



BRITISH ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

The 66th Annual General Meeting on Thurs. 13th November 2025

Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, Black Friars Lane, London EC4V 6EJ

Treasurer's Report – an item on the Agenda prepared for the AGM on Thurs. 13th Nov. 2025

(I became Treasurer in November 2023; I have personally inspected the accounts.)

a. Year-end accounts

Financial year: 1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024 [BAFS account ending *6154]

Balance of account @ 31st December 2024	<u>£5,272</u>	<i>net assets/ income – expenditure</i> <i>cf. £6,053 @ 31st Dec. 2023</i>
Total Income	£36,407	[gross profit] <i>cf. £35,517 1 Jan–31 Dec. '23</i>
Total Expenditure	£42,871	[all expenses] <i>cf. £50,405 1 Jan–31 Dec. '23</i>
Instant updating view for year 2025:		
Account @ 31st October 2025	£13,158.18	[sent to independent auditor]

- b. **Full & Associate Membership Subscriptions:** Exec. universally agreed to increase annual membership fees from £60 to £80. Denise asks that standing orders are amended – copy attached.

- c. **Investment:** The valuation (no fee to exit) of our long-term investment fund is now £24,704 (cf. £22,315 on 31st Dec. 2024). Tracy and I are the trustees of BAFS investment portfolio fund. We put £35,000 in the fund in August 2022. We took out £15,000 in Sept 2023 (before my tenure).

In August 2022, BAFS instructed as its investment manager [Quilter Cheviot](#), a Charity Authorised Investment Fund (CAIF) specifically for charities qualifying for UK tax relief. Charles Mesquita is our manager. Our investment has consistently delivered a higher return than cash / gov. bonds.

On Wed. 5th Nov. 2025, at 6pm, our fund-manager spoke directly to the exec. & answered qs. This put the exec. in the picture re options to consider (as permitted by the Charity Commission) and the timing of this review aligned with our three-year FCA-suggested fund review. There are especially important considerations for investing charity funds – inc. the imperative (minimally) to choose a reputable, regulated investment fund, to preserve the investment, and aim for growth. This is in contrast to investing on the open market (where growth/profit is the sole aim).

Abigail Bright
TREASURER

Wed. 5th November 2025

THE BRITISH ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st December 2024

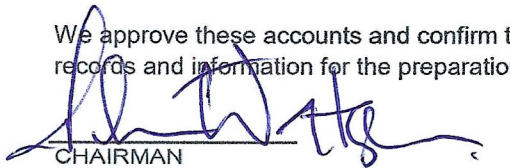
	2023		2024
£	£	£	£
	INCOME		
	9212 Subscriptions		7592
	17379 Royalties		20846
	472 Investment Income		1843
	0		5099
	9192 Events		2870
	<u>36255</u>		<u>38250</u>
	EXPENDITURE		
2208	Student Prizes	300	
12019	Events	14910	
375	Printing, Stationery & Postage	582	
484	Office Expenses	542	
576	Insurance	607	
21251	Staff, PAYE & Agency Costs	16897	
7200	M S & L Costs	7200	
250	Depreciation	250	
0	Professional Services	0	
1902	Donation	0	
750	Accountancy	750	
3988	Website	1083	
	<u>51003</u>		<u>43121</u>
	-14748 Deficit for the year		-4871

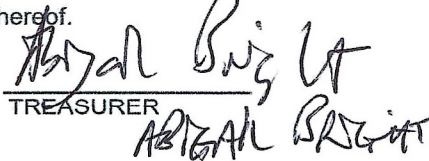
THE BRITISH ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December 2024

	2023		2024
£	£	£	£
	FIXED ASSETS		
909	Office Equipment	659	
<u>250</u>	659 Less : Depreciation	<u>250</u>	409
	CURRENT ASSETS		
11599	Cash at Bank - Current Account	5135	
20472	Investment	22315	
<u>0</u>	Debtors & Prepayments	<u>0</u>	
32071		27450	
	Less : CURRENT LIABILITIES		
<u>725</u>	Creditors	<u>725</u>	
31346		26725	
32005		27134	
	REPRESENTED BY :		
46753	Balance as at 1st January 2024	32005	
<u>14748</u>	Less : Deficit for the year	<u>4871</u>	
32005		27134	

We approve these accounts and confirm that we have made available all the relevant records and information for the preparation thereof.


CHAIRMAN


TREASURER

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT TO THE BRITISH ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES
on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

With regard to these accounts there is no requirement for a formal audit.

My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations concerning any such matters.

I am pleased to confirm that the Academy has kept proper accounting records for the year ended 31st December 2024 and that the accounts as at that date give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Academy as at the end of the financial year and of its deficit for the financial year.

Signed



Date

29/10/25

Peter Walker
6 Aspin Lane
Knaresborough
HG5 8ED

Secretary-General's Report 2025

Our last year's AGM was held on 29 October 2024 at The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries.

Since the last AGM in October of last year the Executive Council has met on four occasions with our President, Peter Watson the chair.

Professor Andrew Forrester, our journal editor, continues to raise the profile of Medicine, Science and the Law. Our impact factor has increased to 1.7 which has put us in the top 25% of law related journals, worldwide. We reject around 75% of all submissions, some of which are completely unsuitable and others not of sufficient quality. This has helped increase the quality of the journal which has increased its institutional value. However our contract with the publishers, Sage, is due for renewal in 2026, and they will expect a higher level of funding to continue its publication. This is a very important part of what BAFS offers its members across the world and we have discussed, and will propose, an increase to our membership fee to help support that increase.

Funding, however, continues to be a problem for BAFS and costs associated with administration and running the website are not inconsiderable if we were to maintain the sort of website that many other organizations can support

This year we awarded the King's Science prize for 2024-25 to Michael Menear. His project was 'A deeper insight into the transfer, persistence, prevalence and recovery mechanisms of body fluid-associated mRNA markers'. Our legal prize, awarded through the City Law School, goes to Jonathan Waghorne for his Crown Court Practice Elective. Both Michael and Jonathan have received their monetary prize and will be present at the dinner tonight so that we can congratulate them and give them their certificates.

In the past we have awarded a medical prize and a national law prize in litigation through the University of Law. Neither have been awarded for the last two or more years. Coordination of an appropriate assessment that might reach a more representative body across the UK, along with the necessary examination will require significant effort from our membership but we welcome ideas for the future.

We have had several meetings over the past year and have discussed the possibilities of putting out webinars; this has not moved forward and we will continue to discuss this as a possibility in the future as they are of wide interest. It requires some commitment from members, not only a willingness to provide the material, but also a significant financial input. Please let us know if anyone is interested in helping to make this happen.

We have held a joint meeting with the RSM last year in November: 'Death by GPS and other human factors in accident cases and a clinical adverse event'. Sadly, possibly because of the short notice, this was not well attended by our members. We will engage with the RSM again through our new president and I would ask all members to consider attending our events as they are not only really interesting, but a great opportunity for networking.

In some contrast, our new president, John Kennedy, organized a highly successful meeting on AI 'The Application of AI within our Justice System' in April, which many of us attended. Thank you to John for that.

In December we will hold the Lund Lecture. Sir Thomas Lund gives his name to our biennial BAFS lecture. A medic and then a solicitor he was one of the prime movers in the design of the legal aid system in 1949. He was our second resident in 1961 and died in 1981. We will honour him when Professor Fiona Wilcox, His Majesty's Senior Coroner for Inner West London, gives her lecture on the 'Air India Plane Crash, Role of the Coroner in DVI'. This will be on 10 December at 18:30 in Bush House. The booking for this is available on the website: please make every effort to attend what will be an extremely interesting lecture.

Tonight, we will hear from Professor Seena Fazel, who is the Professor of Forensic Psychiatry at the University of Oxford, talking about 'Autism, diminished responsibility, and the complicated epidemiology of violent crime'. We are looking forward to that.

My thanks go especially to our current Treasurer, Abigail Bright, and to Lesley Nott, our administrator, who works tirelessly, successfully managing the events, introducing and administering our meetings. Lesley gathers a team of students who help us at events so I would also like to thank them for their assistance. In her role as treasurer, Abigail will be asking you about an increase in our membership fees. The proposed increase will still place membership of BAFS at a level below organizations that other might belong to, such as the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences, and the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine.

Finally, I want to thank our outgoing President, Peter Watson. Peter has arranged meetings in his native Scotland which we warmly welcome and we hope that we can undertake more events north of the border. We are welcoming our new President, John Kennedy, who is a forensic imagery expert and we look forward to his lead for BAFS in the future. Although somewhat out of turn in our specialisms: medicine, science and the law, John was such an ideal candidate for the position that we felt justified in moving him forward and we can look for a representative of medicine perhaps in two years' time.

I am standing down as Secretary-General and handing over to another member of the EC, Andy Stevenson, who I hope you will warmly welcome. I am not going away, however, and hope to be elected as an EC member and support Andy in his new role.

I hope everyone enjoys tonight

Denise Syndercombe Court