

NI 4X4 Response Network
Registered Charity NIC100032

Trustees Report for the period 01 January – 31 December 2024

Principal address: Hilltop Lodge, 7d Cardy Road, Greyabbey, BT22 2LS

This report has been approved by Ian Culbert, Gordon McIlwaine and Barry Dalzell on 25 January 2025 who served as the Trustees for the period 01/01/24 – 31/12/24.

Summary of NI 4X4 Response Network activities

The Trustees believe that our purpose continues to satisfy the element of the public benefit requirement. The direct benefit that flows from this purpose is the relief of hardship and preservation of life in times of severe weather and disaster with an increase in rescues, provision of aid and preservation of the environment in times of adverse conditions.

The beneficiaries are any resident of Northern Ireland requiring a four wheel drive vehicle and driver in times of severe weather or disaster.

During the reporting period the Charity continued to recruit Volunteers and provide guidance and training to these Volunteers. NI 4X4 Response Network current has in excess of 100 Volunteers available to assist the Statutory and other voluntary organisations as and when required.

During the reporting period Volunteers were mobilised to assist in transporting health care workers on several occasions during periods of bad weather and were placed on standby on a number of occasions for potential weather incidents.

The Organisation continued to maintain contact with statutory, and other voluntary, organisations involved in the disaster and contingency planning in Northern Ireland, primarily as a Member of the Northern Ireland Emergency Preparedness Groups.

NI 4X4 Response Network is a member of 4X4 Response UK, the national umbrella charity. This association allows the Trustees to learn from other groups and adopt UK wide best practice. We can also call on, and provide, neighbouring group support if required. The Chairman of NI 4X4 Resonse Network has been apponited to the Committee of 4X4 Response UK as Regional Co-ordinator for Northern Ireland.

Public benefit requirement statutory guidance

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission NI's public benefit requirement statutory guidance and are satisfied that the Charity complies with said guidance.

Financial Policy


NI 4X4 Response Network has a policy to maintain reserves of no more than that required to ensure the Charity's core administrative activities are able to continue. The Charity does not collect public donations but, instead, relies on sufficient private donations and goodwill to carry out its role and reimburse its' Officers and Volunteers out of pocket expenses. The Charity has agreements with several organisations allowing these organisations to reimburse Volunteers out of pocket expenses and subsistence whilst on tasks.

Purposes of the Charity

The NI 4X4 Response Network has been set up to provide a pool of 4X4 vehicles and drivers to assist the emergency services and community in times of adverse weather and disaster. Working alongside various Statutory and voluntary organisations we form a part of Northern Ireland's contingency planning. NI 4X4 Response Network volunteers are based in all areas of Northern Ireland and make their vehicles available to assist the public where a 4X4 vehicle is the only way to move or transport people or equipment. This generally involves working alongside the Emergency Services, Government, Health Trusts, Councils, Utilities and other voluntary organisations.

Constitution

NI 4X4 Response Network is Governed by its' Constitution and Rules – Issue 2 20/01/13 Document (under review)



Ian Culbert
Chairman
NI 4X4 Response Network