

CITYWATCH CCTV NORTHERN IRELAND

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Citywatch CCTV Northern Ireland's objectives are to;

Prevent crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
Promote good citizenship within Lisburn and Castlereagh Council Area and other dedicated areas,
Enhance liaison between the business community sector and the Police in crime prevention and detection.
Provide a secure and safe environment in public areas.

Significant activities

Key achievements in the year included;

Citywatch CCTV Northern Ireland dealt with a total of 3,376 incidents. These included 702 anti-social behaviour incidents, 595 alcohol related incidents, 332 drug related and 216 mental health related incidents, all of which resulted in 123 arrests.

Citywatch continues to work with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust to provide a vital service in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area and our partnership continues to grow year on year. Their sites across the council area are part of the Citywatch radiolink and this enables us to provide assistance as soon as incidents occur.

Throughout this year Citywatch have worked closely with PSNI in local businesses promoting retail crime.

Our work continues to grow with staff at a children's home in Lisburn, building on the good relationship already established over the past number of years.

Lisburn Train Station have been long-term members of the Citywatch radiolink scheme and their assistance has been invaluable. In recent years the Bus Station have also taken a Citywatch radio.

Translink staff would regularly assist us in looking for missing people who may be trying to leave the area. They would also assist in tracking the movements of travelling criminals or reporting information in relation to drug or other suspicious activity.

In 2023 we dealt with 62 incidents directly at Translink sites, 15 at the bus station and 47 at the train station, and their staff have assisted us with many other incidents.

In the run up to Christmas 2023, Citywatch carried out their annual anti-shopping visit alongside Police, to various retailers across Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area. These visits provide businesses with crime prevention advice and reassurance in the run up to Christmas when theft offences increase.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duties to have due regard to the Charity Commission Northern Ireland guidance on public benefit.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During this year, we have observed a net decrease in funds amounting to £7,242, which is an improvement on the £57,023 decrease in funds recorded last year. The board of trustees is committed to addressing this situation and will make every effort to balance the operating surplus/deficit while also working towards achieving the company's objectives.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The Trustees carry out a detailed review of the reserves of the charities activities and produce a comprehensive strategic plan for the Charity. The Charity has reserves of £65,787 in the restricted fund, which relate to the CCTV equipment. The Unrestricted reserves of the Charity are £243,228 these reserves are being used to fund the day to day running of the charity and are required to fund the increase in monitoring hours and administration involved with regulatory compliance.

Going concern

The company incurred a loss in the sum of £7,242 for the year ended 31 March 2024 and had net assets in the sum of £309,015. The company is heavily dependent upon funding from Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, at the date of signing this report funding for the next financial year has not been confirmed. The company does not have sufficient cash reserves to continue for 12 months should the funding not be secured. The details are set out in note 13 to the financial statements.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 15 January 2020 (previous document dated 14 January 2000), and constitutes a limited company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Membership is open to other individuals and organisations who apply to the charity and are approved by the Executive Committee.

Organisational structure

The Charity's decisions are made by the board of directors, which meet on a regular basis. The CCTV control room has a manager whom reports directly to the board of directors.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees undergo an orientation day to brief them on their legal obligation under company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision making process, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction day they meet key employees and other directors. Directors are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

NI037932 (Northern Ireland)

Registered Charity number

XR46049

Registered office

15 Barrack Street
Lisburn
Co. Antrim
BT28 1TJ

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Trustees

M Busch
P A Dean
E J Morton (resigned 17.10.24)
Ms K Marshall
G H Macdonald

Auditors

KGA Accountants LLP
Statutory Auditors
Building 2
The Sidings
Antrim Road
Lisburn
Co. Antrim
BT28 3AJ

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of CITYWATCH CCTV NORTHERN IRELAND for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees 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 which 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 income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. 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 Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to 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 the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are 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 auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, KGA Accountants LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

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Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 5 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P A Dean', with a stylized, cursive script.

P A Dean - Trustee