

Company number: 1056004
Charity number: 264221

LISTENING BOOKS
(A company limited by guarantee)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

LISTENING BOOKS
(A company limited by guarantee)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Contents	Page
Report of the Council of Management	1 - 6
Independent Auditors' Report	7 - 9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11
Cash Flow Statement	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 - 21

LISTENING BOOKS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Council of Management, the members of which are directors of the company, are pleased to present their Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Annual Report contains the Director's report as required by company law.

The financial statements comply with the Memorandum of Association, the Companies Act 2006, The Charities Act 2011, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102).

Reference and Administrative Details

Directors and Council of Management

The members of the Council of Management, who are also the directors of the company and who served during the year are as follows:

G M Howarth	<i>Chairman</i>	
A Williams	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>(resigned 9 September 2024)</i>
C T Sinclair-Stevenson		<i>(resigned 9 September 2024)</i>
J Eccleshare		
D O'Neill		
N Forster		

The company has no share capital and is limited by guarantee (company number: 1056004 and charity number: 264221).

Registered Office

The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London, SE11 5RR

Charity number

264221

Company Secretary

Bill Dee

Auditors

Jacob Cavenagh & Skeet, 5 Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, Surrey SM1 2SW

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc, 69/73 Borough High Street, London SE1 1NQ

Solicitors

Pothecary Witham Weld Solicitors, 70 St George's Square, London SW1V 3RD

Investment Managers

CCLA Investment Management Ltd, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria St, London EC4V 4ET

Key Management Personnel

The Trustees

Bill Dee

Robert Marchant

Amy Flinders

Louise Barling

Claire Bell

LISTENING BOOKS

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution and Structure

Established in 1959 (as the National Listening Library Limited), Listening Books is a registered charity incorporated on 26 May 1972. The governing instrument is our Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 22 June 1998.

The Council of Management, whose six members represent organisations and individuals having an interest in people with special needs, are not remunerated for the duties they undertake.

The day-to-day management of the company is delegated by the Council to the Director, who reports to the Council of Management, which approves major decisions and has overall responsibility for the company's activities. The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increases in accordance with average earnings bearing in mind charities of similar size and activity.

Election of Council Members

A person or persons may be invited to join the Council of Management of the company where they are:

- At least 18 years of age;
- Otherwise not disqualified from being so appointed under Sections 72 and 73 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- Felt able to bring relevant experience and influence to the company.

Board reviews its own performance in changing circumstances and considers whether additional trustees with new skills are required. Trustees are usually appointed by either placing adverts in the charity press or by consideration of whether there is someone suitable known to the company. Potential new trustees have an initial meeting with the Chair, are then introduced to the Board, and only then if elected join the Board. Subsequently they have meetings as necessary with the Chair and receive an induction pack. Further training could be offered if considered beneficial.

Risk management

The charity has undertaken a risk appraisal as required by the Charity Commission. Based on this risk review, the Trustees' and executive team consider the most relevant risks, and the means by which they may be mitigated, to be as follows:

- Safety and security of staff, volunteers and members (mitigation includes an annual risk assessment dedicated to health and fire safety, which is conducted through consultation with staff, providing first aid and fire safety training to key members of staff, and a child and vulnerable adult protection policy).
- Data security breaches (mitigation includes measures to restrict access to sensitive information and the successful implementation of a new IT system, which has improved the handling of sensitive data).
- Deterioration of relationships with publishers (mitigation includes a copyright policy outlining the management of copyrighted material and ensuring that staff, volunteers and members are aware of their duty to respect the conditions of our agreements with publishers).
- Service delivery failure (mitigation includes the training of staff, thorough backing up of data, comprehensive IT support and the implementation of a new, bespoke IT system).

LISTENING BOOKS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- Reduction of trust funding (mitigation includes high quality service delivery, budgeting for possibility of reduced funding in any given year, establishment of appropriate financial reserves level, and income diversification through alternative sources of income where available).

Objectives and Activities

The Charity's objects are:

To relieve disability or incapacity, whether permanent or temporary, arising from any sickness, injury or other physical or mental condition, in particular, by the provision of an audio book library service including recorded literature and other material, together with equipment for the reproduction of such literature or other material, including the advancement of education of persons suffering from such conditions.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Achievements and Performance

This annual review records many positive developments but one particularly marks a new departure: after being based at Lant Street for nearly half a century, we've moved our office to the Foundry, near the Oval. We hope that the staff will benefit specially from working in this modern, streamlined office, alongside other charities and with new amenities such as an in-house cafe and break out rooms for bigger meetings. It coincides with some remarkable growth within the charity.

One aspect which gives me particular pleasure to report is the 30% growth in individual membership. I see this as recognition of the thoughtful, very personal service we provide to each of our members, advising on book choices or helping some navigate the more technical aspects of listening through an app or website.

So, once again, I am using this opportunity to thank the staff for their expertise and dedication. On the theme of gratitude, I extend thanks to our funders who, in this period of rapidly rising costs, are more than ever so important to us.

It is a matter of singular pride that, despite the added work involved in moving, we have been able to add a further 37 hospitals served this year, bringing our tally to 96. We are also supplying a wider than ever range of training to meet different demands within hospital settings.

Feedback is always valuable to us and it has been satisfying too, to have begun providing wireless headphones for use with our tablets, and to have updated our older machines so members can take advantage of recent developments in technology. Our staff have travelled to many hospitals in person to ensure our service is fully understood and to exchange ideas. One outcome has been the enabling of the service to operate effectively without the necessity of hospital Wi-Fi. We now provide the hospital with a MiFi unit, a much-appreciated development in areas where Wi-Fi is erratic, or even non-existent. Feedback has also proved invaluable in schools where teachers provide valuable insights into the tastes and requirements of SEND pupils.

LISTENING BOOKS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

We of course depend immensely on the generosity of publishers, in allowing us to have copies of their books for our members. We simply could not operate without them, and we hope they will continue to recognise the contribution they make to the various lives of our members, young and old, all in their different ways dependent on the stimulus and solace that books uniquely provide.

As I write this, the world seems in so many ways more fragile than ever. So, every small way we can connect with what is positive and human, with the experiences of others as they describe their lives, with wisdom or humour, must be cherished. I am proud of Listening Books for the modest part it plays in this important mission.

Summary of key achievements

- In 2023/24 our annual audiobook loans reached an all-time high of 144,000, an increase of 23% on 2022/23.
- The number of magazine and newspaper articles opened on our PressReader platform grew by 21% to 290,500.
- The number of individual members we serve directly grew by 28% to 7,678.
- We delivered our online services to an additional 37 children's hospitals and wards, taking the overall total to 93.
- We also delivered our online services to an additional 8 hospices, taking the overall total to 94.
- Our total annual reach is now more than 100,000, including more than 400 organisational members.
- Our online catalogue grew by 694 titles, including 14 recorded inhouse to a professional standard, reaching a total of 8,313.
- We delivered 13 author interviews which had over 90,670 views and listens.

Financial Review

Reserves policy

Unrestricted funds comprise the accumulated funds which are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the objectives of the company. Further, it is the intention of the directors that such funds be maintained at a level which, if required, would fund the core costs of the organisation for a period of one year. This requires currently a balance of unrestricted funds of approximately £625,000. This duration takes account of the nature of the funding of the company, where the majority of income is from Charitable Trusts being of a cyclical nature affected by the general economic climate, and legacies which are unpredictable in nature. And this reserves figure takes into account that some unrestricted fund reserves would not be available in cash within the year timescale.

Financial position

The net deficit of unrestricted funds during the year ended 31 March 2024 amounted to £134,834 (2023: £224,136). This has resulted in total unrestricted funds available for use at the discretion of the Council of Management of £304,962 (2023: £439,796).

Net income on restricted funds amounted to £57,139 (2023: £50,025). This has resulted in total restricted funds at 31 March 2024 of £213,829 (2023: £156,690).

LISTENING BOOKS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Investment powers

The Trustees accept responsibility for the effective and efficient management of the company's investments. Management of the company's investment portfolio is by COIF Charity Funds. The investment objective is to achieve a balance between income and capital growth through investment in cash, bonds and equities. Exposure to equity markets will normally be gained through investment in authorised unit trusts and investment trusts.

Fundraising Policy

The charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Requests for funds are largely through grant applications to sympathetic charitable trusts and the purposes are clearly described. During the year no professional fundraisers were employed and appeals were generally made by email or letter. A complaints procedure is set out as part of the Privacy Policy on the website. No complaints or criticisms were raised concerning the fundraising activities during the period.

Investment policy

The current investment policy of the charity is to aim to hold bank balances of a minimum of £80,000 mainly for working capital, and the Trustees have an ethical investment policy:

Listening Books investments are managed in an Ethical Fund which invests responsibly according to ESG standards, by excluding companies scoring less than 2 on any FTSE ESG theme. This goes towards ensuring that our investments are compatible with our mission as a charity. One particular ESG issue, Climate Change, is increasingly threatening to pose an existential risk to society itself, not just to the financial system, so it is imperative that investors look beyond financial risk and return and consider the real world impact of their investments. To this end Listening Books is invested in the CCLA Ethical Fund which excludes investment in certain companies including those which derive more than 5% of revenues from the extraction of Oil Sands or Thermal (Energy) coal and also companies which derive more than 10% of revenues from the extraction, production and refining of Oil and Gas. Also excluded are companies whose principal business is the generation of electricity that have not demonstrated the ability to align their business with the Paris Climate Change Agreement (as determined by the Investment Manager), and also extractives or utilities sector companies where productive engagement is not believed to be possible (at the discretion of the Investment Manager). It is clear for example that Oil Sands and Coal extraction have no place in a world of net zero emissions, which we need to reach as soon as possible, and at the latest by 2050. There is also an urgent need for all fossil fuels to be phased out by this date. The full list of investment restrictions on the CCLA Ethical Fund are set out in note 16 to these accounts.

Disclosure of information to auditors

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware and they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

**LISTENING BOOKS
REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

The Council members are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Council members, who are the directors for the purposes of company law, to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Council members have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Council members must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Council members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting 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 a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will be able to continue in operation.

The Council members are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

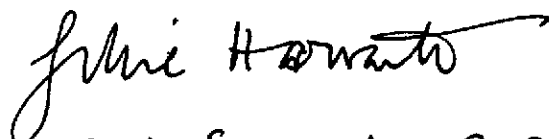
Auditors

A resolution will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting to appoint auditors to the company for the ensuing year.

Approved by the Council of Management and signed on its behalf by:

G Howarth
Chairman

Date:


23rd September 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LISTENING BOOKS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Listening Books (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 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 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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 Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LISTENING BOOKS

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 our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included with the trustees' report.

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

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of 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 prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LISTENING BOOKS

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

Based on our understanding of the charity, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to employment and financial reporting legislation 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 and the Charities Act 2011.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by making enquiries of management, considering the internal controls in place and discussion amongst the engagement team.

We determined that the principal risks were related to management bias in accounting estimates, presentation of separately disclosed items and management override of controls.

In response to the risks identified we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to reviewing trustees' minutes, challenging significant accounting estimates, evaluating the internal controls, agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and identifying and testing journal entries.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. 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 auditors' 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 its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Paul Newton FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Jacob Cavenagh & Skeet
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

5 Robin Hood Lane
Sutton
Surrey
SM1 2SW

Date: 4 October 2024

**LISTENING BOOKS STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £
Income from:	1e-h						
Donations and legacies		223,400	723,001	946,401	266,506	532,325	798,831
Charitable activities		74,631	-	74,631	61,967	-	61,967
Other trading activities		13,374	-	13,374	16,522	-	16,522
Total income	2	311,405	723,001	1,034,406	344,995	532,325	877,320
Expenditure on:	1j-k						
Raising funds		40,829	-	40,829	41,829	-	41,829
Charitable activities		438,046	667,362	1,105,408	513,166	482,445	995,611
Total expenditure	3	478,875	667,362	1,146,237	554,995	482,445	1,037,440
Net gains/(losses) on investments	6	34,136	-	34,136	(13,991)	-	(13,991)
Net income/(expenditure)		(133,334)	55,639	(77,695)	(223,991)	49,880	(174,111)
Transfers between funds		(1,500)	1,500	-	(145)	145	-
Net movement in funds		(134,834)	57,139	(77,695)	(224,136)	50,025	(174,111)
Funds brought forward at 1 April 2023		439,796	156,690	596,486	663,932	106,665	770,597
Funds carried forward at 31 March 2024		304,962	213,829	518,791	439,796	156,690	596,486

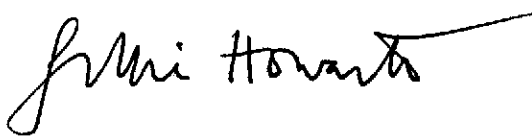
All of the activities are continuing. There were no recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.
The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**LISTENING BOOKS
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	5	34,391	51,244
Investments	6	267,971	303,835
		<u>302,362</u>	<u>355,079</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	117,744	94,597
Cash at bank and in hand		140,458	180,070
		<u>258,202</u>	<u>274,667</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	41,773	33,260
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>216,429</u>	<u>241,407</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>518,791</u>	<u>596,486</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	11	304,962	439,796
Restricted	10	213,829	156,690
NET ASSETS		<u>518,791</u>	<u>596,486</u>

Approved by the Council of Management and signed on its behalf by:

G Howarth
Chairman



Date:

23 September 2024

Company Registration No: 01056004

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**LISTENING BOOKS
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Cash (used in)/provided by operating activities (see below)		(102,921)		(70,592)
Cash flows from investing activities				
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(6,691)		(998)	
Proceeds from sale of investments	70,000		70,000	
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		63,309		69,002
Net cash (outflow)/inflow		(39,612)		(1,590)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2023		180,070		181,660
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2024		140,458		180,070
Cash flows from operating activities				
Net (expenditure)		(111,831)		(160,120)
Depreciation		23,544		38,388
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(23,147)		54,515
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		8,513		(3,375)
Cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(102,921)		(70,592)

**LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements are drawn up on the historical cost basis of accounting as modified by the revaluation of investments to market value and prepared in sterling, which is the financial currency of the charity, rounded to the nearest £1.

Listening Books is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 12 Lant Street, London, SE1 1QH. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

b. Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. Equipment is depreciated over 5 years on cost.

c. Investments

Investments are stated at market value based on the bid price at the Balance Sheet date and the surplus or deficit of this revaluation is shown as unrealised gains or losses on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities after the Income and Expenditure Statement has been concluded.

Realised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the proceeds of sale at the date of disposal and market value at the previous Balance Sheet date or cost of acquisition if purchased during the year. These are shown as realised gains or losses on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities and are also included in the Income and Expenditure Statement contained therein.

d. Operating Leases

Annual rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

e. Income

Grants restricted to use in future accounting periods are deferred and recognised in those accounting periods.

Legacies are accounted for as soon as the charity is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the charity is reasonably certain. Amounts receivable after more than one year from the balance sheet date are measured at their present value and an interest element is accounted for each year.

Charitable activities consist of membership subscriptions and trading activities of sales of accessories and other income.

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

f. Investment Income

Investment income is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes the associated tax credits.

g. Gifts in Kind (Publishers)

The company receives discounts from content publishers in the year beyond that normally obtained on a commercial basis. These amounts are included in incoming resources and in resources expended and amounted to £239,163 (2023: £128,139).

h. Gifts in Kind (Advertisers)

The company receives discounts from advertisers in the year beyond that normally obtained on a commercial basis. These amounts are included in incoming resources and in resources expended and amounted to £27,856 (2023: £30,718).

i. Gifts in Kind (Legal)

The company receives discounts from legal advisors in the year beyond that normally obtained on a commercial basis. These amounts are included in incoming resources and in resources expended and amounted to £76,005 (2023: £61,132).

j. Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are those subject to specific restrictive conditions imposed by sponsors or other donors or by the purpose of the appeal.

k. Pension Costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme in respect of all employees. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they are incurred.

l. Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT relating to such expenses. Expenditure incurred in connection with the specific activities as shown on the Statement of Financial Activities represents the direct costs of that activity together with an apportionment of the general overheads of the company as support costs. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. Governance costs are incurred in the course of the company complying with its legal and regulatory obligations.

m. Cash and bank

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of opening of the deposit.

n. Debtors

Staff loans and other debtors are included at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

o. Creditors and provisions

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

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

p. Basic financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2 INCOME

	2024 £	2023 £
Donations and legacies		
General donations	4,640	15,181
Grants	589,963	543,131
Gifts in kind	343,024	219,989
Legacies	8,774	20,530
Charitable activities		
Membership subscriptions	73,887	61,967
Other trading activities		
Rent	-	-
Other	14,118	16,522
	<u>1,034,406</u>	<u>877,320</u>

3 EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs £	Depreciation £	Other Costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cost of raising funds	10,074	2,943	27,812	40,829	41,829
Membership services	454,810	19,129	587,836	1,061,775	952,072
Support costs	15,111	1,472	20,770	37,353	37,779
Governance costs	-	-	6,280	6,280	5,760
Total expenditure	<u>479,995</u>	<u>23,544</u>	<u>642,698</u>	<u>1,146,237</u>	<u>1,037,440</u>

Support costs all related to the provision of membership services, and governance costs include auditors' remuneration of £6,280 (2023: £5,760) which includes VAT and relates to the fee for the audit only. No other remuneration was payable to the auditors during the year.

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4 STAFF COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	424,612	387,784
Social security costs	29,621	28,361
Pension costs	25,762	48,371
	<u>479,995</u>	<u>464,516</u>
Other employment costs	-	-
Total staff costs	<u>479,995</u>	<u>464,516</u>
	2024	2023
The average number of persons employed by functional activity was:	No	No
Cost of raising funds	1	1
Charitable expenditure	12	12
	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>

Members of the Council of Management received no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year (2023: nil).

The total remuneration (including pension and other employee benefits) of the key management personnel of the charity (as detailed on page 1) during the year was £267,718 (2023: £262,590).

One employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 per annum (2023: nil). One employee received remuneration in band £80,000 - £90,000 per annum.

5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2023	255,732
Additions	6,691
Disposals	-
At 31 March 2024	<u>262,423</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2023	204,488
Charge for the year	23,544
Released on disposals	-
At 31 March 2024	<u>228,032</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2024	<u><u>34,391</u></u>
At 31 March 2023	<u><u>51,244</u></u>

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6 LISTED INVESTMENTS

	At 1 April 2023 £	Add- itions £	Disp- osals £	Gains/ (losses) on reval- uation £	At 31 March 2024 £
At market value:					
COIF	303,835	-	(70,000)	34,136	267,971
Total market value	<u>303,835</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(70,000)</u>	<u>34,136</u>	<u>267,971</u>
Historical cost including cash	<u>162,092</u>				<u>124,358</u>

7 DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	94,123	72,226
Prepayments	23,621	22,371
	<u>117,744</u>	<u>94,597</u>

Other debtors includes amounts falling due after more than one year of £27,104 (2023: £29,679).

8 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	8,433	12,775
Taxation and social security	9,808	-
Other creditors	15,760	9,953
Accruals and deferred income	7,772	10,532
	<u>41,773</u>	<u>33,260</u>

9 LEASING COMMITMENTS

Operating leases

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under operating leases at 31 March 2024 were payable as set out below:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	6,250	75,000
Within two to five years	-	6,250
More than 5 years	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
The operating lease charges for the year were:		
Hire of premises	<u>75,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2024 £
Downloadables	1,956	279,254	250,338	-	30,872
Sponsored Membership	10,000	298,975	307,748	-	1,227
Children's Hospitals	113,937	114,372	80,646	-	147,663
Palliative Care	-	22,400	12,538	1,500	11,362
I.T.System Purchase	28,516	-	9,888	-	18,628
PC Purchase	1,054	-	804	-	250
Covid-19 Tablets Fund	655	-	655	-	-
Pre-loaded Tablets	572	8,000	4,745	-	3,827
	<u>156,690</u>	<u>723,001</u>	<u>667,362</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>213,829</u>
	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2023 £
Downloadables	31,341	136,200	165,585	-	1,956
Sponsored Membership	-	254,225	244,225	-	10,000
Children's Hospitals	5,469	126,037	17,569	-	113,937
Palliative Care	6,318	4,863	11,326	145	-
I.T.System Purchase	54,025	-	25,509	-	28,516
PC Purchase	1,858	-	804	-	1,054
Covid-19 Tablets Fund	1,354	-	179	(520)	655
Pre-loaded Tablets	6,300	11,000	17,248	520	572
	<u>106,665</u>	<u>532,325</u>	<u>482,445</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>156,690</u>

Downloadables

To provide funding for titles bought for the audiobook catalogue in both CD and download formats.

Sponsored Membership

To provide funding where appropriate to cover individual members part or full costs of membership.

Children's Hospitals

To provide access to audiobooks for children in hospitals. Formerly called Readathon.

Palliative Care

To provide access to audiobooks for hospices.

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

I.T.System Purchase

To greatly improve the company website and operating of internal IT systems including book managing system and substantial additional services. The balance on this fund represents both the I.T.System purchased less depreciation, and also the as yet unspent funds.

PC Purchase

To purchase new computer equipment for staff.

Covid-19 Tablets fund

To provide a preloaded selection of audiobook titles to members during the Covid restrictions.

Pre-loaded Tablets fund

To provide a preloaded selection of audiobook titles to adults who are elderly and isolated.

Transfers between funds

Income reassigned as permitted by donor charitable trusts.

11 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Investment Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total 2024 £
Restricted Funds	18,879	-	194,950	213,829
Unrestricted Funds	15,512	267,971	21,479	304,962
	<u>34,391</u>	<u>267,971</u>	<u>216,429</u>	<u>518,791</u>

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Investment Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total 2023 £
Restricted Funds	29,570	-	127,120	156,690
Unrestricted Funds	21,674	303,835	114,287	439,796
	<u>51,244</u>	<u>303,835</u>	<u>241,407</u>	<u>596,486</u>

12 LEGAL STATUS

The charitable company is limited by guarantee. The liability in respect of the guarantee, as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, is limited to £1 per member of the company. There were 6 members as at 31 March 2024 (2023: 6).

13 RELATED PARTY RELATIONSHIPS AND TRANSACTIONS

N D Forster, a trustee of Listening Books, worked at Overdrive Inc. in the year. During the year £22,057 (2023: £40,602) was paid to Overdrive Inc. in respect of purchases.

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14 PROVISIONS AND CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The charity is receiving payments from a legacy that has three remaining components to be collected and distributed by the estate. Two components relate to loans the estate made to two individuals, which are being repaid over periods ending in 2029 and 2042. Annual payments are received by the charity from the estate and an asset of £29,679 (2023: £32,254) has been recognised in respect of these loans.

The third component of the legacy is in respect of a property subject to a protected life tenant. At today's prices, receipt by Listening Books is likely to be in the region of £45,000. In accordance with the SORP para 5.34, no asset has been recognised in respect of this by the charity. The charity will only recognise this component of the legacy when the estate has vacant possession of the property. However, the estate is also required to pay for certain major repairs, which it pays for by reducing the annual payments to legatees in respect of the two components described above. No provision has been made against this due to the inherent uncertainty of the payments to be made. Legacy income has been reduced in the year by £2,575 (2023: £4,914) in relation to the reduction in annual payments received.

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15 INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS COIF CHARITIES ETHICAL INVESTMENT FUND

The COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund is managed in accordance with an ethical investment policy that is set through consultation with unitholders. This requires CCLA to dedicate capital to positive investments, engage with companies to achieve positive changes in business practice and implement the following ethical restrictions.

Theme	Further Details	Exclusion Criteria
Climate Change	Oil sands extraction	Companies that derive more than 5% of their revenue from the extraction of these fuels are restricted
	Energy coal extraction	
	Other 'Fossil Fuel' Extraction	Companies that derive more than 10% of their revenue from extracting and refining coal, oil or gas
	Electrical Utilities	No investment in companies that cannot align with the Paris NDCs
Armaments	Strategic military sales	Restricted if derive more than 10% of revenue from strategic military sales
	Civilian firearms	10% revenue restriction
	Nuclear Weapons, Landmines, cluster munitions	Investment prohibited if involved in the production of these weapons
Oppressive Regimes	Sovereign Debt	No debt from countries identified by the Ethical Fund Advisory Committee as being the most oppressive
Tobacco		10% revenue restriction
Alcohol		10% revenue restriction
Adult Entertainment		10% revenue restriction
Gambling		10% revenue restriction
Animal Testing	Testing of cosmetics on Animals	Restricted if in priority sector and chooses to conduct testing on animals
High Interest Rate Lending		10% revenue restriction
Specific Client Restrictions	Production of single purpose abortifacients	Restricted if a producer of single-purpose abortifacient
	Baby Milk Substitutes	Minimum responsibility standards
ESG Minimum Standards	Score less than 2 on any FTSE ESG Theme	Comply/explain approach applies
Respecting International Norms	Substantiated allegations of non-conformity with recognised labour, human rights, biodiversity and climate change standards	Engagement that can lead to divestment if no progress is made
Third Party Funds	Screened Against Ethical Investment Criteria	