

# EMBRACE

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100294

## Details

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**Status** Received

**Registered** 2014-12-05

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Duncairn Complex  
Duncairn Avenue  
Belfast  
Co. Antrim  
BT14 6bp  
BT14 6BP

**Phone** 07500434489

**Email** [info@embraceni.org](mailto:info@embraceni.org)

**Website** [www.embraceni.org](http://www.embraceni.org)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The association is established for the support and relief of asylum seekers, refugees, migrant workers and other people of black and minority ethnic backgrounds in Northern Ireland (hereinafter called the 'area of benefit') without distinction of age, gender, disability, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion and to promote racial harmony for the benefit of the public and in particular: to advance the education of the public, statutory and voluntary organisations, and churches about the issues relating to refugees, those seeking asylum and other immigrants and people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds in order to assist their inclusion into the wider community in the area of benefit.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of education, The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity

**How the charity works:** Advice/advocacy/information, Community development, Cultural, Education/training, Human rights/equality, Relief of poverty, Research/evaluation, Volunteer development

**Who the charity helps:** Asylum seekers/refugees, Ethnic minorities, General public, Specific areas of deprivation, Travellers, Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers

## Finances

| Period end | Income  | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £10,200 | £10,036     | £0     | 1         |

## Trustees

| Name               | Role | Appointed |
|--------------------|------|-----------|
| Miss Irene Jovaras |      |           |
| Mr Dougie Tyler    |      |           |
| Mr Michael Potter  |      |           |
| Mrs Pam Dzunu      |      |           |
| Scott Boldt        |      |           |

**EMBRACE**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100294

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# Accounts

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## Embrace Financial Statement - Year Ended 31 March 2025

### EMBRACE GENERAL FUND

|                                 |                          |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Balance 1st April 2024</b>   | <b><u>£11,878.57</u></b> | <b><u>£4,670.73</u></b>  |
| <b>Add Income</b>               |                          |                          |
|                                 | <b>2025</b>              | <b>2024</b>              |
| <u>Donations and Grants</u>     |                          |                          |
| Catholic Church                 | £5,000.00                | £5,000.00                |
| Methodist Church                | -                        | £10,000.00               |
| Ballyholme Parish               | -                        | £300.00                  |
| CFC                             | -                        | £2,000.00                |
| Domician Convent                | £4,000.00                | £1,000.00                |
| Other donations                 | £1,200.00                | £1,350.00                |
| Gift Aid on Donations           | -                        | -                        |
| Transfer from Emergency Fund    | -                        | £5,600.00                |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b><u>£10,200.00</u></b> | <b><u>£25,250.00</u></b> |
| <b>Deduct Expenditure</b>       |                          |                          |
| Staff salaries                  | £5,265.00                | £13,189.46               |
| Pension payment                 | £0.00                    | £0.00                    |
| Finance & accounts              | £48.00                   | £204.00                  |
| Office equipment & supplies     | -                        | £436.99                  |
| Printing                        | £1,016.00                | £402.20                  |
| Website                         | £1,228.00                | £125.00                  |
| Insurance                       | £718.43                  | £701.36                  |
| Bank fees                       | £59.40                   | £65.42                   |
| Rent                            | £790.00                  | £780.00                  |
| Broadband                       | £37.50                   | £75.00                   |
| Travel                          | -                        | £293.96                  |
| Events - Venues, speakers etc.  | £831.20                  | £1,239.48                |
| Sundry                          | £42.65                   | £529.29                  |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b><u>£10,036.18</u></b> | <b><u>£18,042.16</u></b> |
| <b>Balance at 31 March 2025</b> | <b><u>£12,042.39</u></b> | <b><u>£11,878.57</u></b> |
| <br>                            |                          |                          |
| <b>Balance 1st April 2024</b>   | <b><u>£11,878.57</u></b> | <b><u>£4,670.73</u></b>  |
| Income                          | £10,200.00               | £25,250.00               |
| Expenditure                     | £10,036.18               | £18,042.16               |
| <b>Balance 31st March 2025</b>  | <b><u>£12,042.39</u></b> | <b><u>£11,878.57</u></b> |

**EMBRACE**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100294

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# Accounts

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## Embrace Financial Statement - Year Ended 31 March 2024

### EMBRACE GENERAL FUND

|                                  |                          |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Balance 1st April 2023</b>    | <b><u>£4,670.73</u></b>  | <b><u>£20,294.46</u></b> |
| <b>Add Income</b>                |                          |                          |
|                                  | <b>2024</b>              | <b>2023</b>              |
| <u>Donations and Grants</u>      |                          |                          |
| Catholic Church                  | £5,000.00                | -                        |
| Methodist Church                 | £10,000.00               | -                        |
| Ballyholme Parish                | £300.00                  | -                        |
| CFC                              | £2,000.00                | -                        |
| Domician Fund                    | £1,000.00                | -                        |
| Other donations                  | £1,350.00                | £1,810.00                |
| Gift Aid on Donations            | -                        | -                        |
| Transfer from Emergency Fund     | £5,600.00                | -                        |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b><u>£25,250.00</u></b> | <b><u>£1,810.00</u></b>  |
| <b>Deduct Expenditure</b>        |                          |                          |
| Staff salaries                   | £13,189.46               | £5,564.18                |
| Pension payment                  | £0.00                    | £0.00                    |
| Finance & accounts               | £204.00                  | £72.00                   |
| Office equipment & supplies      | £436.99                  | £19.15                   |
| Printing                         | £402.20                  | £1,838.00                |
| Website                          | £125.00                  | £235.00                  |
| Insurance                        | £701.36                  | £699.52                  |
| Bank fees                        | £65.42                   | £57.86                   |
| Rent                             | £780.00                  | £975.00                  |
| Broadband                        | £75.00                   | £93.75                   |
| Travel                           | £293.96                  | -                        |
| Sundry                           | £529.29                  | £354.25                  |
| Booklet - Embracing the Stranger | -                        | £3,350.00                |
| Events - Venues, speakers etc.   | £1,239.48                | £1,075.02                |
| Donation - Romania               | -                        | £2,000.00                |
| Donation - Other                 | -                        | £200.00                  |
| Starling Collective              | -                        | £900.00                  |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b><u>£18,042.16</u></b> | <b><u>£17,433.73</u></b> |
| <b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>  | <b><u>£11,878.57</u></b> | <b><u>£4,670.73</u></b>  |
| <br>                             |                          |                          |
| <b>Balance 1st April 2023</b>    | <b><u>£4,670.73</u></b>  | <b><u>£20,294.46</u></b> |
| Income                           | £25,250.00               | £1,810.00                |
| Expenditure                      | £18,042.16               | £17,433.73               |
| <b>Balance 31st March 2024</b>   | <b><u>£11,878.57</u></b> | <b><u>£4,670.73</u></b>  |


**EMBRACE**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100294

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# Annual report

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# EMBRACE Annual Report

## 2023/ 2024

EMBRACE NIC100294

EMBRACE,  
48 Elmwood Avenue,  
Belfast.  
BT96AZ  
Tel 02890663314

[www.EMBRACEni.org](http://www.EMBRACEni.org)



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## Chairperson's Report – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EMBRACE

Celebrating our 20th anniversary this year reflected EMBRACE's commitment to welcoming and drawing attention to the needs and the gifts of newcomers from all corners of the world. Since we began in 2003, we have witnessed Northern Ireland transform as a society, and we have adapted and responded as an organization. We are proud of the fact that from the beginning EMBRACE has been and will remain an inter-church group supporting Christians throughout the north of Ireland to make it a more welcoming community.

Over these two decades, we have championed the values of compassion, friendship and diversity. We have facilitated the assistance of countless individuals who had no recourse to public funds and have provided vital support. We helped to create awareness and resources around English language learning and cultural integration programs to empower newcomers and locals to make connections with one another.

We look back with gratitude for the partnerships, volunteers, donors and funders who have enabled us to have a meaningful and sustained impact. We now look ahead with renewed determination. Our anniversary was not just about celebrating the past but reaffirming our mission. Together, we will continue to build bridges of understanding and friendship, ensuring that the next 20 years bring even greater strides towards a more welcoming and compassionate society.

With your continued help, we look forward to making a difference in the lives of those who have come here to make Northern Ireland their home. The need to cultivate a welcoming society for those with different backgrounds, experiences and outlooks is as relevant now as it has ever

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been. EMBRACE remains focused on informing and resourcing churches to provide that welcome; moreover, we want the churches to be blessed by the presence and abundant gifts that so many newcomers bring to life here.

Our Committee meets regularly in person and on Zoom to discern, pray, explore, plan and organise ways to make the North a more welcoming community. We have been greatly supported in our work this year through the part-time and voluntary contributions made by Sr Susie O’Rawe who brings a wealth of experience and commitment to the organization. We are most grateful for all her work in relation to our events, editing EMBRACE REFLECTIONS, carrying out our administration and developing our website/social media.

Susie also attends relevant events on behalf of EMBRACE and has helped to re-establish our presence. Committee members have been present and contributed to many gatherings over this past year including the 4-Corners Festival, Edmund Rice International, and the ICC/ICCM General Meeting. We want to extend our gratitude to the Irish Council of Churches/Irish Inter-Church Meeting for the modest rent/costs we have in the Inter-Church Centre and to all the churches that have continued to support us financially and at our events. We want to acknowledge the grant we have received from the Dominican Ministry Fund which enabled us to host important convenings to highlight and address unmet needs.

In On Sunday 19 November 2023, EMBRACE organized a MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS WHO DIED SEEKING SAFETY in Carrickfergus Methodist Church. This was a solemn event with a eulogy and liturgy honouring and remembering the known and unknown

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who have perished during their journey towards safety or in search of a better life. A special thanks to Committee members Pam, Dougie and Irene for organizing this service.

We continue to develop and provide resources and information to churches and others through our website and via a selection of printed materials. Sr. Susie, with former founding member Margaret McNulty, revised our *Who's Who? Who's Here?* leaflet which provides helpful information on the data and distinctions between migrants, people seeking asylum and refugees. Susie regularly posts information and links on our Facebook page and has been enhancing our website.

Our EMERGENCY FUND remains available to selected organisations who can request funding for individuals and families in need. The bulk of our expenditure this year has been to provide one-off support for heating and accommodation, primarily through Starling Collective.

There is a renewed spirit and energy with EMBRACE and a shared sense of purpose that is moving us on into this new year.

*'I was a stranger and you made me welcome'*  
*Matthew 25:35*

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## Membership

EMBRACE membership is free and available to individuals and to groups on application. Currently there are 47 registered members.

### Committee Membership during 2023/24

Scott Boldt, Chairperson

Irene Jovaras, Vice-chairperson

Michael Potter, Treasurer

Pam Dzunu

Dougie Tyler

David Smyth

### Standing for Election in 2024/2025

#### *Scott Boldt*

*Scott is a Professor of Practice at the National University of Wales and the University of Cumbria and in the past managed the Reconciliation and Integration Programme in Edgehill Theological College; he also served as chair of the All-Ireland Churches Consultative Meeting on Racism within the Irish Inter Church Meeting.*

#### *Irene Jovaras*

*Irene was born in Scotland; her parents having moved there as displaced persons from Lithuania in 1940s. Irene worked as a teacher latterly with the Glasgow Asylum Seeker Project and with the Bilingual Support Unit in secondary schools. She is now retired and is active in the Focolare movement and based in Belfast.*

#### *Michael Potter*

*Michael is an Elder at Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church. He has a background in equality and inclusion research, including formerly at the South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (STEP) in Dungannon and currently at the Northern Ireland Assembly.*

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*Dougie Tyler*

*Dougie is employed by Barnardo's in their residential service for unaccompanied minors. He also volunteers with the Red Cross Family Reunion Integration Service. He is a Diocesan Lay Reader in the Church of Ireland taking services in the East Antrim area. Dougie has worked in Romania in the field of child homelessness and continues to support this work through a NI charity.*

*Pam Dzunu*

*Pam is a Local Preacher in Training with the Methodist Church in Ireland. She is the Sunday School Coordinator and Methodist Women in Ireland President at Carrickfergus Methodist Church, where her husband is minister. She is originally from the United States, where she worked for many years in International Student Ministry. Pam has an MA-TESOL degree and 30+ years experience teaching Academic English and ESL.*

Retirements from the Committee

David Smyth has decided to step down from the Committee as of May 2024, as work and family commitments have precluded him from participating at the level he would like. We are grateful to David for the contribution and service he has made to the Committee and we look forward to continuing to remain in contact with David and Evangelical Alliance as we move forward.

Accounts

Please see attached.

**EMBRACE**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100294

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# Annual return

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## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of EMBRACE NIC100294**

I report on the accounts of the organisation for the year ended 31 March 2024.

### **Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner**

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 65 (2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (The Charities Act) or under Regulation 10 (1) (d) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 65 of the Charities Act.
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65 (9) (b) of the Charities Act.
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under Section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65 (9) (b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Stewart Wilson FCCA  
9th September 2024

**EMBRACE**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100294

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# Accounts

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## Embrace Financial Statement - Year Ended 31 March 2023

### EMBRACE GENERAL FUND

|                                  |                   |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Balance 1st April 2022</b>    | <u>£20,294.46</u> | <u>£10,681.98</u> |
| <b>Add Income</b>                |                   |                   |
|                                  | <b>2023</b>       | <b>2022</b>       |
| <u>Donations and Grants</u>      |                   |                   |
| Episcopal Conference             | -                 | £5,000.00         |
| Presbyterian Church              | -                 | £5,325.00         |
| Sisters of Mercy                 | -                 | £3,500.00         |
| CFC                              | -                 | £2,000.00         |
| Archbishop of Armagh             | -                 | £500.00           |
| Domician Fund                    | -                 | £1,000.00         |
| Other donations                  | £1,810.00         | £2,650.00         |
| Gift Aid on Donations            | -                 | £1,091.06         |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <u>£1,810.00</u>  | <u>£21,066.06</u> |
| <b>Deduct Expenditure</b>        |                   |                   |
| Staff salaries                   | £5,564.18         | £7,542.10         |
| Pension payment                  | £0.00             | £561.00           |
| Finance & accounts               | £72.00            | £252.00           |
| Office equipment & supplies      | £19.15            | £89.99            |
| Printing                         | £1,838.00         | 1,019.20          |
| Website                          | £235.00           | £99.99            |
| Insurance                        | £699.52           | £700.31           |
| Bank fees                        | £57.86            | £61.69            |
| Rent                             | £975.00           | £585.00           |
| Broadband                        | £93.75            | £56.25            |
| Childminding services            | -                 | £247.50           |
| Sundry                           | £354.25           | £238.55           |
| Booklet - Embracing the Stranger | £3,350.00         | -                 |
| Events - Venues, speakers etc.   | £1,075.02         | -                 |
| Donation - Romania               | £2,000.00         | -                 |
| Donation - Other                 | £200.00           | -                 |
| Starling Collective              | £900.00           | -                 |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <u>£17,433.73</u> | <u>£11,453.58</u> |
| <b>Balance at 31 March 2023</b>  | <u>£4,670.73</u>  | <u>£20,294.46</u> |
| <b>Balance 1st April 2022</b>    | <u>£20,294.46</u> | <u>£10,681.98</u> |
| Income                           | £1,810.00         | £21,066.06        |
| Expenditure                      | £17,433.73        | £11,453.58        |
| <b>Balance 31st March 2023</b>   | <u>£4,670.73</u>  | <u>£20,294.46</u> |

**EMBRACE**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100294

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# Annual report

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## CHAIRPERSON'S AGM REPORT 2021/2022

Over the past year, EMBRACE has continued to support the churches in making Northern Ireland a more welcoming place for people who have migrated here, are seeking asylum, or who have been granted refugee status. The need to cultivate a welcoming society for those with different backgrounds, experiences and outlooks remains relevant. We believe EMBRACE occupies an important place as an inter-church group informing and resourcing churches while providing linkages to community groups as well as to non-governmental and statutory agencies. In addition to identifying and supporting ways in which churches can serve newcomers, we want the churches to be blessed by the presence and abundant gifts that they bring to the north of Ireland whether that is in our churches, universities, hospitals, new businesses, restaurants and schools or more broadly into our cultural, social and personal lives.

The Committee has continued to meet, discern and plan ways to engage the churches and to identify and address emerging needs. The Committee decided to commission research to examine the challenges and opportunities that are there for churches in connecting with people seeking asylum and refuge. We intend to be guided by this work and its main findings to set priorities for EMBRACE going forward.

The research found that churches across NI are welcoming asylum seekers, refugees, and migrant workers in a number of ways. Many are using relational models of support

while also addressing the structural barriers that newcomers face to 'integration', including issues of language, housing, and deprivation. A number of churches are working closely with local and national organisations to support newcomers in different areas. Churches are experiencing challenges (as well as opportunities) in how they respond to need, build relationships, work collaboratively, and foster diversity in congregations and local communities.

Relevant recommendations for churches' work in these areas are listed below.

#### 1. Responding to need

- Be proactive about outreach.
- Innovate in mapping and assessing needs.
- Prioritise listening to newcomers' own wants and needs – be wary of broad representations of 'community' needs.
- Respond to structural barriers to integration by advocating for (and alongside) asylum seekers, refugees, and migrant workers.
- Ensure that responses to newcomers are centred on the Biblical mandate to 'love the foreigner', regardless of their origin, rather than on political or media attention towards specific groups.
- Be aware of the impact of different migration statuses on rights and entitlements.

## 2. Building relationships

- Prioritise relationship-building while recognising the importance of overarching strategy.
- Encourage congregations to invest in relationships while promoting boundaries and cultural sensitivity.
- Move away from depictions of asylum seekers and refugees as inherently vulnerable and in need of 'support'.

## 3. Working together

- Establish a shared code of practice among churches for welcoming newcomers, while recognising the contingency of 'welcome' on context.
- Partner with churches in rural/urban areas to share learning.
- Signpost newcomers to the work of other churches and organisations.
- Collaborate with organisations outside the church sector, sharing learning and expertise.

## 4. Fostering diversity

- Adopt 'intercultural' models which promote dialogue with difference.
- Make resources inclusive.
- Consider more engagement in interfaith initiatives.

- Encourage 'story-telling' as a means of challenging stereotypes.
- Recognise and address the conditions in which racism emerges.

We continue to develop, revise and provide resources and information to churches through our website and available printed materials. Our EMERGENCY FUND remains available to selected support organisations, who can request funding for individuals and families in need. We are grateful to all of our friends and supporters, especially the churches which have provided sufficient funds to maintain the organisation. We have been covering the administrative and financial needs of EMBRACE voluntarily as we seek a part-time worker, and are grateful to Tracey Ayre who has continued to assist us with banking and social media matters. Thanks to you all for your prayers and support.

Chairperson

Scott Boldt

**EMBRACE**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100294

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# Annual return

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## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of EMBRACE NIC100294**

I report on the accounts of the organisation for the year ended 31 March 2023.

### **Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner**

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 65 (2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (The Charities Act) or under Regulation 10 (1) (d) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 65 of the Charities Act.
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65 (9) (b) of the Charities Act.
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under Section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65 (9) (b) of the Charities Act.

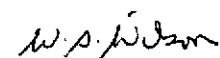
My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Stewart Wilson FCCA

14th December 2023