Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales v Attorney-General* [1972] Ch 73, 88, 95, 104 to be of "general public utility" and "beneficial to the community". Nothing has changed in any relevant respect since 1971 and the Council continues to believe that substantial public benefit results from those activities.

The Council is run on a not-for-profit basis whilst offering preferential rates in respect of its publications to academic institutions, students, law lecturers and other charities. Any surplus is retained in the Council for future operations. The trustees have taken due regard of the information issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The upgraded ICLR.4 online platform was launched in November 2021 and further improvements have been being worked on and deployed in 2022. Court coverage of unreported judgments has also expanded to include the ECJ and most tribunals.

E-Commerce functionality has fared well since it was deployed in January 2021. Customers like the ability to purchase subscriptions to the online platform for a duration of as little as a month at a time. This can be transacted 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

These accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the valuation of investments to market value, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales. Income in 2022 was £5,696,595, an increase of £262,770 (5%) on 2021. The higher income is primarily attributable to the continuing rise in revenue from online publications and higher royalty revenue.

Costs have been kept under tight control. Despite a period of higher inflation, total expenditure at £5,174,884 was only £301,771 (6%) higher than in 2021.

This has resulted in an operating surplus of £521,711, slightly lower than the £560,713 operating surplus reported for 2021.

The operating surplus moves to an overall deficit of £162,900 (£2,279,278 surplus in 2021) once the £520,611 loss on investments and the adverse movements of £164,000 of the pension scheme liability are included. There is an adverse movement in the pension scheme liability because the £1.4m scheme surplus is considered not recoverable and is therefore shown as zero in the accounts (see section 16.)

Creditors (amounts falling due within one year) amount to £3.5m. £2.7m of this total refers to deferred income and is recorded as an equal and opposite value in current assets. The remaining £0.8m relates to accrued expenditure that has been incurred but not paid at year end.

At the year end, total unrestricted funds were £5,280k, a slight decrease from £5,443k reported at the end of 2021.

KEY MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION POLICY

The members of Council have identified the Chief Executive Officer, Editor and Head of Product Development and Online Content as key management personnel of the charity and they are in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The pay of all staff is reviewed annually with average increases normally in line with inflation.

RISKS

A risk register is maintained and periodically reviewed at Council meetings. Areas currently identified with significant inherent risk include the risk that demand for ICLR content on paper declines to a level that results in an unsustainable loss and the risk that operational or archive data is lost. Controls have been put in place to mitigate these risks, these include developing alternative sources of revenue and ensuring data is regularly backed up and held in multiple locations. Continuity of service for the online platform is also considered a risk. The security of the platform is regularly reviewed to ensure the appropriate measures are in place. A continuous long period of high inflation could be a risk to future financial stability. This risk is mitigated by the level of reserves and the ability to react to inflation pressures over the longer term.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

INVESTMENT POLICY

Quilter Cheviot were appointed discretionary managers for the Council's investment portfolio in September 2015. The investment strategy falls within the wealth preservation category including a mixture of asset classes (approximate breakdown: UK equities (30%), overseas equities (40%), fixed interest (15%), property and infrastructure (15%)). The trustees regularly monitor the performance of the investment managers. The investment managers are periodically requested to present the investment performance at Executive Committee meetings.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

The Council operates a defined benefit pension scheme that was closed to new members in 1999 and closed to future accrual in 2010. For accounting purposes, the defined benefit pension scheme has a small surplus of £25k. The Council and pension scheme trustees are both committed to ensuring the appropriate level of funding to allow the full payment of accrued pensions from the scheme. The increase in gilt yields in the second half of 2022 resulted in a significant improvement in the funding position of the scheme. In consultation with the scheme trustees and scheme actuary, the Council stopped making deficit recovery payments from September 2022.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Council will continue to seek to improve the efficiency of the publishing process and will explore new opportunities for expanding the Council's content and improving the functionality of the online platform in order to meet customers' demands.

RESERVES

Free reserves, being total unrestricted reserves less tangible and intangible fixed assets, plus the pension fund surplus/(deficit) stand at £3,559,331 (2021: £3,572,411). The free reserves provide working capital for the operations of the charity and the trustees consider that an ideal level of reserves would amount to a full year's worth of expenditure (£5.2m). Amounts reported in tangible and intangible fixed assets are excluded because they are not readily available to the charity for spending.

TANGIBLE ASSETS

The movements in tangible assets during the year are set out in note 10 to the accounts. The Trustees are aware that there is a material favourable difference between the disclosed carrying value of freehold properties (£1.5m) in these accounts and the current market value, but do not believe that there is value, commensurate with the associated cost, in ascertaining that market value at this time.

AUDITOR

A resolution proposing that Haysmacintyre LLP be reappointed for the ensuing year will be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL

The Council members have confirmed that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware and that they have taken all the reasonable steps that they ought to have taken as members in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

APPRECIATION

The Council wishes to express its thanks to Her Majesty's Judges and to both branches of the Profession for the aid afforded by them to the Editors and Reporters in the discharge of their duties and to record their appreciation of the efforts of the Editors, Reporters, and staff in maintaining the high quality of the published law reports.

By Order of the Council

Mr Kevin Laws
Company Secretary

Date: 15 June 2023

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL

The trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as we are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

In approving the Trustees' report the trustees also approve the strategic report in their capacity as company directors.

This report was approved by the board on 15 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Mr Richard Fleck CBE
Chairman

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

We have audited the financial statements of The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Council. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Report of the Council for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Council has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Council.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charitable company; or
- the charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to charity law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, corporation tax, payroll tax and sales tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to the posting of inappropriate journal entries and management bias in accounting estimates and judgements. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted that significantly impact on the result for the year, posting in areas subject to significant judgements or estimates, postings in accounts that are considered higher risk; and

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES (continued)

- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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

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

Use of our report

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

Thomas Wilson (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP, Statutory Auditor

10 Queen Street Place

London EC4R 1AG

Date:

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted and total funds 2022 £	Unrestricted and total funds 2021 £
INCOME FROM:			
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Sales of print publications	3	658,772	704,403
Online, licensing and other income	3	4,902,400	4,643,437
<i>Investments</i>			
Interest receivable		1,029	1,511
Listed investments		74,255	46,956
<i>Other</i>			
Rental income		60,139	37,519
TOTAL		5,696,595	5,433,826
EXPENDITURE ON:			
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Costs of publications and services	4	5,082,017	4,792,066
Distribution costs	4	92,867	81,047
TOTAL		5,174,884	4,873,113
Net income for the year before investment gains		521,711	560,713
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(520,611)	357,565
Net income for the year		1,100	918,278
Other recognised gains and losses			
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability	16	(164,000)	1,811,000
Net movement in funds for the year		(162,900)	2,729,278
Funds brought forward at 1 January	15	5,443,021	2,713,743
Funds carried forward at 31 December	15	5,280,121	5,443,021

All gains and losses arising in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities above and arose from continuing activities.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		1,507,239		1,520,251
Intangible assets	11		213,551		325,359
Investments	12		3,189,222		3,526,871
			<u>4,910,012</u>		<u>5,372,481</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		60,125		65,534	
Debtors	13	1,934,342		2,410,421	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,917,660		1,073,420	
			<u>3,912,127</u>		<u>3,549,375</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(3,542,018)</u>		<u>(3,503,835)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>370,109</u>		<u>45,540</u>
NET ASSETS excluding pension liability			<u>5,280,121</u>		<u>5,418,021</u>
Pension liability	16		-		25,000
NET ASSETS			<u><u>5,280,151</u></u>		<u><u>5,443,021</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds					
- Accumulated reserve	15		5,280,121		5,418,021
- Pension reserve	15		-		25,000
			<u><u>5,280,121</u></u>		<u><u>5,443,021</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Council and were signed on its behalf on 15 June 2023 by:

.....
 Mr Richard Fleck CBE
 Chairman

Company Registration Number 5034 (England & Wales)

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	a	952,773	228,293
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends and interest		75,284	48,909
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(855)	(1,887)
Purchase of Intangible assets		-	(139,302)
Proceeds from sale of investments		401,697	148,230
Purchase of investments		(584,659)	(779,793)
Net cash used in by investing activities		<u>844,240</u>	<u>(495,550)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		844,240	(495,550)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	b	<u>1,073,420</u>	<u>1,568,970</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	b	<u><u>1,917,660</u></u>	<u><u>1,073,420</u></u>

Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

a) Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

Net income for the year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	1,130	918,278
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	13,867	15,681
Amortisation	111,808	151,265
Losses/(Gains) on investments	520,611	(357,565)
Dividends and interest from investments	(75,284)	(48,909)
Decrease in stock	5,409	589
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	476,079	(92,044)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	38,153	(109,002)
Difference between pension movement and cash contributions	(139,000)	(250,000)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>952,773</u>	<u>228,293</u>
b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in hand	1,167,660	623,420
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	750,000	450,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u><u>1,917,660</u></u>	<u><u>1,073,420</u></u>

No analysis of changes in net debt has been presented as the charitable company has no borrowings.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) General information

The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales (“the Council”) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales (Company registration no. 5034) and registered with the Charity Commission (Charity registration no. 250605). The Council’s registered office address is Megarry House, 119 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP.

(b) Accounting convention and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of fixed asset investments, which are included at their market value at the balance sheet date. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP FRS 102) Second edition effective 1 January 2019, the Companies Act 2006 and applicable accounting standards (FRS 102).

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

(c) Going concern

The trustees consider that, after taking into account financial and cashflow forecasts for the next 5 years, there are no material uncertainties regarding the Council’s ability to continue as a going concern.

(d) Income

All income, including income from publications, subscriptions and licensing agreements is accrued and included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Council is legally entitled to (or has received) the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income received relating to future accounting periods is deferred and recognised as a creditor within the balance sheet. Subscriptions in respect of the following financial year are raised in advance and are due for payment by 31 December and these are shown within trade debtors and deferred income.

(e) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Direct charitable expenditure relates to salaries and expenditure incurred in preparing, publishing and distributing content and related services.

Support costs consist of central management, administration and governance costs. The amount spent on raising funds and other activities is considered to be immaterial and all support costs are allocated to costs of publications and services within charitable activities.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets, other than freehold land, to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight-line basis using the following rates:

Freehold buildings	-	2%
Fixtures and fittings	-	10%
Electrical and computer equipment	-	20%

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(g) Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation is provided on all intangible assets, to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight-line basis using the following rates:

Online Platform and Content Management System -	20%
Licences of transcripts	- 10%

In respect of the transcript licences, the trustees consider that, given the length of time that cases can be considered or cited, it is not possible to make a reliable estimate of the useful life and therefore have adopted the presumed useful life of 10 years as set out in the Charity SORP.

Amortisation is recognised as costs of publications and services within expenditure on charitable activities in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(h) Investments

Investments are included at market value on the Balance Sheet date. Net gains or losses on revaluation and disposal of investments are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(i) Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(j) Financial instruments – assets and liabilities

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within current liabilities.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rates are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(k) Employee benefits

The Council provides a range of benefits to employees including paid holiday arrangements and defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans.

Short term benefits

Short term benefits, including holidays and other similar non-monetary benefits are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Defined contribution pension plans

The Council operates a group personal pension scheme under which the Council makes fixed contributions to a separate entity. The Council also makes contributions to self-employed reporters appointed prior to 1989 which they invest in personal pension schemes. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they fall due. The assets of the pension plans are held separately from the Council in independently administered funds.

Defined benefit pension scheme

The Council has a defined benefit pension scheme for employees that was closed to future accrual on 15th June 2010, the assets of which are administered by trustees. The liability recognised in the balance sheet in respect of the defined benefit pension scheme is the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting date less the fair value of the scheme assets at the reporting date.

The defined benefit obligation is calculated using the projected unit credit method. Annually the Council engages an independent actuary to calculate the obligation. The present value is determined by discounting the estimated future payments using market yields on high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in sterling and that have terms approximating the estimated period of the future periods ("discount rate"). The fair value of the scheme assets is measured in accordance with the FRS 102 fair value hierarchy and includes the use of appropriate valuation techniques.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions are charged or credited to other comprehensive income. These amounts together with the return on plan assets, less amounts included in net interest, are disclosed as "remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability".

The net interest cost is calculated by applying the discount rate to the net balance of the defined benefit obligation and the fair value of the scheme assets. The cost is recognised within other pension costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In preparing these financial statements, management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the Council’s accounting policies and the reported assets, liabilities, income and expenditure and the disclosures made in the financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Key areas subject to judgement and estimation are as follows:

Defined benefit pension scheme

The Council has obligations to pay pension benefits under a defined benefit pension scheme. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors including; life expectancy, salary increases, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates the factors in determining the net pension obligation in the balance sheet, and the assumptions are agreed with the scheme’s actuary on the basis of historical experience and current trends.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gain and losses. Where the scheme is determined to be in a deficit position, this is recognised in full as a liability. Where the scheme is determined to be in a surplus position, a surplus is recognised as an asset only to the extent that this can be recovered in future years through reduction in employer contributions or through a specific refund/reimbursement from the scheme. The pension scheme, on 31st December 2022, is calculated to be in a £1.4m surplus. However, because the cost of buying out the scheme with an insurance company is likely to be significantly more than this, it is unlikely that any surplus will be returned to ICLR. The asset is therefore recorded in the balance sheet at £0.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

2022
£

2021
£

A geographical division of charitable income is given below:

United Kingdom	4,542,551	4,401,052
Overseas	1,018,621	946,788
	<u>5,561,172</u>	<u>5,347,840</u>

4. COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Fees and Salaries £	Other Direct Costs £	Support Costs (Note 5) £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Costs of publications and services	2,937,690	792,308	1,352,019	5,082,017	4,792,066
Distribution costs	-	92,867	-	92,867	81,047
Total	2,937,690	885,175	1,352,019	5,174,884	4,873,113

COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (2021)

	Direct Fees and Salaries £	Other Direct Costs £	Support Costs (Note 5) £	2021 Total £
Costs of publications and services	2,966,634	737,700	1,087,732	4,792,066
Distribution costs	-	81,047	-	81,047
Total	2,966,634	818,747	1,087,732	4,873,113

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Salaries, wages, NI, health insurance and pension costs	874,485	572,723
Office rent and running costs	78,946	142,152
Office supplies and services	132,878	116,751
Depreciation	19,867	21,681
Amortisation	105,808	145,265
Other support costs	124,285	75,160
Governance costs – audit and accountancy fees	15,750	14,000
	1,352,019	1,087,732

6. NET INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Net income for the financial year is stated after charging the following:		
Auditor's remuneration:		
- audit	13,600	12,000
- accountancy	2,150	2,000

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

7. FEES AND SALARIES		2022	2021
		£	£
Wages and salaries		2,452,856	2,152,608
Social security costs		296,825	274,605
Employer pension costs		488,445	573,440
Staff healthcare costs		91,717	69,151
		-----	-----
		3,329,843	3,069,804
		-----	-----
Self-employed reporters' and editors' fees and related costs		468,582	469,553
		-----	-----
		3,798,425	3,539,357
		=====	=====
The monthly average number of employees was		53	50
		=====	=====

In addition the Council utilises the services of 7 (2021: 7) self-employed reporters and editors.

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
The emoluments of higher paid staff within the following range were:		
£60,000 - £69,999	8	5
£70,000 - £79,999	3	2
£80,000 - £89,999	3	-
£100,000 - £109,999	-	1
£110,000 - £119,999	-	1
£120,000 - £129,999	1	-
£150,000 - £159,999	-	1
£160,000 - £169,999	1	-
	=====	=====

The key management personnel of the Council consist of the three (2021: three) members of the senior management team. Total compensation (including employer's national insurance contributions) for key management personnel for the year was £431,126 (2021: £463,032).

8. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REMUNERATION AND TRANSACTIONS

No members of the Council received any remuneration during the year (2021: £nil). No members were reimbursed expenses during the year (2021: No member reimbursed £nil).

9. TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and, as its income is applied to charitable purposes, there is no liability to corporation tax.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

10. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Electrical and computer equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2022	2,178,224	151,299	81,751	2,411,274
Additions	-	-	855	855
At 31 December 2022	2,178,224	151,299	82,606	2,412,129
Accumulated depreciation				
At 1 January 2022	688,056	129,849	73,118	891,023
Charge for the year	4,772	3,893	5,202	13,867
At 31 December 2022	692,828	133,742	78,320	904,890
Net book values				
At 31 December 2022	1,485,396	17,557	4,286	1,507,239
At 31 December 2021	1,490,168	21,450	8,633	1,520,251

All assets are considered to be held for charitable purposes.

11. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Online platform and content management system £	Transcript Licence £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2022	819,183	60,000	879,183
At 31 December 2022	819,183	60,000	879,183
Accumulated amortisation			
At 1 January 2022	523,824	30,000	553,824
Charge for the year	105,808	6,000	111,808
At 31 December 2022	629,632	36,000	665,632
Net book values			
At 31 December 2022	189,551	24,000	213,551
At 31 December 2021	295,359	30,000	325,359

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

12. INVESTMENTS	Fixed interest stock £	Listed equities and funds £	Total £
Analysis of movements in the year			
Market value at 1 January 2022	427,166	3,099,705	3,526,871
Additions at cost	247,765	336,894	584,659
Sales proceeds	38,851	(440,548)	(401,697)
Realised gains on disposals	(5,915)	(78,209)	(84,124)
Unrealised losses on revaluation	(92,649)	(343,838)	(436,487)
	<u>615,218</u>	<u>2,574,004</u>	<u>3,189,222</u>
Market value			
At 31 December 2022	<u>615,218</u>	<u>2,574,004</u>	<u>3,189,222</u>
Cost			
At 31 December 2022	<u>608,499</u>	<u>2,060,592</u>	<u>2,669,091</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>406,983</u>	<u>2,010,426</u>	<u>2,417,409</u>
13. DEBTORS		2022	2021
		£	£
Due within one year:			
Trade debtors		1,732,834	2,198,178
Other debtors		44,982	36,633
Prepayments		156,526	112,610
Accrued income		-	63,000
		<u>1,934,342</u>	<u>2,410,421</u>
14. CREDITORS		2022	2021
		£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:			
Trade creditors		91,228	104,918
Accruals		387,799	2,649,607
Deferred income		2,656,368	383,216
Tax and social security		398,805	358,860
Other creditors		7,818	7,234
		<u>3,542,018</u>	<u>3,503,835</u>

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

15. FUNDS	Accumulated Fund £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2021	4,749,743	(2,036,000)	2,713,743
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	668,278	2,061,000	2,729,278
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2022	5,418,021	25,000	5,443,021
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(137,870)	(25,000)	(162,870)
Balance as at 31 December 2022	5,280,151	-	5,280,151

Included within the accumulated fund are unrealised gains on investments totalling £520,131 (2021: £1,109,462).

16. PENSIONS

(i) Pension and Life Assurance Scheme

The company operates a defined benefit pension scheme in the UK, the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales Pension and Life Assurance Scheme (1975), in respect of office, editorial and warehouse staff, and reporters appointed subsequently to 6 April 1989. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company, being invested in various investment vehicles with Royal London and Quilter Cheviot. The scheme was closed to new members in October 1999 and to future accrual on 15th June 2010. The pension contribution for the year was £138,000 (2021: £275,000).

The most recent triennial review as at 1 April 2019 stated that the value of the scheme assets was £8,331,000 which represented 79% of the benefits that had accrued to members, after allowing for future increases in earnings. This is equivalent to a deficit of £2,175,000. The major assumptions used in the valuation as at 1 April 2019 are given below.

Rate of increase of salaries	3.5% pa
Rate of increase of pensions in payment	3.3% pa
Rate of Investment return – before retirement	3.5% pa
Rate of Investment return – after retirement	1.8% pa
Retail price index increases	3.4% pa
Consumer price index increases	2.8% pa
Rate of increases in pensions in deferment:	
Pre 6 April 2019 accrual	2.8%
Post 6 April 2019 accrual	2.5%

A Recovery Plan has been agreed with the company, which commits the company to paying contributions to fund the shortfall. These deficit reduction contributions are incorporated into the plan's Schedule of Contributions dated 7 April 2020 and require the company to make contributions of £33,750 per quarter, increasing to £68,750 per quarter from 1 July 2020 and up to and including July 2029. These payments have been suspended following the movement in funding to a surplus position.

For the purpose of providing the disclosures required by Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Scheme actuary has prepared a valuation of the Scheme using the projected unit method in order to assess the liabilities of the Scheme at 31 December 2022. The major assumptions used by the actuary as at 31 December 2022 were as follows:

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

16. PENSIONS (continued)

	31 December 2022	31 December 2021
Discount Rate	4.8%	1.9%
Salary increases	3.2%	3.3%
LPI Pension increases	3.2%	3.2%
Retail price index	2.5%	3.3%
Consumer price index	3.1%	2.5%

Mortality assumptions

The underlying mortality assumption is based upon the standard table known as S3PA on a year of birth usage with CMI_2020 future improvement factors and a long-term rate of future improvement of 1.0% p.a. (2021: S3PA with CMI_2019 future improvement factors and a long-term rate of future improvement of 1.0% p.a). This results in the following life expectancies:

Life expectancy for a current 65 year old - males	87 years	87 years
- females	89 years	89 years

Amounts Recognised in the Balance Sheet

	31 December 2022 £	31 December 2021 £
Market value of scheme assets	8,141,000	10,503,000
Present value of scheme liabilities	(6,788,000)	(10,478,000)
Surplus on scheme not recoverable	(1,353,000)	-
Net defined benefit asset	-	25,000

Amounts Recognised in the Income and Expenditure account

	31 December 2022 £	31 December 2021 £
Interest cost on net defined benefit liability	(1,000)	25,000
Total charge	(1,000)	25,000

Changes in the present value of the scheme liabilities

	31 December 2022 £	31 December 2021 £
Opening present value of scheme liabilities	10,478,000	11,451,000
Interest cost on scheme liabilities	198,000	148,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(3,724,000)	(977,000)
Benefits paid	(164,000)	(144,000)
Closing present value of scheme liabilities	6,788,000	10,478,000

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

16. PENSIONS (continued)

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets

	31 December 2022 £	31 December 2021 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	10,503,000	9,415,000
Interest on scheme assets	199,000	123,000
Return on assets less interest included in I&E	(2,535,000)	834,000
Employer contributions	138,000	275,000
Benefits paid	(164,000)	(144,000)
Closing fair value of scheme assets	<u>8,141,000</u>	<u>10,503,000</u>
Actual return on scheme assets	<u>(2,336,000)</u>	<u>957,000</u>

The major categories of Scheme assets as a percentage of total Scheme assets are as follows:

	At 31 December 2022	At 31 December 2021
Equities and Property	55%	61%
Bonds	30%	23%
Cash	15%	16%
Total	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

The scheme has no investments in property occupied by, assets used by or financial instruments issued by the charitable company.

Analysis of amount recognisable in other recognised gains and losses

	31 December 2022 £	31 December 2021 £
Return on assets, less interest recognised in I&E	(2,535,000)	834,000
Experience gains and losses arising on scheme liabilities	(242,000)	-
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of scheme liabilities	3,966,000	977,000
Adjustment for unrecognised asset	(1,353,000)	-
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability recognised in other recognised gains and losses	<u>(164,000)</u>	<u>1,811,000</u>

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

16. PENSIONS (continued)

Movement in net defined benefit asset/(liability) during the year

	31 December 2022	31 December 2021
	£	£
Net defined benefit liability at start of year	25,000	(2,036,000)
Income and expenditure charge	1,000	(25,000)
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability recognised in other recognised gains and losses	1,189,000	1,811,000
Employer contributions	138,000	275,000
Adjustment for unrecognised asset	(1,353,000)	
Net defined benefit asset at end of year	<u>-</u>	<u>25,000</u>

(ii) Defined contribution pension scheme arrangements

ICLR operates a defined contribution pension scheme for eligible employees called the ICLR Group Personal Pension Plan (GPPP). All eligible employees are automatically enrolled into the scheme and ICLR contributes between 4% and 14% of pensionable salaries. ICLR also makes contributions to employee personal pension schemes through pension salary exchange. The total expense for the year in respect of defined contribution pension schemes was £265,969 (2021: £277,610). Contributions totalling £22,122 (2021: £22,327) were payable in respect of these arrangements at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

(iii) Retirement reserve for appointed reporters

The Council pays annual pension increments to self-employed reporters appointed prior to April 1989 which they invest in their individual pension arrangements. The charge for the year, included in cost of publications and services, was £42,722 (2021: £42,223). Contributions totalling £34,101 (2021: £33,961) were payable in respect of this scheme at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At the balance sheet date, the Council had no future capital commitments (2021: £nil).

18. LEASE RENTALS RECEIVABLE

The Council lets part of its freehold buildings under a lease agreement. The future minimum lease rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Minimum lease rentals receivable in:		
less than one year	44,248	55,500
two to five years	-	44,400
	<u>44,248</u>	<u>99,900</u>
	<u><u>44,248</u></u>	<u><u>99,900</u></u>

No contingent rents have been included in this disclosure or recognised in the period.

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in the current or previous year.

20. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There are no post balance sheet events to report.

Accounts

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 5034
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 250605**

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

**PUBLISHERS OF THE LAW REPORTS, THE WEEKLY LAW REPORTS,
THE INDUSTRIAL CASES REPORTS, THE BUSINESS LAW REPORTS
AND THE PUBLIC AND THIRD SECTOR LAW REPORTS**

MEGARRY HOUSE, 119 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON WC2A 1PP

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Chairman - R Fleck Esq. CBE
Vice Chairman – Miss M Bowron QC

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

The Attorney-General - The Rt. Hon. Suella Braverman QC MP
The Solicitor-General – Alex Chalk QC MP
The President of The Law Society – Ms I S Boyce

NOMINATED MEMBERS

Lincoln's Inn
His Honour Judge D R Hodge QC
The Hon. Sir Alastair Norris

Middle Temple
The Hon. Mr Justice Roth
P Susman Esq. QC

Inner Temple
Miss M Bowron QC
Dr M Malecka

Gray's Inn
J Clarke Esq.
The Hon. Mr Justice Turner

The Law Society
Mrs S Abraham
Ms L K H Lee

ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected by the Council on the nomination of the General Council of the Bar

Ms M Coutino

F Sadiq Esq.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

R Fleck Esq. CBE
K Hamer Esq
Prof J Lee
Ms S Thomas
J M Turner Esq. QC

SECRETARY / CEO

Kevin Laws Esq.

Registered Address:
Megarry House, 119 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP

ADVISORS

Solicitors
Bird & Bird
15 Fetter Lane
London EC4A 1JP

Independent Auditor
Haysmacintyre LLP
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG

Bankers
National Westminster Bank Plc
156 Fleet Street
London EC4A 2DX

Stockbrokers
Quilter Cheviot
1 Kingsway
London WC2B 6AN

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The members of the Council, being the trustees under charity law and the directors under company law, submit their report and the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021. Details of members are given on page 1.

During the year there were the following changes to the members of the Council:

Appointments		Resignations	
Ms Lucy Fraser	09 May 2019	Ms Lucy Fraser	25 July 2019
Mr Michael Ellis	25 July 2019	Mr Michael Ellis	02 March 2021
The Hon Suella Braverman	13 February 2020	Mr D M Greene	04 June 2021
Ms Lucy Fraser	02 March 2021	Professor P Mitchell	02 August 2021
Ingrid Stephanie Boyce	04 June 2021	Ms Lucy Fraser	10 September 2021
Professor James Lee	02 August 2021	Mr Michael Ellis	16 September 2021
Mr Michael Ellis	10 September 2021		
Alex Chalk	16 September 2021		

No trustees received any remuneration during the year. No trustees were reimbursed in respect of expenses incurred in performing their duty.

The number of members of the Council shall not exceed twenty. Three, namely the Attorney General, the Solicitor General and the President of The Law Society are appointed members by virtue of their office. Ten members, two from each of Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple, Middle Temple, Gray's Inn and The Law Society are nominated by each of these societies. Two members are elected to represent the Bar Council. Other co-opted members, not exceeding five in total, are appointed by the Council.

New members are provided with the articles of association, 'The Essential Trustee' document from the Charity Commission, the latest accounts and the minutes from the most recent Executive Committee meeting. They are also given the opportunity to ask the Chief Executive Officer any questions that they may have.

The Council maintains appropriate insurance to cover directors' and officers' liability. At the date upon which this report was approved and for the year ended 31 December 2021, the Council provided an indemnity in respect of all of the company's directors / trustees against liability in respect of actions brought by third parties, subject to the conditions set out in the Companies Act 2006.

OBJECTS AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

1. The preparation and publication, in a convenient form, at a moderate price and under gratuitous professional control, of Reports of Judicial Decisions of the Superior and Appellate Courts in England and Wales.
2. The issue, periodically or occasionally, of any subsidiary or other publications relating to legal subjects which it may be considered expedient to combine with the publication of such reports, including the Statutes of the Realm, or any part thereof, if deemed expedient.

The principal activities of the Council are the publication of *The Law Reports*, *The Weekly Law Reports*, *The Industrial Cases Reports*, *The Business Law Reports* and *The Public and Third Sector Law Reports*. Following Practice Directions from Lord Woolf in 2001 and Lord Judge in 2012, the Official Law Reports must always be cited in preference to other law reports. The function to publish law reports of judicial decisions of the superior and appellate courts in England and Wales makes a significant contribution to the administration of justice in England and Wales. This independent role is free from political and shareholder influence.

The Council was formed in 1865, incorporated on 28 July 1870, registered as a charity on 17 November 1971, and is now a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The liability of members is limited to ten pounds per member.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

The Council's primary object is, in substance, to record in a reliably accurate manner the development and application of judge-made law and to disseminate the knowledge of that law, its development and judicial application, in a way which is essential to the study of the law. Its purposes in doing so are (i) to assist the administration and development of the law by the courts and (ii) to make the law known, or at least accessible, to all members of the community, including professional lawyers whose advice on legal matters is likely to be sought by other members of the community, thereby making a sound knowledge and understanding of the law more available to all. In 1971 those purposes were held by the Court of Appeal in *Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales v Attorney-General* [1972] Ch 73, 88, 95, 104 to be of "general public utility" and "beneficial to the community". Nothing has changed in any relevant respect since 1971 and the Council continues to believe that substantial public benefit results from those activities.

The Council is run on a not-for-profit basis whilst offering preferential rates in respect of its publications to academic institutions, students, law lecturers and other charities. The Council also provides pro bono training to Law Reporting organisations from other jurisdictions and engages positively with the Lead Judge for International Relations at the Ministry of Justice. The trustees have taken due regard of the information issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Home working and cloud technology enabled ICLR to continue to operate as near to normal as possible during the continuing global pandemic in 2021. Important court hearings were live streamed during periods of lockdown enabling law reporters to 'attend' trials remotely. Weekly and monthly parts continued to be printed to the normal schedule and content was regularly uploaded to the online platform throughout the year.

The upgraded ICLR.4 online platform was launched in November 2021. Improved functionality of the online platform includes improved browse functionality, expanded filter options, the ability to link seamlessly from case law to cited legislation, and an artificial intelligence driven search module called Case Genie.

E-Commerce functionality was developed in 2020 and deployed in January 2021. Customers are now able to purchase subscriptions to the online platform, for a duration of either a month or a year, 24 hours a day 365 days per year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

These accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the valuation of investments to market value, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

Income in 2021 was £5,433,826, an increase of £170,303 (3%) on 2020. The higher income is primarily attributable to the continuing rise in demand for online publications.

Costs have been kept under tight control. Total expenditure at £4,873,113 was £200,207 (4%) higher than in 2020.

This has resulted in an operating surplus of £560,713, slightly lower than the £590,617 operating surplus reported for 2020.

The operating surplus moves to an overall surplus of £2,279,278 (£388,292 deficit in 2020) once the favourable movements of £1,811,000 of the pension scheme liability and £357,565 gain on investments are included.

Creditors (amounts falling due within one year) amount to approximately £3.5m. £2.6m of this total refers to deferred income and is recorded as an equal and opposite value in current assets. The remaining £0.9m relates to accrued expenditure that has been incurred but not paid at year end.

At the year end, total unrestricted funds were £5,414k, an increase from £2,714k reported at the end of 2020. This favourable movement is mainly due to the pension scheme improving to a £25k surplus (from £2,036k deficit in 2020).

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

The significant improvement in the pension scheme funding is a factor of higher bond yields on the 31 December 2021 and £275,000 employer contributions in 2021.

KEY MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION POLICY

The members of Council have identified the Chief Executive Officer, Editor and Head of Product Development and Online Content as key management personnel of the charity and they are in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The pay of all staff is reviewed annually with average increases normally in line with inflation.

RISKS

A risk register is maintained and periodically reviewed at Council meetings. Areas currently identified with significant inherent risk include the risk that demand for ICLR content on paper declines to a level that results in an unsustainable loss and the risk that operational or archive data is lost. Controls have been put in place to mitigate these risks, these include developing alternative sources of revenue and ensuring data is regularly backed up and held in multiple locations. Continuity of service for the online platform is also considered a risk. The security of the platform is regularly reviewed to ensure the appropriate measures are in place. Compliance with GDPR legislation is also identified as a risk. Regular reviews are conducted to mitigate the risk of non-compliance. ICLR is mindful of the situation in Ukraine. Russia is a significant exporter of paper and, although ICLR has been assured by their printers that there are sufficient paper supplies to fulfil their obligations, there is a risk that a protracted conflict will impact supply and paper prices. The situation will be monitored for paper supply issues.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Quilter Cheviot were appointed discretionary managers for the Council's investment portfolio in September 2015. The investment strategy falls within the wealth preservation category including a mixture of asset classes (approximate breakdown: UK equities (30%), overseas equities (40%), fixed interest (15%), property and infrastructure (15%)). The trustees regularly monitor the performance of the investment managers. The investment managers are periodically requested to present the investment performance at Executive Committee meetings.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

The Council operates a defined benefit pension scheme that was closed to new members in 1999 and closed to future accrual in 2010. For accounting purposes, the defined benefit pension scheme has a small surplus of £25k. The Council and pension scheme trustees are both committed to ensuring the appropriate level of funding to allow the full payment of accrued pensions from the scheme. The Council increased the annual contributions, from £135k to £275k per annum, from 1 July 2020, to reduce the then deficit. The pension scheme trustees, in consultation with the scheme actuary and the Council, will consider whether this level of contribution is appropriate as part of the triennial valuation for the period ending 31 March 2022.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Council will continue to seek to improve the efficiency of the publishing process and will explore new opportunities for expanding the Council's content and improving the functionality of the online platform in order to meet customers' demands.

RESERVES

Free reserves, being total unrestricted reserves less tangible and intangible fixed assets, plus the pension fund surplus/(deficit) stand at £3,572,411 (2020: £2,878,376). The free reserves provide working capital for the operations of the charity and the trustees consider that an ideal level of reserves would amount to a full year's worth of expenditure (£4.9m). Amounts reported in tangible fixed assets are excluded because they are not readily available to the charity for spending. The pension fund deficit will be dealt with through adjusting contributions over a period of years.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

TANGIBLE ASSETS

The movements in tangible assets during the year are set out in note 10 to the accounts. The Trustees are aware that there is a material favourable difference between the disclosed carrying value of freehold properties (£1.5m) in these accounts and the current market value, but do not believe that there is value, commensurate with the associated cost, in ascertaining that market value at this time.

AUDITOR

A resolution proposing that Haysmacintyre LLP be reappointed for the ensuing year will be presented to the Annual General Meeting.


STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL

The Council members have confirmed that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware and that they have taken all the reasonable steps that they ought to have taken as members in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

APPRECIATION

The Council wishes to express its thanks to Her Majesty's Judges and to both branches of the Profession for the aid afforded by them to the Editors and Reporters in the discharge of their duties and to record their appreciation of the efforts of the Editors, Reporters, and staff in maintaining the high quality of the published law reports.

By Order of the Council



Mr Kevin Laws
Company Secretary

Date: 9th June 2022

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL

The trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

We have audited the financial statements of The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Council. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Report of the Council for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Council has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Council.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to charity law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, corporation tax, payroll tax and sales tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to the posting of inappropriate journal entries and management bias in accounting estimates and judgements. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted that significantly impact on the result for the year, posting in areas subject to significant judgements or estimates, postings in accounts that are considered higher risk; and

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES (continued)

- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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

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

Use of our report

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



Thomas Wilson (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP, Statutory Auditor

10 Queen Street Place

London EC4R 1AG

Date: 15/06/22

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted and total funds 2021 £	Unrestricted and total funds 2020 £
INCOME FROM:			
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Sales of print publications	3	704,403	761,346
Online, licensing and other income	3	4,643,437	4,435,215
<i>Investments</i>			
Interest receivable		1,511	6,049
Listed investments		46,956	47,038
<i>Other</i>			
Rental income		37,519	13,875
TOTAL		5,433,826	5,263,523
EXPENDITURE ON:			
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Costs of publications and services	4	4,792,066	4,585,493
Distribution costs	4	81,047	87,413
TOTAL		4,873,113	4,672,906
Net income for the year before investment gains		560,713	590,617
Net gains on investments		357,565	171,091
Net income for the year		918,278	761,708
Other recognised gains and losses			
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability	16	1,811,000	(1,150,000)
Net movement in funds for the year		2,729,278	(388,292)
Funds brought forward at 1 January	15	2,713,743	3,102,035
Funds carried forward at 31 December	15	5,443,021	2,713,743

All gains and losses arising in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities above and arose from continuing activities.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		1,520,251		1,534,045
Intangible assets	11		325,359		337,322
Investments	12		3,526,871		2,537,738
			<u>5,372,481</u>		<u>4,409,105</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		65,534		66,123	
Debtors	13	2,410,421		2,318,265	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,073,420		1,568,970	
		<u>3,549,375</u>		<u>3,953,358</u>	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(3,503,835)</u>		<u>(3,612,720)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>45,540</u>		<u>340,638</u>
NET ASSETS excluding pension asset/ (liability)			<u>5,418,021</u>		<u>4,749,743</u>
Pension asset/(liability)	16		25,000		(2,036,000)
NET ASSETS			<u><u>5,443,021</u></u>		<u><u>2,713,743</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds					
- Accumulated reserve	15		5,418,021		4,749,743
- Pension reserve	15		25,000		(2,036,000)
			<u><u>5,443,021</u></u>		<u><u>2,713,743</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Council and were signed on its behalf on 9th June 2022 by:



.....
Mr Richard Fleck CBE
Chairman

Company Registration Number 5034 (England & Wales)

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	a	228,293	356,176
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends and interest		48,909	53,087
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(1,887)	(4,485)
Purchase of Intangible assets		(139,302)	(176,616)
Proceeds from sale of investments		148,230	168,364
Purchase of investments		(779,793)	(118,547)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(495,550)</u>	<u>(78,197)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(495,550)	277,979
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	b	<u>1,568,970</u>	<u>1,290,991</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	b	<u><u>1,073,420</u></u>	<u><u>1,568,970</u></u>

Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

a) Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

Net income for the year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	918,278	761,708
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	15,681	16,959
Amortisation	151,265	107,023
Gains on investments	(357,565)	(171,091)
Dividends and interest from investments	(48,909)	(53,087)
Decrease/(Increase) in stock	589	(496)
Increase in debtors	(92,044)	(191,711)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(109,002)	72,871
Difference between pension movement and cash contributions	(250,000)	(186,000)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>228,293</u>	<u>356,176</u>

b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

Cash in hand	623,420	368,970
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	450,000	1,200,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u><u>1,073,420</u></u>	<u><u>1,568,970</u></u>

No analysis of changes in net debt has been presented as the charitable company has no borrowings.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) General information

The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales (“the Council”) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales (Company registration no. 5034) and registered with the Charity Commission (Charity registration no. 250605). The Council’s registered office address is Megarry House, 119 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP.

(b) Accounting convention and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of fixed asset investments, which are included at their market value at the balance sheet date. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP FRS 102) Second edition effective 1 January 2019, the Companies Act 2006 and applicable accounting standards (FRS 102).

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

(c) Going concern

The trustees consider that, after taking into account financial and cashflow forecasts for the next 5 years, there are no material uncertainties regarding the Council’s ability to continue as a going concern.

(d) Income

All income, including income from publications, subscriptions and licensing agreements is accrued and included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Council is legally entitled to (or has received) the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income received relating to future accounting periods is deferred and recognised as a creditor within the balance sheet. Subscriptions in respect of the following financial year are raised in advance and are due for payment by 31 December and these are shown within trade debtors and deferred income.

(e) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Direct charitable expenditure relates to salaries and expenditure incurred in preparing, publishing and distributing content and related services.

Support costs consist of central management, administration and governance costs. The amount spent on raising funds and other activities is considered to be immaterial and all support costs are allocated to costs of publications and services within charitable activities.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets, other than freehold land, to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight-line basis using the following rates:

Freehold buildings	-	2%
Fixtures and fittings	-	10%
Electrical and computer equipment	-	20%

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(g) Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation is provided on all intangible assets, to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight-line basis using the following rates:

Online Platform and Content Management System -	20%
Licences of transcripts	- 10%

In respect of the transcript licences, the trustees consider that, given the length of time that cases can be considered or cited, it is not possible to make a reliable estimate of the useful life and therefore have adopted the presumed useful life of 10 years as set out in the Charity SORP.

Amortisation is recognised as costs of publications and services within expenditure on charitable activities in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(h) Investments

Investments are included at market value on the Balance Sheet date. Net gains or losses on revaluation and disposal of investments are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(i) Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(j) Financial instruments – assets and liabilities

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within current liabilities.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rates are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(k) Employee benefits

The Council provides a range of benefits to employees including paid holiday arrangements and defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans.

Short term benefits

Short term benefits, including holidays and other similar non-monetary benefits are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Defined contribution pension plans

The Council operates a group personal pension scheme under which the Council makes fixed contributions to a separate entity. The Council also makes contributions to self-employed reporters appointed prior to 1989 which they invest in personal pension schemes. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they fall due. The assets of the pension plans are held separately from the Council in independently administered funds.

Defined benefit pension scheme

The Council has a defined benefit pension scheme for employees that was closed to future accrual on 15th June 2010, the assets of which are administered by trustees. The liability recognised in the balance sheet in respect of the defined benefit pension scheme is the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting date less the fair value of the scheme assets at the reporting date.

The defined benefit obligation is calculated using the projected unit credit method. Annually the Council engages an independent actuary to calculate the obligation. The present value is determined by discounting the estimated future payments using market yields on high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in sterling and that have terms approximating the estimated period of the future periods ("discount rate"). The fair value of the scheme assets is measured in accordance with the FRS 102 fair value hierarchy and includes the use of appropriate valuation techniques.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions are charged or credited to other comprehensive income. These amounts together with the return on plan assets, less amounts included in net interest, are disclosed as "remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability".

The net interest cost is calculated by applying the discount rate to the net balance of the defined benefit obligation and the fair value of the scheme assets. The cost is recognised within other pension costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In preparing these financial statements, management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the Council's accounting policies and the reported assets, liabilities, income and expenditure and the disclosures made in the financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Key areas subject to judgement and estimation are as follows:

Defined benefit pension scheme

The Council has obligations to pay pension benefits under a defined benefit pension scheme. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors including; life expectancy, salary increases, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates the factors in determining the net pension obligation in the balance sheet, and the assumptions are agreed with the scheme's actuary on the basis of historical experience and current trends.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
A geographical division of charitable income is given below:		
United Kingdom	4,401,052	4,236,522
Overseas	946,788	960,039
	<u>5,347,840</u>	<u>5,196,561</u>

4. COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Fees and Salaries £	Other Direct Costs £	Support Costs (Note 5) £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Costs of publications and services	2,966,634	737,700	1,087,732	4,792,066	4,585,493
Distribution costs	-	81,047	-	81,047	87,413
Total	<u>2,996,634</u>	<u>818,747</u>	<u>1,087,732</u>	<u>4,873,113</u>	<u>4,672,906</u>

COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (2020)

	Direct Fees and Salaries £	Other Direct Costs £	Support Costs (Note 5) £	2020 Total £
Costs of publications and services	2,870,826	672,289	1,042,378	4,585,493
Distribution costs	-	87,413	-	87,413
Total	<u>2,870,826</u>	<u>759,702</u>	<u>1,042,378</u>	<u>4,672,906</u>

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

5. SUPPORT COSTS	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries, wages, NI, health insurance and pension costs	572,723	610,252
Office rent and running costs	142,152	99,547
Office supplies and services	116,751	131,071
Depreciation	21,681	16,959
Amortisation	145,265	107,023
Other support costs	75,160	65,076
Governance costs – audit and accountancy fees	14,000	12,450
	<u>1,087,732</u>	<u>1,042,378</u>
6. NET INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income for the financial year is stated after charging the following:		
Auditor's remuneration:		
- audit	12,000	10,450
- accountancy	2,000	2,000
	<u>14,000</u>	<u>12,450</u>

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

7. FEES AND SALARIES	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	2,152,608	2,203,371
Social security costs	274,605	246,371
Employer pension costs	573,440	506,488
Staff healthcare costs	69,151	69,570
	<u>3,069,804</u>	<u>3,025,800</u>
Self-employed reporters' and editors' fees and related costs	469,553	455,278
	<u><u>3,539,357</u></u>	<u><u>3,481,078</u></u>

The monthly average number of employees was 50 48

In addition the Council utilises the services of 7 (2020: 7) self-employed reporters and editors.

	2021 Number	2020 Number
The emoluments of higher paid staff within the following range were:		
£60,000 - £69,999	5	3
£70,000 - £79,999	2	1
£80,000 - £89,999	-	1
£90,000 - £99,999	-	1
£100,000 - £109,999	1	-
£110,000 - £119,999	1	-
£130,000 - £139,999	-	1
£150,000 - £159,999	1	-
	<u><u>1</u></u>	<u><u>1</u></u>

The key management personnel of the Council consist of the three (2020: four) members of the senior management team. Total compensation (including employer's national insurance contributions) for key management personnel for the year was £463,032 (2020: £492,821).

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

8. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REMUNERATION AND TRANSACTIONS

No members of the Council received any remuneration during the year (2020: £nil). No members were reimbursed expenses during the year (2020: No member reimbursed £nil).

9. TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and, as its income is applied to charitable purposes, there is no liability to corporation tax.

10. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Electrical and computer equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2021	2,178,224	151,091	82,401	2,411,716
Additions	-	208	1,679	1,887
Disposals	-	-	(2,329)	(2,329)
At 31 December 2021	2,178,224	151,299	81,751	2,411,274
Accumulated depreciation				
At 1 January 2021	683,284	125,038	69,349	877,671
Charge for the year	4,772	4,811	6,098	15,681
Disposals	-	-	(2,329)	(2,329)
At 31 December 2021	688,056	129,849	73,118	891,023
Net book values				
At 31 December 2021	1,490,168	21,450	8,633	1,520,251
At 31 December 2020	1,494,940	26,053	13,052	1,534,045

All assets are considered to be held for charitable purposes.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

11. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Online platform and content management system £	Transcript Licence £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2021	679,881	60,000	739,881
Additions	139,302	-	139,302
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2021	819,183	60,000	879,183
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated amortisation			
At 1 January 2021	378,559	24,000	402,559
Charge for the year	145,265	6,000	151,265
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2021	523,824	30,000	553,824
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book values			
At 31 December 2021	295,359	30,000	325,359
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2020	301,322	36,000	337,322
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

12. INVESTMENTS

	Fixed interest stock £	Listed equities and funds £	Total £
Analysis of movements in the year			
Market value at 1 January 2021	405,229	2,132,509	2,537,738
Additions at cost	36,897	742,896	779,793
Sales proceeds	-	(148,230)	(148,230)
Realised gains on disposals	-	13,081	13,081
Unrealised losses on revaluation	(14,969)	359,458	344,489
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Market value			
At 31 December 2021	427,157	3,099,714	3,526,871
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cost			
At 31 December 2021	406,983	2,010,426	2,417,409
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2020	368,514	1,359,487	1,728,001
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

13. DEBTORS		2021	2020
		£	£
Due within one year:			
Trade debtors		2,198,178	2,117,260
Other debtors		36,633	39,991
Prepayments		112,610	114,727
Accrued income		63,000	46,287
		<u>2,410,421</u>	<u>2,318,265</u>
		<u><u>2,410,421</u></u>	<u><u>2,318,265</u></u>
14. CREDITORS		2021	2020
		£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:			
Trade creditors		104,918	76,182
Accruals		383,216	538,492
Deferred income		2,649,607	2,646,818
Tax and social security		358,860	345,972
Other creditors		7,234	5,256
		<u>3,503,835</u>	<u>3,612,720</u>
		<u><u>3,503,835</u></u>	<u><u>3,612,720</u></u>
15. FUNDS	Accumulated	Pension	Total
	Fund	Reserve	Total
	£	£	£
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2020	4,174,035	(1,072,000)	3,102,035
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	575,708	(964,000)	(388,292)
	<u>4,749,743</u>	<u>(2,036,000)</u>	<u>2,713,743</u>
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2021	4,749,743	(2,036,000)	2,713,743
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	668,278	2,061,000	2,729,278
	<u>5,418,021</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>5,443,021</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2021	5,418,021	25,000	5,443,021
	<u><u>5,418,021</u></u>	<u><u>25,000</u></u>	<u><u>5,443,021</u></u>

Included within the accumulated fund are unrealised gains on investments totalling £1,109,462 (2020: £809,737).

16. PENSIONS

(i) Pension and Life Assurance Scheme

The company operates a defined benefit pension scheme in the UK, the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales Pension and Life Assurance Scheme (1975), in respect of office, editorial and warehouse staff, and reporters appointed subsequently to 6 April 1989. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company, being invested in various investment vehicles with Royal London and Quilter Cheviot. The scheme was closed to new members in October 1999 and to future accrual on 15th June 2010. The pension contribution for the year was £275,000 (2020: £205,000).

The most recent triennial review as at 1 April 2019 stated that the value of the scheme assets was £8,331,000 which represented 79% of the benefits that had accrued to members, after allowing for future increases in earnings. This is equivalent to a deficit of £2,175,000. The major assumptions used in the valuation as at 1 April 2019 are given below.

Rate of increase of salaries	3.5% pa
Rate of increase of pensions in payment	3.3% pa
Rate of Investment return – before retirement	3.5% pa
Rate of Investment return – after retirement	1.8% pa
Retail price index increases	3.4% pa
Consumer price index increases	2.8% pa
Rate of increases in pensions in deferment:	
Pre 6 April 2019 accrual	2.8%
Post 6 April 2019 accrual	2.5%

A Recovery Plan has been agreed with the company, which commits the company to paying contributions to fund the shortfall. These deficit reduction contributions are incorporated into the plan's Schedule of Contributions dated 7 April 2020 and require the company to make contributions of £33,750 per quarter, increasing to £68,750 per quarter from 1 July 2020 and up to and including July 2029. These payments are subject to review following the next funding valuation which will be undertaken as at 1 April 2022.

For the purpose of providing the disclosures required by Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Scheme actuary has prepared a valuation of the Scheme using the projected unit method in order to assess the liabilities of the Scheme at 31 December 2021. The major assumptions used by the actuary as at 31 December 2021 were as follows:

	31 December 2021	31 December 2020
Discount Rate	1.9%	1.3%
Salary increases	3.3%	3.2%
LPI Pension increases	3.2%	3.1%
Retail price index	3.3%	3.2%
Consumer price index	2.5%	2.2%

Mortality assumptions

The underlying mortality assumption is based upon the standard table known as S3PA on a year of birth usage with CMI_2020 future improvement factors and a long-term rate of future improvement of 1.0% p.a. (2020: S3PA with CMI_2019 future improvement factors and a long-term rate of future improvement of 1.0% p.a). This results in the following life expectancies:

Life expectancy for a current 65 year old - males	87 years	87 years
- females	89 years	89 years

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

16. PENSIONS (continued)

Amounts Recognised in the Balance Sheet

	31 December 2021 £	31 December 2020 £
Market value of scheme assets	10,503,000	9,415,000
Present value of scheme liabilities	(10,478,000)	(11,451,000)
Net defined benefit asset/(liability)	<u>25,000</u>	<u>(2,036,000)</u>

Amounts Recognised in the Income and Expenditure account

	31 December 2021 £	31 December 2020 £
Current service cost	-	-
Interest cost on net defined benefit liability	25,000	19,000
Total charge	<u>25,000</u>	<u>19,000</u>

Changes in the present value of the scheme liabilities

	31 December 2021 £	31 December 2020 £
Opening present value of scheme liabilities	11,451,000	10,025,000
Current employer service costs	-	-
Interest cost on scheme liabilities	148,000	198,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(977,000)	1,451,000
Benefits paid	(144,000)	(223,000)
Closing present value of scheme liabilities	<u>10,478,000</u>	<u>11,451,000</u>

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets

	31 December 2021 £	31 December 2020 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	9,415,000	8,953,000
Interest on scheme assets	123,000	179,000
Return on assets less interest included in I&E	834,000	301,000
Employer contributions	275,000	205,000
Member contributions	-	-
Benefits paid	(144,000)	(223,000)
Closing fair value of scheme assets	<u>10,503,000</u>	<u>9,415,000</u>
Actual return on scheme assets	<u>957,000</u>	<u>480,000</u>

16. PENSIONS (continued)

The major categories of Scheme assets as a percentage of total Scheme assets are as follows:

	At 31 December 2021	At 31 December 2020
Equities and Property	61%	69%
Bonds	23%	29%
Cash	16%	2%
Total	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

The scheme has no investments in property occupied by, assets used by or financial instruments issued by the charitable company.

Analysis of amount recognisable in other recognised gains and losses

	31 December 2021 £	31 December 2020 £
Return on assets, less interest recognised in I&E	834,000	301,000
Experience gains and losses arising on scheme liabilities	-	-
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of scheme liabilities	977,000	(1,451,000)
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability recognised in other recognised gains and losses	<u>1,811,000</u>	<u>(1,150,000)</u>

Movement in net defined benefit asset/(liability) during the year

	31 December 2021 £	31 December 2020 £
Net defined benefit liability at start of year	(2,036,000)	(1,072,000)
Income and expenditure charge	(25,000)	(19,000)
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability recognised in other recognised gains and losses	1,811,000	(1,150,000)
Employer contributions	275,000	205,000
Net defined benefit asset/(liability) at end of year	<u>25,000</u>	<u>(2,036,000)</u>

(ii) Defined contribution pension scheme arrangements

ICLR operates a defined contribution pension scheme for eligible employees called the ICLR Group Personal Pension Plan (GPPP). All eligible employees are automatically enrolled into the scheme and ICLR contributes between 4% and 14% of pensionable salaries. ICLR also makes contributions to employee personal pension schemes through pension salary exchange. The total expense for the year in respect of defined contribution pension schemes was £277,610 (2020: £273,110). Contributions totalling £22,327 (2020: £22,465) were payable in respect of these arrangements at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

(iii) Retirement reserve for appointed reporters

The Council pays annual pension increments to self-employed reporters appointed prior to April 1989 which they invest in their individual pension arrangements. The charge for the year, included in cost of publications and services, was £42,223 (2020: £42,577). Contributions totalling £33,961 (2020: £32,665) were payable in respect of this scheme at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At the balance sheet date, the Council had no future capital commitments (2020: £110,000).

18. LEASE RENTALS RECEIVABLE

The Council lets part of its freehold buildings under a lease agreement. The future minimum lease rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Minimum lease rentals receivable in:		
less than one year	55,500	34,897
two to five years	44,400	100,052
	<u>99,900</u>	<u>134,949</u>

No contingent rents have been included in this disclosure or recognised in the period.

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in the current or previous year.

20. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There are no post balance sheet events to report.

Accounts

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 5034
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 250605**

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

**PUBLISHERS OF THE LAW REPORTS, THE WEEKLY LAW REPORTS,
THE INDUSTRIAL CASES REPORTS, THE BUSINESS LAW REPORTS
AND THE PUBLIC AND THIRD SECTOR LAW REPORTS**

MEGARRY HOUSE, 119 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON WC2A 1PP

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Chairman - R Fleck Esq. CBE
Vice Chairman – Miss M Bowron QC

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

The President of The Law Society – D M Greene Esq.

NOMINATED MEMBERS

Lincoln's Inn
His Honour Judge D R Hodge QC
The Hon. Sir Alastair Norris

Middle Temple
The Hon. Mr Justice Roth
P Susman Esq. QC

Inner Temple
Miss M Bowron QC
Dr M Malecka

Gray's Inn
J Clarke Esq.
The Hon. Mr Justice Turner

The Law Society
Mrs S Abraham
Ms L K H Lee

ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected by the Council on the nomination of the General Council of the Bar

Ms M Coutino

F Sadiq Esq.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

R Fleck Esq. CBE
K Hamer Esq
Prof P Mitchell
Ms S Thomas
J M Turner Esq. QC

SECRETARY / CEO

Kevin Laws Esq.

Registered Address:
Megarry House, 119 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP

ADVISORS

Solicitors
Bird & Bird
15 Fetter Lane
London EC4A 1JP

Independent Auditor
Haysmacintyre LLP
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG

Bankers
National Westminster Bank Plc
156 Fleet Street
London EC4A 2DX

Stockbrokers
Quilter Cheviot
1 Kingsway
London WC2B 6AN

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The members of the Council, being the trustees under Charity law and the directors under company law, submit their report and the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020. Details of members are given on page 1.

During the year there were the following changes to the members of the Council:

Appointments		Resignations	
Mr F Sadiq	01 Jul 2020	The Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Cox QC MP	13 Feb 2020
Mr D M Greene	04 Nov 2020	Mr S W Davis	04 Nov 2020

No trustees received any remuneration during the year. No trustees were reimbursed (2019: one trustee was reimbursed £230) in respect of expenses incurred in performing their duty.

The number of members of the Council shall not exceed twenty. Three, namely the Attorney General, the Solicitor General and the President of The Law Society are appointed members by virtue of their office. At the time of signing these accounts the Attorney General and Solicitor General have not yet formally consented to be members of the Council. Ten members, two from each of Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple, Middle Temple, Gray's Inn and The Law Society are nominated by each of these societies. Two members are elected to represent the Bar Council. Other co-opted members, not exceeding five in total, are appointed by the Council.

New members are provided with the articles of association, 'The Essential Trustee' document from the Charity Commission, the latest accounts and the minutes from the most recent Executive Committee meeting. They are also given the opportunity to ask the Chief Executive Officer any questions that they may have.

OBJECTS AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

1. The preparation and publication, in a convenient form, at a moderate price and under gratuitous professional control, of Reports of Judicial Decisions of the Superior and Appellate Courts in England and Wales.
2. The issue, periodically or occasionally, of any subsidiary or other publications relating to legal subjects which it may be considered expedient to combine with the publication of such reports, including the Statutes of the Realm, or any part thereof, if deemed expedient.

The principal activities of the Council are the publication of *The Law Reports*, *The Weekly Law Reports*, *The Industrial Cases Reports*, *The Business Law Reports* and *The Public and Third Sector Law Reports*. Following Practice Directions from Lord Woolf in 2001 and Lord Judge in 2012, the Official Law Reports must always be cited in preference to other law reports. The function to publish law reports of judicial decisions of the superior and appellate courts in England and Wales makes a significant contribution to the administration of justice in England and Wales. This independent role is free from political and shareholder influence.

The Council was formed in 1865, incorporated on 28 July 1870, registered as a charity on 17 November 1971, and is now a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The liability of members is limited to ten pounds per member.

The Council's primary object is, in substance, to record in a reliably accurate manner the development and application of judge-made law and to disseminate the knowledge of that law, its development and judicial application, in a way which is essential to the study of the law. Its purposes in doing so are (i) to assist the administration and development of the law by the courts and (ii) to make the law known, or at least accessible, to all members of the community, including professional lawyers whose advice on legal matters is likely to be sought by other members of the community, thereby making a sound knowledge and understanding of the law more available to all. In 1971 those purposes were held by the Court of Appeal in *Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales v Attorney-General* [1972] Ch 73, 88, 95, 104 to be of "general public utility" and "beneficial to the community". Nothing has changed in any relevant respect since 1971 and the Council continues to believe that substantial public benefit results from those activities.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

The Council is run on a not-for-profit basis whilst offering preferential rates in respect of its publications to academic institutions, students, law lecturers and other charities. The trustees have taken due regard of the information issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Home working and cloud technology enabled ICLR to continue to operate as near to normal as possible during the global pandemic in 2020. Important court hearings were live streamed during periods of lockdown enabling law reporters to 'attend' trials remotely. Weekly and monthly parts continued to be printed to the normal schedule, although the production of the consolidated (red) index was delayed until 2021. Content was regularly uploaded to the online platform throughout the year.

Members of the Inns of Court and the Law Society were given the opportunity to receive free access to the ICLR.3 online platform for the second half of 2020 and at the beginning of 2021. This was to support practitioners while they were unable to access the Inns' and Law Society libraries during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The ICLR.3 online platform continues to deliver content to customers in a clear, robust and user friendly way and continues to receive very positive feedback from users. Work continues on improving the quality of the data and the functionality of the online platform with ICLR.4 due for release in the autumn of 2021.

E-Commerce functionality was developed in 2020 and deployed in January 2021. Customers are now able to purchase subscriptions to the online platform, for a duration of either a month or a year, 24 hours a day 365 days per year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

These accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the valuation of investments to market value, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

Income in 2020 was £5,263,523, an increase of £117,604 (2%) on 2019. The higher income is primarily attributable to the continuing rise in demand for online publications.

Costs have been kept under tight control. Total expenditure at £4,672,906 was £93,863 lower than in 2019.

This has resulted in an operating surplus of £590,617, better than the £379,150 operating surplus reported for 2019.

The operating surplus moves to an overall deficit of £388,292 (£511,968 surplus in 2019) once the adverse movement of £1,150,000 of the pension scheme liability is included. Deficit recovery payments increased from £135,000pa to £275,000pa from July 2020 to reduce the deficit.

Creditors (amounts falling due within one year) amount to approximately £3.6m. This amount is mainly comprised of deferred income which represents a requirement to provide a future service, not a requirement to pay cash.

At the year end total unrestricted funds were £2,714k, a reduction from £3,102k reported at the end of 2019. This adverse movement is mainly due to the increase in the size of the pension liability to £2,036k (from £1,072k in 2019).

The significant increase in the pension scheme liability is a factor of low bond yields on the 31 December 2020. It is a requirement to use these yields in the calculation of the deficit in the 2020 accounts. The deficit would have been £1.0m (instead of £2.0m) if the calculation was performed using asset values and bond yields at the end of February 2021.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

KEY MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION POLICY

The members of Council have identified the Chief Executive Officer, Editor and Head of Product Development and Online Content as key management personnel of the charity and they are in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. The fourth member of the senior management team, the Head of Design and Research, left ICLR in December 2020.

The pay of all staff is reviewed annually with average increases normally in line with inflation.

RISKS

A risk register is maintained and periodically reviewed at Council meetings. Areas currently identified with significant inherent risk include the risk that demand for ICLR content on paper declines to a level that results in an unsustainable loss and the risk that operational or archive data is lost. Controls have been put in place to mitigate these risks, these include developing alternative sources of revenue and ensuring data is regularly backed up and held in multiple locations. Continuity of service for the online platform is also considered a risk. The security of the platform is regularly reviewed to ensure the appropriate measures are in place. Compliance with the new GDPR legislation is also identified as a risk. A project team and external advisors were engaged to ensure data processes and procedures comply with the new regulations. Regular reviews are conducted to mitigate the risk of non-compliance.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Quilter Cheviot were appointed discretionary managers for the Council's investment portfolio in September 2015. The investment strategy falls within the wealth preservation category including a mixture of asset classes (approximate breakdown: UK equities (30%), overseas equities (40%), fixed interest (15%), property and infrastructure (15%)). The trustees regularly monitor the performance of the investment managers. The investment managers are periodically requested to present the investment performance at Executive Committee meetings.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

The Council operates a defined benefit pension scheme that was closed to new members in 1999 and closed to future accrual in 2010. The net liability for defined benefit pension scheme obligations has increased to £2.0 million. The Council and pension scheme trustees are both committed to ensuring the appropriate level of funding to allow the full payment of accrued pensions from the scheme. The Council therefore increased annual contributions, from £135k to £275k per annum, from 1 July 2020, to reduce the deficit. The pension scheme trustees consider that this level of contribution is sufficient to meet the liabilities of the scheme. This view is supported by the scheme actuary.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Council will continue to seek to improve the efficiency of the publishing process and will explore new opportunities for expanding the Council's content and improving the functionality of the online platform in order to meet customers' demands.

RESERVES

Free reserves, being total unrestricted reserves less tangible and intangible fixed assets, plus the pension fund deficit stand at £2,878,376 (2019: £2,359,787). The free reserves provide working capital for the operations of the charity and the trustees consider that an ideal level of reserves would amount to a full year's worth of expenditure (£4.7m), although it is recognised that with the current economic conditions this level is unlikely to be reached in the foreseeable future. Amounts reported in tangible fixed assets are excluded because they are not readily available to the charity for spending. The pension fund deficit will be dealt with through adjusting contributions over a period of years.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

TANGIBLE ASSETS

The movements in tangible assets during the year are set out in note 10 to the accounts. The Trustees are aware that there is a material favourable difference between the disclosed carrying value of freehold properties (£1.5m) in these accounts and the current market value, but do not believe that there is value, commensurate with the associated cost, in ascertaining that market value at this time.

AUDITOR

A resolution proposing that Haysmacintyre LLP be reappointed for the ensuing year will be presented to the Annual General Meeting.


STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL

The Council members have confirmed that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware and that they have taken all the reasonable steps that they ought to have taken as members in order to make themselves aware of any such relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

APPRECIATION

The Council wishes to express its thanks to Her Majesty's Judges and to both branches of the Profession for the aid afforded by them to the Editors and Reporters in the discharge of their duties and to record their appreciation of the efforts of the Editors, Reporters, and staff in maintaining the high quality of the published law reports.

By Order of the Council



Mr Kevin Laws
Company Secretary

Date: 16 June 2021

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL

The trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

We have audited the financial statements of The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Council. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Report of the Council for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Council has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Council.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to charity law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, corporation tax, payroll tax and sales tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to the posting of inappropriate journal entries and management bias in accounting estimates and judgements. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted that significantly impact on the result for the year, posting in areas subject to significant judgements or estimates, postings in accounts that are considered higher risk; and


**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW
REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES (continued)**

- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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

Use of our report

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



Thomas Wilson (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP, Statutory Auditor
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG

Date: 16/06/2021

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted and total funds 2020 £	Unrestricted and total funds 2019 £
INCOME FROM:			
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Sales of print publications	3	761,346	885,486
Online, licensing and other income	3	4,435,215	4,141,196
<i>Investments</i>			
Interest receivable		6,049	6,264
Listed investments		47,038	57,472
<i>Other</i>			
Rental income		13,875	55,500
TOTAL		5,263,523	5,145,919
EXPENDITURE ON:			
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Costs of publications and services	4	4,585,493	4,685,178
Distribution costs	4	87,413	81,591
TOTAL		4,672,906	4,766,769
Net income for the year before investment gains		590,617	379,150
Net gains on investments		171,091	299,818
Net income for the year		761,708	678,968
Other recognised gains and losses			
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability	16	(1,150,000)	(167,000)
Net movement in funds for the year		(388,292)	511,968
Funds brought forward at 1 January	15	3,102,035	2,590,067
Funds carried forward at 31 December	15	2,713,743	3,102,035

All gains and losses arising in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities above and arose from continuing activities.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		1,534,045		1,772,248
Intangible assets	11		337,322		42,000
Investments	12		2,537,738		2,416,347
			<u>4,409,105</u>		<u>4,230,595</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		66,123		65,627	
Debtors	13	2,318,265		2,126,554	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,568,970		1,290,991	
		<u>3,953,358</u>		<u>3,483,172</u>	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(3,612,720)</u>		<u>(3,539,732)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)			<u>340,638</u>		<u>(56,560)</u>
NET ASSETS excluding pension liability			<u>4,749,743</u>		<u>4,174,035</u>
Pension liability	16		<u>(2,036,000)</u>		<u>(1,072,000)</u>
NET ASSETS			<u><u>2,713,743</u></u>		<u><u>3,102,035</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds					
- Accumulated reserve	15		4,749,743		4,174,035
- Pension reserve	15		<u>(2,036,000)</u>		<u>(1,072,000)</u>
			<u><u>2,713,743</u></u>		<u><u>3,102,035</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Council and were signed on its behalf on 16 June 2021 by:



Mr Richard Fleck CBE
Chairman

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	a	356,176	450,849
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends and interest		53,087	63,736
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(4,485)	(31,434)
Purchase of Intangible assets		(176,616)	-
Proceeds from sale of investments		168,364	235,299
Purchase of investments		(118,547)	(215,714)
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		<u>(78,197)</u>	<u>51,643</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		277,979	502,492
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	b	<u>1,290,991</u>	<u>788,499</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	b	<u><u>1,568,970</u></u>	<u><u>1,290,991</u></u>

Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

a) Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

Net income for the year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	761,708	678,968
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	16,959	118,071
Amortisation	107,023	6,000
Gains on investments	171,091	(299,818)
Dividends and interest from investments	53,087	63,736
(Increase)/decrease in stock	(496)	5,053
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(191,711)	55,709
Increase in creditors	72,870	59,602
Difference between pension movement and cash contributions	(186,000)	(109,000)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>356,176</u>	<u>450,849</u>
b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in hand	368,970	590,991
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,200,000	700,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u><u>1,568,970</u></u>	<u><u>1,290,991</u></u>

No analysis of changes in net debt has been presented as the charitable company has no borrowings.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) General information

The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales (“the Council”) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales (Company registration no. 5034) and registered with the Charity Commission (Charity registration no. 250605). The Council’s registered office address is Megarry House, 119 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP.

(b) Accounting convention and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of fixed asset investments, which are included at their market value at the balance sheet date. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP FRS 102) Second edition effective 1 January 2019, the Companies Act 2006 and applicable accounting standards (FRS 102).

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

(c) Going concern

The trustees consider that, after taking into account financial and cashflow forecasts for the next 5 years, there are no material uncertainties regarding the Council’s ability to continue as a going concern.

(d) Income

All income, including income from publications, subscriptions and licensing agreements is accrued and included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Council is legally entitled to (or has received) the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income received relating to future accounting periods is deferred and recognised as a creditor within the balance sheet.

Subscriptions in respect of the following financial year are raised in advance and are due for payment by 31 December and these are shown within trade debtors and deferred income.

(e) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Direct charitable expenditure relates to salaries and expenditure incurred in preparing, publishing and distributing content and related services.

Support costs consist of central management, administration and governance costs. The amount spent on raising funds and other activities is considered to be immaterial and all support costs are allocated to costs of publications and services within charitable activities.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets, other than freehold land, to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight-line basis using the following rates:

Freehold buildings	-	2%
Fixtures and fittings	-	10%
Electrical and computer equipment	-	20%

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(g) Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation is provided on all intangible assets, to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight-line basis using the following rates:

Online Platform and Content Management System	-	20%
Licences of transcripts	-	10%

In respect of the transcript licences, the trustees consider that, given the length of time that cases can be considered or cited, it is not possible to make a reliable estimate of the useful life and therefore have adopted the presumed useful life of 10 years as set out in the Charity SORP.

(h) Investments

Investments are included at market value on the Balance Sheet date. Net gains or losses on revaluation and disposal of investments are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(i) Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(j) Financial instruments – assets and liabilities

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within current liabilities.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rates are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(k) Employee benefits

The Council provides a range of benefits to employees including paid holiday arrangements and defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans.

Short term benefits

Short term benefits, including holidays and other similar non-monetary benefits are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Defined contribution pension plans

The Council operates a group personal pension scheme under which the Council makes fixed contributions to a separate entity. The Council also makes contributions to self-employed reporters appointed prior to 1989 which they invest in personal pension schemes. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they fall due. The assets of the pension plans are held separately from the Council in independently administered funds.

Defined benefit pension scheme

The Council has a defined benefit pension scheme for employees that was closed to future accrual on 15th June 2010, the assets of which are administered by trustees. The liability recognised in the balance sheet in respect of the defined benefit pension scheme is the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting date less the fair value of the scheme assets at the reporting date.

The defined benefit obligation is calculated using the projected unit credit method. Annually the Council engages an independent actuary to calculate the obligation. The present value is determined by discounting the estimated future payments using market yields on high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in sterling and that have terms approximating the estimated period of the future periods ("discount rate"). The fair value of the scheme assets is measured in accordance with the FRS 102 fair value hierarchy and includes the use of appropriate valuation techniques.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions are charged or credited to other comprehensive income. These amounts together with the return on plan assets, less amounts included in net interest, are disclosed as "remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability".

The net interest cost is calculated by applying the discount rate to the net balance of the defined benefit obligation and the fair value of the scheme assets. The cost is recognised within other pension costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In preparing these financial statements, management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the Council's accounting policies and the reported assets, liabilities, income and expenditure and the disclosures made in the financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Key areas subject to judgement and estimation are as follows:

Defined benefit pension scheme

The Council has obligations to pay pension benefits under a defined benefit pension scheme. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors including; life expectancy, salary increases, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates the factors in determining the net pension obligation in the balance sheet, and the assumptions are agreed with the scheme's actuary on the basis of historical experience and current trends.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

2020
£

2019
£

A geographical division of charitable income is given below:

United Kingdom	4,236,522	4,127,544
Overseas	960,039	899,138
	5,196,561	5,026,682
	5,196,561	5,026,682

4. COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Fees and Salaries £	Other Direct Costs £	Support Costs (Note 5) £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Costs of publications and services	2,870,826	672,289	1,042,378	4,585,493	4,685,178
Distribution costs	-	87,413	-	87,413	81,591
Total	2,870,826	759,702	1,042,378	4,672,906	4,766,769

COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (2019)

	Direct Fees and Salaries £	Other Direct Costs £	Support Costs (Note 5) £	2019 Total £
Costs of publications and services	2,828,238	845,153	1,011,787	4,685,178
Distribution costs	-	81,591	-	81,591
Total	2,828,238	926,744	1,011,787	4,766,769

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

5. SUPPORT COSTS	2020	2019
	£	£
Salaries, wages, NI, health insurance and pension costs	610,252	587,135
Office rent and running costs	99,547	81,287
Office supplies and services	131,071	146,101
Depreciation	16,959	118,071
Amortisation	107,023	6,000
Other support costs	65,076	62,743
Governance costs – audit and accountancy fees	12,450	10,450
	<u>1,042,378</u>	<u>1,011,787</u>
6. NET INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	2020	2019
	£	£
Net income for the financial year is stated after charging the following: Auditor's remuneration:		
- audit	10,450	8,550
- accountancy	2,000	1,900
	<u>12,450</u>	<u>10,450</u>

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

7. FEES AND SALARIES	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	2,203,371	2,284,234
Social security costs	246,371	247,747
Employer pension costs	506,488	328,613
Staff healthcare costs	69,570	65,859
	<u>3,025,800</u>	<u>2,926,453</u>
Self-employed reporters' and editors' fees and related costs	455,278	488,919
	<u>3,481,078</u>	<u>3,415,372</u>

The monthly average number of employees was	<u>48</u>	<u>48</u>
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In addition the Council utilises the services of 7 (2019: 7) self-employed reporters and editors

	2020 Number	2019 Number
The emoluments of higher paid staff within the following range were:		
£60,000 - £69,999	3	3
£70,000 - £79,999	1	1
£80,000 - £89,999	1	-
£90,000 - £99,999	1	2
£130,000 - £139,999	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

The key management personnel of the Council consist of the four (2019: five) members of the senior management team. Total compensation (including employer's national insurance contributions) for key management personnel for the year was £492,821 (2019: £575,481).

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

8. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REMUNERATION AND TRANSACTIONS

No members of the Council received any remuneration during the year (2019: £nil). No members were reimbursed expenses during the year (2019: One member reimbursed £230).

9. TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and, as its income is applied to charitable purposes, there is no liability to corporation tax.

10. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Electrical and computer equipment £	Online platform and content management system £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2020	2,178,224	150,952	79,739	503,265	2,912,180
Additions	-	139	4,346	-	4,485
Disposals	-	-	(1,684)	-	(1,684)
Reclassifications	-	-	-	(503,265)	(503,265)
At 31 December 2020	2,178,224	151,091	82,401	-	2,411,716
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 January 2020	678,512	119,506	64,378	277,536	1,139,932
Charge for the year	4,772	5,532	6,655	-	16,959
Disposals	-	-	(1,684)	-	(1,684)
Reclassifications	-	-	-	(277,536)	(277,536)
At 31 December 2020	683,284	125,050	69,317	-	877,671
Net book values					
At 31 December 2020	1,494,940	26,053	13,052	-	1,534,045
At 31 December 2019	1,499,712	31,446	15,361	225,729	1,772,248

The members of Council have considered the presentation of ICLR's online platform and content management system assets and have concluded that they are more appropriately disclosed within intangible fixed assets as they do not have physical substance. This has resulted in a transfer of assets with a carrying value of £225,729 to intangible fixed assets (see Note 11).

All assets are considered to be held for charitable purposes.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

11. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Online platform and content management system £	Transcript Licence £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2020	-	60,000	60,000
Additions	176,616	-	176,616
Disposals	-	-	-
Reclassifications	503,265	-	503,265
At 31 December 2020	679,881	60,000	739,881
Accumulated amortisation			
At 1 January 2020	-	18,000	18,000
Charge for the year	101,023	6,000	107,023
Reclassification	277,535	-	277,525
At 31 December 2020	378,559	24,000	402,559
Net book values			
At 31 December 2020	301,322	36,000	337,322
At 31 December 2019	-	42,000	42,000

12. INVESTMENTS

	Fixed interest stock £	Listed equities and funds £	Total £
Analysis of movements in the year			
Market value at 1 January 2020	412,167	2,004,180	2,416,347
Additions at cost	4,375	114,172	118,547
Sales proceeds	(31,946)	(136,418)	(168,364)
Realised gains on disposals	(5)	(2,604)	(2,609)
Unrealised losses on revaluation	20,638	153,179	173,817
Market value			
At 31 December 2020	405,229	2,132,509	2,537,738
Cost			
At 31 December 2020	368,514	1,359,487	1,728,001
At 31 December 2019	396,260	1,382,009	1,778,269

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

13. DEBTORS		2020	2019
		£	£
Due within one year:			
Trade debtors		2,117,260	1,943,767
Other debtors		39,991	51,826
Prepayments		114,727	94,905
Accrued income		46,287	35,996
		<u>2,318,265</u>	<u>2,126,494</u>
		<u><u>2,318,265</u></u>	<u><u>2,126,494</u></u>
14. CREDITORS		2020	2019
		£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:			
Trade creditors		76,182	77,267
Accruals		538,492	433,217
Deferred income		2,646,818	2,654,973
Tax and social security		345,972	368,994
Other creditors		5,256	5,280
		<u>3,612,720</u>	<u>3,539,732</u>
		<u><u>3,612,720</u></u>	<u><u>3,539,732</u></u>
15. FUNDS	Accumulated	Pension	Total
	Fund	Reserve	£
	£	£	
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2019	3,604,067	(1,014,000)	2,590,067
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	569,968	(58,000)	511,968
	<u>4,174,035</u>	<u>(1,072,000)</u>	<u>3,102,035</u>
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2020	4,174,035	(1,072,000)	3,102,035
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	575,708	(964,000)	(388,292)
	<u>4,749,743</u>	<u>(2,036,000)</u>	<u>2,713,743</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2020	4,749,743	(2,036,000)	2,713,743
	<u><u>4,749,743</u></u>	<u><u>(2,036,000)</u></u>	<u><u>2,713,743</u></u>

Included within the accumulated fund are unrealised gains on investments totalling £809,737 (2019: £638,078).

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

16. PENSIONS

(i) Pension and Life Assurance Scheme

The company operates a defined benefit pension scheme in the UK, the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales Pension and Life Assurance Scheme (1975), in respect of office, editorial and warehouse staff, and reporters appointed subsequently to 6 April 1989. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company, being invested in various investment vehicles with Royal London and Quilter Cheviot. The scheme was closed to new members in October 1999 and to future accrual on 15th June 2010. The pension contribution for the year was £205,000 (2019: £135,000).

The most recent triennial review as at 1 April 2019 stated that the value of the scheme assets was £8,331,000 which represented 79% of the benefits that had accrued to members, after allowing for future increases in earnings. This is equivalent to a deficit of £2,175,000. The major assumptions used in the valuation as at 1 April 2020 are given below.

Rate of increase of salaries	3.5% pa
Rate of increase of pensions in payment	3.3% pa
Rate of Investment return – before retirement	3.5% pa
Rate of Investment return – after retirement	1.8% pa
Retail price index increases	3.4% pa
Consumer price index increases	2.8% pa
Rate of increases in pensions in deferment:	
Pre 6 April 2020 accrual	2.8%
Post 6 April 2020 accrual	2.5%

A Recovery Plan has been agreed with the company, which commits the company to paying contributions to fund the shortfall. These deficit reduction contributions are incorporated into the plan's Schedule of Contributions dated 7 April 2020 and require the company to make contributions of £33,750 per quarter, increasing to £68,750 per quarter from 1 July 2020 and up to and including July 2029. These payments are subject to review following the next funding valuation which will be undertaken as at 1 April 2022.

For the purpose of providing the disclosures required by Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Scheme actuary has prepared a valuation of the Scheme using the projected unit method in order to assess the liabilities of the Scheme at 31 December 2020. The major assumptions used by the actuary as at 31 December 2020 were as follows:

	31 December 2020	31 December 2019
Discount Rate	1.3%	2.0%
Salary increases	3.2%	3.2%
LPI Pension increases	3.1%	3.1%
Retail price index	3.2%	3.2%
Consumer price index	2.2%	2.2%

Mortality assumptions

The underlying mortality assumption is based upon the standard table known as S3PA on a year of birth usage with CMI_2019 future improvement factors and a long-term rate of future improvement of 1.0% p.a. (2019: S3PA with CMI_2018 future improvement factors and a long-term rate of future improvement of 1.0% p.a). This results in the following life expectancies:

Life expectancy for a current 65 year old - males	87 years	86 years
- females	89 years	88 years

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

16. PENSIONS (continued)

Amounts Recognised in the Balance Sheet

	31 December 2020 £	31 December 2019 £
Market value of scheme assets	9,415,000	8,953,000
Present value of scheme liabilities	(11,451,000)	(10,025,000)
Net defined benefit liability	<u>(2,036,000)</u>	<u>(1,072,000)</u>

Amounts Recognised in the Income and Expenditure account

	31 December 2020 £	31 December 2019 £
Current service cost	-	-
Interest cost on net defined benefit liability	19,000	26,000
Total charge	<u>19,000</u>	<u>26,000</u>

Changes in the present value of the scheme liabilities

	31 December 2020 £	31 December 2019 £
Opening present value of scheme liabilities	10,025,000	8,856,000
Current employer service costs	-	-
Interest cost on scheme liabilities	198,000	246,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	1,451,000	1,049,000
Benefits paid	(223,000)	(126,000)
Closing present value of scheme liabilities	<u>11,451,000</u>	<u>10,025,000</u>

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets

	31 December 2020 £	31 December 2019 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	8,953,000	7,842,000
Interest on scheme assets	179,000	220,000
Return on assets less interest included in I&E	301,000	882,000
Employer contributions	205,000	135,000
Member contributions	-	-
Benefits paid	(223,000)	(126,000)
Closing fair value of scheme assets	<u>9,415,000</u>	<u>8,953,000</u>
Actual return on scheme assets	<u>480,000</u>	<u>1,102,000</u>

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

16. PENSIONS (continued)

The major categories of Scheme assets as a percentage of total Scheme assets are as follows:

	At 31 December 2020	At 31 December 2019
Equities and Property	69%	68%
Bonds	29%	30%
Cash	2%	2%
Total	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

The scheme has no investments in property occupied by, assets used by or financial instruments issued by the charitable company.

Analysis of amount recognisable in other recognised gains and losses

	31 December 2020 £	31 December 2019 £
Return on assets, less interest recognised in I&E	301,000	882,000
Experience gains and losses arising on scheme liabilities	-	(24,000)
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of scheme liabilities	(1,451,000)	(1,025,000)
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability recognised in other recognised gains and losses	<u>(1,150,000)</u>	<u>(167,000)</u>

Movement in net defined benefit liability during the year

	31 December 2020 £	31 December 2019 £
Net defined benefit liability at start of year	(1,072,000)	(1,014,000)
Income and expenditure charge	(19,000)	(26,000)
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability recognised in other recognised gains and losses	(1,150,000)	(167,000)
Employer contributions	205,000	135,000
Net defined benefit liability at end of year	<u>(2,036,000)</u>	<u>(1,072,000)</u>

(ii) **Defined contribution pension scheme arrangements**

ICLR operates a defined contribution pension scheme for eligible employees called the ICLR Group Personal Pension Plan (GPPP). All eligible employees are automatically enrolled into the scheme and ICLR contributes between 4% and 14% of pensionable salaries. ICLR also makes contributions to employee personal pension schemes through pension salary exchange. The total expense for the year in respect of defined contribution pension schemes was £232,613 (2019: £266,116). Contributions totalling £22,465 (2019: £22,804) were payable in respect of these arrangements at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

(iii) **Retirement reserve for appointed reporters**

The Council pays annual pension increments to self-employed reporters appointed prior to April 1989 which they invest in their individual pension arrangements. The charge for the year, included in cost of publications and services, was £42,577 (2019: £43,890). Contributions totalling £32,665 (2019: £32,758) were payable in respect of this scheme at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At the balance sheet date, the Council had future capital commitments totalling £110,000 (2019: £nil). This amount relates to a 13 month project to improve the online platform which commenced in April 2020.

18. LEASE RENTALS RECEIVABLE

The Council lets part of its freehold buildings under a lease agreement. The future minimum lease rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Minimum lease rentals receivable in:		
less than one year	34,897	55,500
two to five years	100,052	155,400
	<u>134,949</u>	<u>210,900</u>

No contingent rents have been included in this disclosure or recognised in the period.

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in the current or previous year.

20. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There are no post balance sheet events to report.