Sentinus

Northern Ireland · Charity number 102064

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2016-01-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	Ulster University 2-24 York Street Belfast Bt15 1ap BT15 1AP
Phone	028 9262 7755
Email	info@sentinus.co.uk
Website	www.sentinus.co.uk

Activities

Purposes: The purpose of the Company is to: Advance the theoretical and practical education of young people in Northern Ireland in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and promote greater understanding of industry, its essential role and service to the community and economy and encourage the establishment and development of partnerships between industry and education.

What the charity does: The advancement of education

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information,Education/training,Playgroup/after schools

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds),Learning disabilities,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£364,326	£358,911	£-52,255	4

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Aaron Portis		
Mr Conor Turley		
Mr David Mcdonald		
Mr David Phelan		
Mr Geoffrey Mcgimpsey		
Mrs Laura Mcgirr		
Ms Cherie Gardiner		
Ms Clare Doran		

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Sentinus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102064

Accounts

Company Registration Number: **NI020310**
HMRC Charity Registration Number: **XN86071**
The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration Number: **NIC102064**

SENTINUS

(a company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House, 89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast BT1 1FE

Sentinus
Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

SENTINUS

Company Information for 2024/2025

Trustee / Directors

Board members as at 31st March 2025:

David McDonald (CHAIR) ..... *appointed 14th June 2023*
Clare Doran ..... *appointed 14th June 2023*
Cherie Gardiner ..... *appointed 11th December 2024*
Geoffrey McGimpsey ..... *appointed 11th December 2024*
Laura McGirr ..... *appointed 14th June 2023*
David Phelan ..... *appointed 14th June 2023*
Aaron Portis ..... *appointed 9th December 2021*
Joanne Sweeney ..... *appointed 1st December 2024*
Conor Turley ..... *appointed 11th December 2024*

The following also served during the year:

Elizabeth Ackah ..... *appointed 1st September 2013* ..... *resigned 12th June 2024*
Mark Baker ..... *appointed 14th June 2023* ..... *resigned 22nd February 2025*
Tom Edgar ..... *appointed 4th June 2008* ..... *resigned 12th June 2024*
Tanya Hedley ..... *appointed 3rd December 2014* ..... *resigned 22nd February 2025*
James Moore ..... *appointed 4th June 2008* ..... *resigned 12th June 2024*
Roy McBrine ..... *appointed 14th January 2010* ..... *resigned 7th April 2025*
Neil McIlwaine ..... *appointed 8th December 2021* ..... *resigned 31st March 2024*
Raymond Pollock OBE ..... *appointed 1st March 2015* ..... *resigned 31st December 2023*

Company Number

NI020310

Registered Office

19a Ballinderry Road
Lisburn
Co Antrim
BT28 2SA

Independent Examiners

Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House
89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast
BT1 1FE

Bankers

Ulster Bank Ltd
11/16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Chief Executive

David Pilkington

SENTINUS

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Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	14

The Trustees (who are also the Board of Directors of the company) are pleased to submit their annual Directors' Report together with the audited financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31st March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and also to meet the requirements for accounts for the purposes of The Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). The present Trustee / Directors, and any past Trustee / Directors who served during the year, are given on page 3, together with the names of the charity's external advisors.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

General

Sentinus is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 23rd March 1987, amended 3rd December 1987 to reflect current governance arrangements and amended 4th May 2001 for change of company name. The company adopted a new Memorandum and Articles of Association on 19th January 2015 in accordance with guidance issued by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland
In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Trustee / Directors

Each Trustee of the company sits on the Board of Directors. This Board is responsible for the overall governance of the Company. Trustee / Directors are appointed by the Chairman. The total number of trustee / directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less then two.

The Board delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the Company to the Chief Executive. This is controlled by regular reporting back to the Board, so that all decisions made under delegated powers can be ratified by the full Board in due course.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of the company's affairs.

The company adopted a Governance Framework which was implemented in March 2008.

Statement of Trustee / Directors' Responsibilities and Corporate Governance

The Trustee / Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company produces proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the Company is operating efficiently and effectively;
- all assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Company, or for publication, is reliable;
- the Company complies with relevant laws and regulations.

Internal controls over all forms of commitment and expenditure continue to be reviewed to improve efficiency.

Processes are in place to ensure that performance is monitored and the appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed on an ongoing basis by executive management and quarterly by the Board of Trustee / Directors.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurances against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and annual budget approved by the Trustee / Directors;
- regular consideration by the Trustee / Directors of financial results, variances from budget, non financial performance indicators and bench marking reviews;
- delegation of day to day management authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

In accordance with company law the Directors certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and
- as the Trustees and Directors of the Company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

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Risk Management
During the year the Directors have considered and examined the major risks that face the charity and established strategies that will mitigate the impact they may have on the charity's future. This process will be continued on an ongoing basis for each financial year.

Public Benefit Report

OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY
In accordance with the Memorandum of Association the objects for which the Company is established are:
Promotion and participation in liaison activities between industry and education.
The strategies employed to achieve the company's objectives included:

- Developing and deepening the existing partnerships with the education sector by organising activities and projects involving students directly with industry.

PUBLIC BENEFIT REPORT

Purposes of the Charity	The purpose of the Company is to advance the theoretical and practical education of young people in Northern Ireland in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and promote greater understanding of industry, its essential role and service to the community and economy and encourage the establishment and development of partnerships between industry and education.
What the Charity has done during the year to carry out its purposes?	Sentinus have continued to engage schools in relevant Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths programmes linked to the NI curriculum to help provide a real-world context and reinforce the importance of skills development in these areas. Programmes delivered included: • R&D projects • Celebration Events for STEM project work • STEM workshops and challenges • Digital Skills workshops • Employability Skills • Provision of STEM resources and materials to support learning • STEM outreach for industry In 2024-25 Sentinus worked with a total of 279 schools, 137 primary, 136 post primary and 6 special schools, engaging 32,025 people. A total of 36 different STEM related programmes rolled out with further development achieved in the areas of Digital Skills, Numeracy and Engineering to address current industry skills shortages.
How have the activities provided benefit to its beneficiaries and how can this be demonstrated - the achievements of the Charity?	The direct benefits to beneficiaries from the activities of the charity include: • improved scientific and technological skills and knowledge, allowing them to maximise learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and understand the relevance of these subjects in the world of work; • contextualisation of learning in STEM subjects • increased awareness and understanding of the importance of the STEM subjects and their value to potential employers • increased awareness of careers opportunities within the STEM sector in Northern Ireland • support from industry representatives to help informed career decisions to be made • enhanced interpersonal and employability skills These benefits can be demonstrated through direct feedback from teachers and young people directly involved in the programmes.
How has the Charity mitigated any harm flowing from its purposes?	No harm flowed from the purposes of the Charity.
How has the Charity ensured that any private benefit has been incidental to the public benefit?	No private benefit flowed from the Charity's activities.
Statement of compliance with the duty to have regard to the Commission's guidance	In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the Charity's purpose and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

SENTINUS STATISTICS 2023/2024

	2025	2024
Number of Pupils involved	32,025	35,071
Number of Schools involved	279	388
Number of Primary Schools engaged	137	n/a
Number of Special Schools involved	6	n/a
Number of Teachers Engagements	524	881
Number of Pupils Participating in Digital Skills workshops	16,079	12,047
Number of STEM programmes rolled out	36	n/a
Number of Pupils Participating in STEM workshops	15,946	11,790

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

The Statement of Financial Activities on page 7 is designed to reflect all incoming resources receivable in the year irrespective of when income is actually received. Total incoming resources for the year amounted to £364,326 (2024: £237,052). Total resources expended (including depreciation of fixed assets) of £358,911 (2024: £402,167) resulted in net incoming (2024: outgoing) resources for the year of £5,415 (2024: net outgoing resources of £165,115). There is no balance on restricted funds at the end of the year. The total balance on unrestricted funds at the year end was £800,220 (2024: £794,805) which is free and represents the reserves available to the Directors to help fulfill current and future plans.

RESERVES POLICY

Introduction

Financial reserves offer a mechanism to retain surpluses which are not distributed or spent shortly after an accounting year end, but rather retained to allow for any future reductions in income or unanticipated expenditure not provided for in annual budgets. The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable time scale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the financial statements.
Reserves do not include capital assets or funds which are restricted in use by conditions imposed by the donor.
The Charity Commission requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable timescale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the accounts.

Income

The Department of Education withdrew funding for Sentinus at the end of May 2023. Since that point, Sentinus' income has been generated from a range of sources. Without the core grant, income has reduced significantly and outgoings have exceed income in the last two years. Until Sentinus can replace the income lost as a result of the withdrawal of funding, reserves will be needed to cover the shortfall of income versus outgoings.

Expenditure

Trustees should consider the pattern of Sentinus' expenditure and the need for reserves to cover that expenditure in the event of a serious shortfall in income.
An immediate reduction in programme delivery may be possible for some projects. Other contracts, however, represent longer term commitments and would, therefore, be more difficult to terminate.
Certain costs are of a fixed nature in the short to medium term and will continue to be incurred regardless of the level of activity. The largest element of 'fixed' expenditure will be employee costs, followed normally by accommodation costs.

Assessment of Reserves Level

In determining the level of reserves required, it is necessary to assess how long it would take to wind up Sentinus and the cost to run it during this period, assuming a sustained fall in its level of income such that it no longer remained viable to continue to operate.
Allowance would also need to be made for termination costs such as redundancy and early settlement of leases and any legal and other professional fees arising during this process.
The trustees deem it prudent to set aside reserves representing approximately twelve months full costs and a provision for winding up the company to account for costs such as redundancy, leases outstanding on premises and any other contractual financial commitment. Reserves should be at least this level to ensure the charity can run efficiently and meet its legal requirements. Factors taken into account would include the need to cover fluctuations in income, current liabilities and unplanned expenditure.
The trustees calculate that the overall reserve provision as at 31st March 2025 should be no less than£725,714 (2022: £750,671).
The actual reserves at 31st March 2025 were £800,220 (2024: £794,805) which is £74,506 (2024: £44,134) above the company's target minimum and c.110.4% (2024: 105.9%) of that minimum figure. Trustees will closely monitor the actual reserves each year to ensure they are maintained at an appropriate level.

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PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS
The company plans continuing the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements

DIRECTORS
The directors who served during the year were:

- Elizabeth Ackah *appointed 1st September 2013..... resigned 12th June 2024*
- Mark Baker *appointed 14th June 2023..... resigned 22nd February 2025*
- Clare Doran *appointed 14th June 2023*
- Tom Edgar *appointed 4th June 2008..... resigned 12th June 2024*
- Cherie Gardiner *appointed 11th December 2024*
- Tanya Hedley *appointed 3rd December 2014..... resigned 22nd February 2025*
- James Moore *appointed 4th June 2008..... resigned 12th June 2024*
- Roy McBrine *appointed 14th January 2010..... resigned 7th April 2025*
- David McDonald *appointed 14th June 2023*
- Neil McIlwaine *appointed 8th December 2021..... resigned 31st March 2024*
- Geoffrey McGimpsey *appointed 11th December 2024*
- Laura McGirr *appointed 14th June 2023*
- David Phelan *appointed 14th June 2023*
- Raymond Pollock OBE *appointed 1st March 2015..... resigned 31st December 2023*
- Aaron Portis *appointed 9th December 2021*
- Joanne Sweeney *appointed 1st December 2024*
- Conor Turley *appointed 11th December 2024*

The following were in attendance at Board Meetings during the year

- David Pilkington *Chief Executive*

AUDITORS
Diamond & Skillen were appointed independent examiners to the company and are deemed to be re-appointed in accordance with Section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

By order of the Board



David McDonald - Chair of Directors
23rd June 2025

SENTINUS
Independent Examiner's Report to the members of SENTINUS

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sentinus for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are setout on pages 3 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 65 Of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's report

The charity's gross income in the year was £364,326 (2024: £237,052).

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 65 of the 2008 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Chartered Accountant Ireland, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
(2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
(3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
(4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Nigel V. Skillen
Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland

Diamond & Skillen
Sinclair House
89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast
BT1 1FE

23rd June 2025

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31st March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2025 £**	Totals 2024 £
REVENUE:					
from donations and legacies					
• Government Grants	4.1	-	-	**0**	74,000
from charitable activities:					
• Contract income	4.2	344,606	-	**344,606**	145,274
from other activities:					
• Other income		-	-	**0**	-
from investments:					
• Bank interest received	4.3	19,720	-	**19,720**	17,778
TOTAL REVENUE		364,326	0	**364,326**	237,052
EXPENDITURE:					
on raising funds					
• Promotion and marketing	5.1	-	-	**0**	1,129
on charitable activities					
• Charitable expenditure	5.2	300,788	-	**300,788**	332,837
on other items					
• Allocated support costs	5.3	58,123	-	**58,123**	68,201
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		358,911	0	**358,911**	402,167
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		5,415	0	**5,415**	(165,115)
• Transfers between funds	17	-	-	**0**	-
Net movement in funds		5,415	0	**5,415**	(165,115)
Fund balances brought fwd at 1st April		794,805	-	**794,805**	959,920
Fund balances carried fwd at 31st March		800,220	0	**800,220**	794,805

The income and expenditure summary as required to be disclosed by the Companies Act 2006 is included at note 16.
All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.
The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus or deficit for the above two financial years.
The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Position
as at 31st March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
Non-Current Assets				
• Tangible assets	9		**306**	408
Current Assets				
• Receivables	10	**154,910**		49,672
• Cash at bank and in hand	11	**697,259**		814,194
		852,169		863,866
Payables: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(52,255)**		(69,469)
Net current assets			**799,914**	794,397
Payables: amounts falling due after more than one year			**-**	-
Total assets less current liabilities			**800,220**	794,805
The funds of the charity:				
Unrestricted income funds:				
• General fund	15		**800,220**	794,805
			800,220	794,805
Restricted income funds:				
• n/a	15		**-**	-
Total funds			**800,220**	794,805

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

For the year in question, the charitable company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act2006.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The trustee/directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 7 to 14 were approved by the Board of Trustee / Directors on 23rd June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Director, Chair of Directors

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1st January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Companies Act 2006.
Exemption has been taken from the requirement under FRS1 to prepare a cash flow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.
Sentinus meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102 and the Charities SORP. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Reconciliation with previously Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)

In preparing the accounts the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) the restatement of comparative items was required - No restatements were required.

1.3 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees are of the view that as the reserves of the charity are within the requirement of the charity's reserves policy, the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 to 18 months is secure and on that basis the charity is a going concern.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustee / directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. The fund comprises the accumulated surpluses and deficits of unrestricted income and expenditure.
Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of administering such funds are charges against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

1.5 Non Current Assets

Amounts greater than £10,000 spent on equipment and similar are recognised as fixed assets in the accounts**.**
Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.
Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of fixed assets over their anticipated useful lives.
Depreciation is provided at the following rates:

Fixtures and fittings	-	25% reducing balance

1.6 Income recognition policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:
- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- Any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- There is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; *and*
- The amount can be measured reliably

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Grants receivable

Grants receivable which relate to the year are credited to income within the Statement of Financial Activities, with unspent balances being carried forward to subsequent years within the relevant fund.
Specific debts are recognised where approved grant expenditure exceeds grant income received to date.
Grant income relating to future periods is carried forward under creditors.

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:
- Expenditure on raising funds comprises the costs of marketing and promoting the charity;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the direct costs allocated to the performance of educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs;
- Expenditure on other items represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between and "expenditure on charitable activities" and "expenditure on other items". The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 6.

1.8 Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable by the charity during the year. Contributions are invested separately from the company's assets.

1.9 Taxation

There is no liability to taxation due to the company's charitable status.

1.10 Receivables

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

1.11 Payables and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a 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 normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.12 Transition to FRS 102

The transition date was 1st April 2016.
There was no requirement to restate any comparative balances in making the transition to FRS 102.

2 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

3 EMPLOYEE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2025 £**	Totals 2024 £
Wages and salaries	128,753	-	**128,753**	162,992
SMP recovery & NIC compensation payments	-	-	**0**	-
Social security costs	9,835	-	**9,835**	16,808
Employer Allowance	(5,000)	-	**(5,000)**	(5,000)
Other pension costs	7,904	-	**7,904**	14,798
	141,492	0	**141,492**	189,598

The average number of persons, including part-time staff, employed on UK contracts was 4 (2024: 4)
No trustee or director received any remuneration from the charity in the year (2024: £nil)
No employee was paid more than £60,000 in the year (2024: 1)
The amount of employer pension cost included in respect of employees paid more than £60,000 was £nil (2024: £10,420)

4 INCOME

4.1 from donations and legacies

GOVERNMENT GRANTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2025 £**	Totals 2024 £
Department of Education, NI	-	-	**0**	54,000
Department of Education, NI - IT's your choice	-	-	**0**	-
Department for the Economy - Sentinus Digital Skills	-	-	**0**	20,000
	0	0	**0**	74,000

4.2 from charitable activities

CONTRACTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2025 £**	Totals 2024 £
Belfast Metropolitan College	34,230	-	**34,230**	27,783
Belfast Harbour	4,000	-	**4,000**	-
Eastside Partnership	4,480	-	**4,480**	-
Engineering UK	6,750	-	**6,750**	21,000
Hewlett Packard	6,000	-	**6,000**	-
Institution of Engineering & Technology	9,000	-	**9,000**	5,700
Libraries NI	4,200	-	**4,200**	-
Spirit Aerosystems	1,740	-	**1,740**	3,520
Queen's University, Belfast	-	-	**0**	8,538
The Princes Trust / The Kings Trust	1,750	-	**1,750**	-
Ulster Wool Group	8,355	-	**8,355**	2,075
Income from Events, Schemes, Roadshows and Workshops	76,905	-	**76,905**	75,658
Income from Local Authorities	182,836	-	**182,836**	-
Other	4,360	-	**4,360**	1,000
	344,606	0	**344,606**	145,274

4.3 from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2025 £**	Totals 2024 £
Bank interest	19,720	-	**19,720**	17,778
	19,720	0	**19,720**	17,778

5 EXPENDITURE

5.1 on raising funds

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2025 £**	Totals 2024 £
Promotion and marketing expenses	-	-	**0**	1,129
Business development	-	-	**0**	-
	0	0	**0**	1,129

5.2 on charitable activities

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2025 £**	Totals 2024 £
Associates	101,405	-	**101,405**	95,405
Travel & subsistence	22,988	-	**22,988**	22,849
Materials & expenses	32,842	-	**32,842**	29,040
Project subsistence	744	-	**744**	1,014
Prizes & Bursaries	399	-	**399**	997
Project hospitality	1,215	-	**1,215**	826
Project support	208	-	**208**	-
Registration / subscription fees	35	-	**35**	35
	159,836	0	**159,836**	150,166

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2025 £**	Totals 2024 £
Premises	22,299	-	**22,299**	23,248
General office	3,147	-	**3,147**	3,509
Information technology	8,909	-	**8,909**	8,976
Legal and professional	-	-	**0**	-
Salaries, wages and related costs	106,119	-	**106,119**	146,938
Bank charges	-	-	**0**	-
General expenses	478	-	**478**	-
Depreciation	-	-	**0**	-
	140,952	0	**140,952**	182,671
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	300,788	0	**300,788**	332,837

5.3 on other items

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON OTHER ITEMS (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2025 £**	Totals 2024 £
Premises	7,433	-	**7,433**	7,749
General office	1,049	-	**1,049**	1,170
Information technology	2,970	-	**2,970**	2,992
Legal and professional	10,700	-	**10,700**	13,151
Salaries, wages and related costs	35,373	-	**35,373**	42,660
Bank charges	337	-	**337**	343
General expenses	159	-	**159**	-
Depreciation	102	-	**102**	136
	58,123	0	**58,123**	68,201

6 ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS	Charitable activities £	Other items £	**Totals 2025 £**	Totals 2024 £	***Basis of apportionment***
Premises costs	22,299	7,433	**29,732**	30,997	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
General office	3,147	1,049	**4,196**	4,679	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Information technology	8,909	2,970	**11,879**	11,968	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Legal and professional	-	10,700	**10,700**	13,151	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
Salaries, wages and related costs	106,119	35,373	**141,492**	189,598	*Based on staff activity*
Bank charges	-	337	**337**	343	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
General expenses	478	159	**637**	-	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Depreciation	-	102	**102**	136	*Allocated to other costs*
	140,952	58,123	**199,075**	250,872	

7 Net incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2025 £**	Totals 2024 £
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:				
Depreciation of fixed assets	102	-	**102**	136

8 Pension costs

The company operated defined contribution schemes in respect of its staff. The schemes and their assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents agreed employer contributions due from Sentinus and amounted to £7,904 (2024: £14,798)

9 Non Current assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	**Totals £**
Cost:		
At 1 April 2024	165,598	**165,598**
Additions	-	**0**
At 31 March 2025	165,598	**165,598**
Accumulated depreciation:		
At 1 April 2024	165,190	**165,190**
Charge for year	102	**102**
At 31 March 2025	165,292	**165,292**
Net book value:		
At 31st March 2025	**306**	**306**
At 31st March 2024	**408**	**408**

10 Receivables

	Totals 2025 £	Totals 2024 £
Trade debtors	**152,286**	46,311
Other debtors	**2,624**	3,361
	154,910	49,672

11 Cash at bank and in hand

	Totals 2025 £	Totals 2024 £
Petty Cash	**-**	114
Ulster Bank Ltd - Current Account	**(12,548)**	(13,783)
Ulster Bank Ltd - Liquidity Manager Account	**209,807**	327,847
Ulster Bank Ltd - TRO placement	**500,000**	500,000
Ulster Bank Ltd - 30-day Business Reserve	**-**	16
	697,259	814,194

An arrangement is in place for the Ulster Bank to automatically transfer surplus current account funds to the Liquidity Manager Account and also to transfer funds to the current account from the Liquidity Manager Account to meet all cheques when presented for payment. In this way, the running balance on the Current Account is kept to a minimum. For this reason, the directors deem it inappropriate to include a negative current account balance under creditors, since the actual balance on call is the sum of the Current Account and Liquidity Manager accounts.
As at 31st March 2025, there are £13,272-88 of cheques written which have not been presented to the bank for payment. All of these were more than 12 months old.

12 Payables: amounts falling due within one year

	Totals 2025 £	Totals 2024 £
Trade creditors	**14,054**	13,396
Accrued expenses	**38,201**	54,573
Income in advance	**-**	1,500
	52,255	69,469

13 Financial Commitments

At 31st March 2025 the company has no annual commitments under non-cancellable leases nor any other financial commitments that are not recognised in the accounts (2024: £nil). Sentinus has entered into a number of long term contracts for the supply of services all of which are cancellable. In 2019 the company signed a new 5-year lease to rent the premises at 19a Ballinderry Road, Lisburn at an annual rent of £21,000 pa. The potential liability on cancellation of this lease has been reflected in the company's capital requirement under its reserves policy disclosed in the Directors' Report on page 3 of these financial statements.

14 Analysis of charity net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2025 £**
Fixed Assets	306	-	**306**
Current Assets	852,169	-	**852,169**
Current liabilities	(52,255)	-	**(52,255)**
	800,220	0	**800,220**

15 Statement of Funds

	At 1 Apr 2024 £	Income £	Exp. £	Investmnt Gains £	Transfers £	**At 31 Mar 2025 £**
General fund	794,805	344,606	(358,911)	19,720	-	**800,220**
Total unrestricted	**794,805**	**344,606**	**(358,911)**	**19,720**	**0**	**800,220**
n/a	-	-	-	-	-	**0**
Total restricted	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total funds	**794,805**	**344,606**	**(358,911)**	**19,720**	**0**	**800,220**

The general fund represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

16 Income and expenditure summary

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross income	**364,326**	237,052
Resources expended		
Direct charitable expenditure	**159,836**	150,166
Administration costs	**199,075**	252,001
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources	**5,415**	(165,115)
(Deficit) for the year	**5,415**	(165,115)

The above reflects the Income and Expenditure accounts as required by the Companies Act 2006 as opposed to that required under the SORP as detailed on page 5.
Detailed analyses of the expenditure are provided in the Statement of Financial Activities and note 5.

17 Transfer between funds

There were no transfers between the funds this accounting year.

18 Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions with related parties in the year.

19 Disclosure of relevant circumstances

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our independent examiners to:

i. prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities;
ii. assist with the preparation of the financial statements; *and*
iii. prepare and submit payroll calculations to HM Revenue & Customs.

During the year our independent examiners also assisted with the preparation of quarterly management accounts for perusal of the Board.

SENTINUS

Detailed income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31st March 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
TURNOVER				
Income		344,606		219,274
COST OF SALES				
Project costs		(159,836)		(150,166)
GROSS SURPLUS		184,770		69,108
OTHER INCOME				
Deposit account interest		19,720		17,778
Sundry income		-		-
		204,490		86,886
EXPENDITURE				
Employee costs	141,492		189,598	
Rent	21,000		21,000	
Rates, water rates and sewerage costs	-		-	
Insurance	3,862		5,260	
Light & Heat	2,876		2,256	
Repairs and maintenance	1,994		2,490	
Printing, postage and stationery	792		998	
Advertising / PR	-		1,129	
Business Development	-		-	
Telephone	3,404		3,672	
Computer and IT costs	11,879		11,967	
Accountancy and audit	10,700		13,100	
Sundry expenses	637		52	
Legal and professional fees	-	198,636	-	251,522
Total resources expended		5,854		(164,636)
Finance costs				
Bank charges		337		343
		5,517		(164,979)
Depreciation				
Fixtures and fittings		102		136
NET (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS		5,415		(165,115)

THIS PAGE DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sentinus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102064

Accounts

Company Registration Number: **NI020310**
HMRC Charity Registration Number: **XN86071**
The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration Number: **NIC102064**

SENTINUS

(a company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House, 89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast BT1 1FE

Sentinus
Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

SENTINUS

Company Information for 2024/2025

Trustee / Directors	Tanya Hedley (chair) Elizabeth Ackah Mark Baker..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Clare Doran..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Tom Edgar James Moore Roy McBrine David McDonald..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Laura McGirr..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Neil McIlwaine..... *resigned 31st March 2024* David Phelan..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Raymond Pollock OBE..... *resigned 31st December 2023* Aaron Portis
Company Secretary	William Connor MBE
Company Number	NI020310
Registered Office	19a Ballinderry Road Lisburn Co Antrim BT28 2SA
Auditors	Diamond & Skillen Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor Sinclair House 89/101 Royal Avenue Belfast BT1 1FE
Bankers	Ulster Bank Ltd 11/16 Donegall Square East Belfast BT1 5UB
Chief Executive	William Connor MBE

SENTINUS

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Statement of Financial Position	8
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The following page does not form part of the statutory financial statements: Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	15

The Trustees (who are also the Board of Directors of the company) are pleased to submit their annual Directors' Report together with the audited financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31st March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and also to meet the requirements for accounts for the purposes of The Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). The present Trustee / Directors, and any past Trustee / Directors who served during the year, are given on page 3, together with the names of the charity's external advisors.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

General

Sentinus is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 23rd March 1987, amended 3rd December 1987 to reflect current governance arrangements and amended 4th May 2001 for change of company name. The company adopted a new Memorandum and Articles of Association on 19th January 2015 in accordance with guidance issued by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland
In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Trustee / Directors

Each Trustee of the company sits on the Board of Directors. This Board is responsible for the overall governance of the Company. Trustee / Directors are appointed by the Chairman. The total number of trustee / directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less then two.

The Board delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the Company to the Chief Executive. This is controlled by regular reporting back to the Board, so that all decisions made under delegated powers can be ratified by the full Board in due course.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of the company's affairs.

The company adopted a Governance Framework which was implemented in March 2008.

Statement of Trustee / Directors' Responsibilities and Corporate Governance

The Trustee / Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company produces proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the Company is operating efficiently and effectively;
- all assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Company, or for publication, is reliable;
- the Company complies with relevant laws and regulations.

Internal controls over all forms of commitment and expenditure continue to be reviewed to improve efficiency.

Processes are in place to ensure that performance is monitored and the appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed on an ongoing basis by executive management and quarterly by the Board of Trustee / Directors.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurances against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and annual budget approved by the Trustee / Directors;
- regular consideration by the Trustee / Directors of financial results, variances from budget, non financial performance indicators and bench marking reviews;
- delegation of day to day management authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

In accordance with company law the Directors certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and
- as the Trustees and Directors of the Company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

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Risk Management

During the year the Directors have considered and examined the major risks that face the charity and established strategies that will mitigate the impact they may have on the charity's future. This process will be continued on an ongoing basis for each financial year.

Public Benefit Report

OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY

In accordance with the Memorandum of Association the objects for which the Company is established are:
Promotion and participation in liaison activities between industry and education.
The strategies employed to achieve the company's objectives included:

- Developing and deepening the existing partnerships with the education sector by organising activities and projects involving students directly with industry.

PUBLIC BENEFIT REPORT

Purposes of the Charity	The purpose of the Company is to advance the theoretical and practical education of young people in Northern Ireland in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and promote greater understanding of industry, its essential role and service to the community and economy and encourage the establishment and development of partnerships between industry and education.
What the Charity has done during the year to carry out its purposes?	Despite the withdrawal of Department of Education funding at the end of May 2023, Sentinus continued to engage beneficiaries in curriculum relevant activity in science, technology, engineering and maths which helped them understand the importance of the STEM subjects and the impact of science and engineering on the modern world. Programmes delivered included: • Research & development projects; • Research projects; • Insight and careers programmes; • Celebration events for STEM project work; • STEM Workshops and challenges; • Digital Skills & Computer Programming workshops; • Provision of STEM resources and materials to support learning in STEM subjects; • Employability Skills programmes. In 2023-24 Sentinus worked with a total of 388 primary, post primary and special educational needs schools, engaging 35,071 young people, between the ages of 5 and 19 years. Outputs included 459 STEM and Digital Skills workshops, involving 23,837 pupils; 78 Employability Skills road shows involving 7,589 students. A total of 881 teacher engagements took place.
How have the activities provided benefit to its beneficiaries and how can this be demonstrated - the achievements of the Charity?	The direct benefits to beneficiaries from the activities of the Charity include: · improved scientific and technological skills and knowledge, allowing them to maximise learning in science and technology and understand the relevance of the STEM subjects to the world of work; · contextualisation of learning in STEM subjects; · increased awareness and understanding of the importance of the STEM subjects and their value to potential employers; · increased awareness of career opportunities within the STEM sector in Northern Ireland; · enhanced ability for beneficiaries to make informed career decisions; · enhanced interpersonal and employability skills. These benefits can be demonstrated through direct feedback from both teachers and young people involved in the programmes.
How has the Charity mitigated any harm flowing from its purposes?	No harm flowed from the purposes of the Charity.
How has the Charity ensured that any private benefit has been incidental to the public benefit?	No private benefit flowed from the Charity's activities.
Statement of compliance with the duty to have regard to the Commission's guidance	In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the Charity's purpose and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE
SENTINUS STATISTICS 2023/2024

	2024	2023
Number of Pupils Involved	35,071	56,379
Number of Schools Involved	388	523
Number of Teachers Engagements	881	1,646
Number of Employability Skills Roadshows	78	62
Number of Pupils Participating in Employability Skills Programmes	7,589	14,095
Number of Digital Skills Roadshows	217	-
Number of Pupils Participating in Digital Skills Programmes	12,047	-
Number of STEM Roadshows	242	403
Number of Pupils Participating in STEM Roadshows	11,790	20,209

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR
The Statement of Financial Activities on page 7 is designed to reflect all incoming resources receivable in the year irrespective of when income is actually received. Total incoming resources for the year amounted to £237,052 (2023: £458,256). Total resources expended (including depreciation of fixed assets) of £402,167 (2023: £495,512) resulted in net outgoing resources for the year of £165,115 (2023: net outgoing resources of £37,255). There is no balance on restricted funds at the end of the year. The total balance on unrestricted funds at the year end was £794,805 (2023: £959,920) which is free and represents the reserves available to the Directors to help fulfill current and future plans.

RESERVES POLICY
Introduction
Financial reserves offer a mechanism to retain surpluses which are not distributed or spent shortly after an accounting year end, but rather retained to allow for any future reductions in income or unanticipated expenditure not provided for in annual budgets. The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable time scale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the financial statements.
Reserves do not include capital assets or funds which are restricted in use by conditions imposed by the donor.
The Charity Commission requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable timescale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the accounts.

Income
The Department of Education withdrew funding for Sentinus at the end of May 2023. Since that point, Sentinus' income has been generated from a range of sources. Without the core grant, income has reduced significantly and outgoings have exceed income in the last two years. Until Sentinus can replace the income lost as a result of the withdrawl of funding, reserves will be needed to cover the shortfall of income versus outgoings.

Expenditure
Trustees should consider the pattern of Sentinus' expenditure and the need for reserves to cover that expenditure in the event of a serious shortfall in income.
An immediate reduction in programme delivery may be possible for some projects. Other contracts, however, represent longer term commitments and would, therefore, be more difficult to terminate.
Certain costs are of a fixed nature in the short to medium term and will continue to be incurred regardless of the level of activity. The largest element of 'fixed' expenditure will be employee costs, followed normally by accommodation costs.

Assessment of Reserves Level
In determining the level of reserves required, it is necessary to assess how long it would take to wind up Sentinus and the cost to run it during this period, assuming a sustained fall in its level of income such that it no longer remained viable to continue to operate.
Allowance would also need to be made for termination costs such as redundancy and early settlement of leases and any legal and other professional fees arising during this process.
The trustees deem it prudent to set aside reserves representing approximately twelve months full costs and a provision for winding up the company to account for costs such as redundancy, leases outstanding on premises and any other contractual financial commitment. Reserves should be at least this level to ensure the charity can run efficiently and meet its legal requirements. Factors taken into account would include the need to cover fluctuations in income, current liabilities and unplanned expenditure.
The trustees calculate that the overall reserve provision as at 31st March 2024 should be no less than £750,671 (2021: £857,581).
The actual reserves at 31st March 2024 were £794,805 (2023: £959,920) which is £44,134 above the company's target minimum and c.105.9% (2023: 111.9%) of that minimum figure. Trustees will closely monitor the actual reserves each year to ensure they are maintained at an appropriate level.

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PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS
The company plans continuing the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements

DIRECTORS
The directors who served during the year were:

- E Ackah
- M Baker (appointed 14/06/23)
- C Doran (appointed 14/06/23)
- T Edgar
- T Hedley
- J Moore
- R McBrine
- D McDonald (appointed 14/06/23)
- L McGirr (appointed 14/06/23)
- N McIlwaine
- D Phelan (appointed 14/06/23)
- R Pollock
- A Portis

The following were in attendance at Board Meetings during the year

- W Connor *Chief Executive and Statutory Company Secretary*

AUDITORS
Diamond & Skillen were appointed auditors to the company and are deemed to be re-appointed in accordance with Section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

By order of the Board

Tanya Hedley - Chair of Directors
12th June 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sentinus (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31st March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position 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 Charity's affairs as at 31st 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;
- 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 Charity 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 the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 19 to the financial statements, 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which theISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) have 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 Trustees' Annual Report [including the Strategic 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 accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

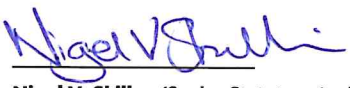
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Responsibilities of the trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 1, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they 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 Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our 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.
Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with UK law and International Standards on Auditing (UK). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's [(APB's)] Ethical Standards for Auditors including "APB Ethical Standard – Provisions Available for Small Entities (Revised)", in the circumstances set out in note 19 to the financialstatements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: 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 Charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Nigel V. Skillen (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House, 89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast, BT1 1FE

12th June 2024

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31st March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
REVENUE:					
from donations and legacies					
• Government Grants	4.1	74,000	-	**74,000**	322,178
from charitable activities:					
• Contract income	4.2	145,274	-	**145,274**	132,060
from other activities:					
• Other income		-	-	**0**	-
from investments:					
• Bank interest received	4.3	17,778	-	**17,778**	4,018
TOTAL REVENUE		237,052	0	**237,052**	458,256
EXPENDITURE:					
on raising funds					
• Promotion and marketing	5.1	1,129	-	**1,129**	4,205
on charitable activities					
• Charitable expenditure	5.2	332,837	-	**332,837**	433,391
on other items					
• Allocated support costs	5.3	68,201	-	**68,201**	57,915
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		402,167	0	**402,167**	495,511
Net (outgoing) resources		(165,115)	0	**(165,115)**	(37,255)
• Transfers between funds	17	-	-	**0**	-
Net movement in funds		(165,115)	0	**(165,115)**	(37,255)
Fund balances brought fwd at 1st April		959,920	-	**959,920**	997,175
Fund balances carried fwd at 31st March		794,805	0	**794,805**	959,920

The income and expenditure summary as required to be disclosed by the Companies Act 2006 is included at note 16.
All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.
The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus or deficit for the above two financial years.
The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Position
as at 31st March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
Non-Current Assets				
• Tangible assets	9		**408**	543
Current Assets				
• Receivables	10	**49,672**		148,662
• Cash at bank and in hand	11	**814,194**		909,083
		863,866		1,057,745
Payables: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(69,469)**		(98,368)
Net current assets			**794,397**	959,377
Payables: amounts falling due after more than one year			-	-
Total assets less current liabilities			**794,805**	959,920
The funds of the charity:				
Unrestricted income funds:				
• General fund	15		**794,805**	959,920
			794,805	959,920
Restricted income funds:				
• n/a	15		-	-
Total funds			**794,805**	959,920

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

For the year in question, the charitable company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act2006.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The trustee/directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 7 to 14 were approved by the Board of Trustee / Directors on 12th June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Tanya Hedley
Director, Chair of Directors

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1st January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Companies Act 2006.
Exemption has been taken from the requirement under FRS1 to prepare a cash flow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.
Sentinus meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102 and the Charities SORP. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Reconciliation with previously Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)

In preparing the accounts the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) the restatement of comparative items was required - No restatements were required.

1.3 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees are of the view that as the reserves of the charity are within the requirement of the charity's reserves policy, the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 to 18 months is secure and on that basis the charity is a going concern.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustee / directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. The fund comprises the accumulated surpluses and deficits of unrestricted income and expenditure.
Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of administering such funds are charges against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

1.5 Non Current Assets

Amounts greater than £10,000 spent on equipment and similar are recognised as fixed assets in the accounts.
Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.
Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of fixed assets over their anticipated useful lives.
Depreciation is provided at the following rates:

Fixtures and fittings	-	25% reducing balance

1.6 Income recognition policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:
- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- Any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- There is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; *and*
- The amount can be measured reliably

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Grants receivable

Grants receivable which relate to the year are credited to income within the Statement of Financial Activities, with unspent balances being carried forward to subsequent years within the relevant fund.
Specific debts are recognised where approved grant expenditure exceeds grant income received to date.
Grant income relating to future periods is carried forward under creditors.

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:
- Expenditure on raising funds comprises the costs of marketing and promoting the charity;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the direct costs allocated to the performance of educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs;
- Expenditure on other items represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between and "expenditure on charitable activities" and "expenditure on other items". The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 6.

1.8 Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable by the charity during the year. Contributions are invested separately from the company's assets.

1.9 Taxation

There is no liability to taxation due to the company's charitable status.

1.10 Receivables

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

1.11 Payables and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a 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 normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.12 Transition to FRS 102

The transition date was 1st April 2016.
There was no requirement to restate any comparative balances in making the transition to FRS 102.

2 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

3 EMPLOYEE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Wages and salaries	162,992	-	**162,992**	135,763
SMP recovery & NIC compensation payments	-	-	**0**	(644)
Social security costs	16,808	-	**16,808**	14,646
Employer Allowance	(5,000)	-	**(5,000)**	(5,000)
Other pension costs	14,798	-	**14,798**	13,487
	189,598	0	**189,598**	158,252

The average number of persons, including part-time staff, employed on UK contracts was 4 (2023: 4)
No trustee or director received any remuneration from the charity in the year (2023: £nil)
One employee was paid more than £60,000 in the year (2023: 1)
The amount of employer pension cost included in respect of employees paid more than £60,000 was £10,420 (2023: £10,420)

4 INCOME

4.1 from donations and legacies

GOVERNMENT GRANTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Department of Education, NI	54,000	-	**54,000**	300,000
Department of Education, NI - IT's your choice	-	-	**0**	22,178
Department for the Economy - Sentinus Digital Skills	20,000	-	**20,000**	-
	74,000	0	**74,000**	322,178

4.2 from charitable activities

CONTRACTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Belfast Metropolitan College - Bring IT On	27,783	-	**27,783**	-
Engineering UK - Big Bang	16,500	-	**16,500**	10,597
Engineering UK - Tomorrows Engineers	4,500	-	**4,500**	-
Instituion o f Engineering & Technology	5,700	-	**5,700**	-
Spirit Aerosystems	3,520	-	**3,520**	-
Queen's University, Belfast	8,538	-	**8,538**	8,932
Ulster Wool Group	2,075	-	**2,075**	-
Income from Events, Schemes, Roadshows and Workshops	75,658	-	**75,658**	112,531
Other	1,000	-	**1,000**	-
	145,274	0	**145,274**	132,060

4.3 from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Bank interest	17,778	-	**17,778**	4,018
	17,778	0	**17,778**	4,018

5 EXPENDITURE

5.1 on raising funds

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Promotion and marketing expenses	1,129	-	**1,129**	4,205
Business development	-	-	**0**	-
	1,129	0	**1,129**	4,205

5.2 on charitable activities

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Associates	95,405	-	**95,405**	210,635
Prizes & Bursaries	997	-	**997**	-
Travel & subsistence	22,849	-	**22,849**	26,795
Materials	29,040	-	**29,040**	23,010
Food and accommodation	1,014	-	**1,014**	7,280
Sundry project costs	826	-	**826**	-
Registration / subscription fees	35	-	**35**	35
	150,166	0	**150,166**	267,755

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Premises	23,248	-	**23,248**	25,543
General office	3,509	-	**3,509**	5,816
Information technology	8,976	-	**8,976**	9,951
Legal and professional	-	-	**0**	-
Salaries, wages and related costs	146,938	-	**146,938**	124,326
Bank charges	-	-	**0**	-
Depreciation	-	-	**0**	-
	182,671	0	**182,671**	165,636
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	332,837	0	**332,837**	433,391

5.3 on other items

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON OTHER ITEMS (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Premises	7,749	-	**7,749**	6,385
General office	1,170	-	**1,170**	1,454
Information technology	2,992	-	**2,992**	2,488
Legal and professional	13,151	-	**13,151**	13,151
Salaries, wages and related costs	42,660	-	**42,660**	33,908
Bank charges	343	-	**343**	348
Depreciation	136	-	**136**	181
	68,201	0	**68,201**	57,915

6 ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS	Charitable activities £	Other items £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £	***Basis of apportionment***
Premises costs	23,248	7,749	**30,997**	31,928	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
General office	3,509	1,170	**4,679**	7,270	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Information technology	8,976	2,992	**11,968**	12,439	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Legal and professional	-	13,151	**13,151**	13,151	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
Salaries, wages and related costs	146,938	42,660	**189,598**	158,234	*Based on staff activity*
Bank charges	-	343	**343**	348	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
Depreciation	-	136	**136**	181	*Allocated to other costs*
	182,671	68,201	**250,872**	223,551	

7 Net incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:				
Depreciation of fixed assets	136	-	**136**	181
Diamond & Skillen - Auditor's remuneration	3,600	-	**3,600**	3,600
Diamond & Skillen - Payroll Bureau	2,000	-	**2,000**	2,000
Diamond & Skillen - Accountancy & management accounts	7,500	-	**7,500**	7,500

8 Pension costs

The company operated defined contribution schemes in respect of its staff. The schemes and their assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents agreed employer contributions due from Sentinus and amounted to £14,798 (2023: £13,487)

9 Non Current assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	**Totals £**
Cost:		
At 1 April 2023	165,598	**165,598**
Additions	-	**0**
At 31 March 2024	165,598	**165,598**
Accumulated depreciation:		
At 1 April 2023	165,055	**165,055**
Charge for year	136	**136**
At 31 March 2024	165,191	**165,191**
Net book value:		
At 31st March 2024	**408**	**408**
At 31st March 2023	**543**	**543**

10 Receivables

	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Trade debtors	**46,311**	35,048
Other debtors	**3,361**	113,614
	49,672	148,662

11 Cash at bank and in hand

	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Petty Cash	**114**	114
Ulster Bank Ltd - Current Account	**(13,783)**	(16,456)
Ulster Bank Ltd - Liquidity Manager Account	**327,847**	925,409
Ulster Bank Ltd - TRO placement	**500,000**	925,409
Ulster Bank Ltd - 30-day Business Reserve	**16**	16
	814,194	1,834,492

An arrangement is in place for the Ulster Bank to automatically transfer surplus current account funds to the Liquidity Manager Account and also to transfer funds to the current account from the Liquidity Manager Account to meet all cheques when presented for payment. In this way, the running balance on the Current Account is kept to a minimum. For this reason, the directors deem it inappropriate to include a negative current account balance under creditors, since the actual balance on call is the sum of the Current Account and Liquidity Manager accounts.
As at 31st March 2024, there are £17,672-88 (2023: £17,672-88) of cheques written which have not been presented to the bank for payment. All of these were more than 12 months old.

12 Payables: amounts falling due within one year

	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Trade creditors	**13,396**	33,260
Accrued expenses	**54,573**	65,108
Income in advance	**1,500**	-
	69,469	98,368

13 Financial Commitments

At 31st March 2024 the company has no annual commitments under non-cancellable leases nor any other financial commitments that are not recognised in the accounts (2023: £nil). Sentinus has entered into a number of long term contracts for the supply of services all of which are cancellable. In 2019 the company signed a new 5-year lease to rent the premises at 19a Ballinderry Road, Lisburn at an annual rent of £21,000 pa. The potential liability on cancellation of this lease has been reflected in the company's capital requirement under its reserves policy disclosed in the Directors' Report on page 3 of these financial statements.

14 Analysis of charity net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Totals 2024 £
Fixed Assets	408	-	**408**
Current Assets	863,866	-	**863,866**
Current liabilities	(69,469)	-	**(69,469)**
	794,805	0	**794,805**

15 Statement of Funds

	At 1 Apr 2023 £	Income £	Exp. £	Investmnt Gains £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 2024 £
General fund	959,920	219,274	(402,167)	17,778	-	**794,805**
Total unrestricted	**959,920**	**219,274**	**(402,167)**	**17,778**	**0**	**794,805**
n/a	-	-	-	-	-	**0**
Total restricted	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total funds	**959,920**	**219,274**	**(402,167)**	**17,778**	**0**	**794,805**

The general fund represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

16 Income and expenditure summary

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross income	**237,052**	458,256
Resources expended		
Direct charitable expenditure	**150,166**	267,755
Administration costs	**252,001**	227,756
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources	**(165,115)**	(37,255)
(Deficit) for the year	**(165,115)**	(37,255)

The above reflects the Income and Expenditure accounts as required by the Companies Act 2006 as opposed to that required under he SORP as detailed on page 5. Detailed analyses of the expenditure are provided in the Statement of Financial Activities and note 5.

17 Transfer between funds

There were no transfers between the funds this accounting year.

18 Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions with related parties in the year.

19 Disclosure of relevant circumstances

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to:

i. prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities;
ii. assist with the preparation of the financial statements; *and*
iii. prepare and submit payroll calculations to HM Revenue & Customs.

During the year our auditors also assisted with the preparation of quarterly management accounts for perusal of the Board.

SENTINUS

Detailed income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31st March 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
TURNOVER				
Income		219,274		454,238
COST OF SALES				
Project costs		(150,166)		(267,755)
GROSS SURPLUS		69,108		186,483
OTHER INCOME				
Deposit account interest		17,778		4,018
Sundry income		-		-
		86,886		190,501
EXPENDITURE				
Employee costs	189,598		158,234	
Rent	21,000		21,000	
Rates, water rates and sewerage costs	-		-	
Insurance	5,260		6,126	
Light & Heat	2,256		2,682	
Repairs and maintenance	2,490		2,245	
Printing, postage and stationery	998		3,247	
Advertising / PR	1,129		4,205	
Business Development	-		-	
Telephone	3,672		3,897	
Computer and IT costs	11,967		12,439	
Accountancy and audit	13,100		13,100	
Sundry expenses	52		52	
Legal and professional fees	-	251,522	-	227,227
Total resources expended		(164,636)		(36,726)
Finance costs				
Bank charges		343		348
		(164,979)		(37,074)
Depreciation				
Fixtures and fittings		136		181
NET (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS		(165,115)		(37,255)

THIS PAGE DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sentinus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102064

Annual report

Company Registration Number: **NI020310**
HMRC Charity Registration Number: **XN86071**
The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration Number: **NIC102064**

SENTINUS

(a company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House, 89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast BT1 1FE

Sentinus
Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

SENTINUS

Company Information for 2024/2025

Trustee / Directors	Tanya Hedley (chair) Elizabeth Ackah Mark Baker..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Clare Doran..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Tom Edgar James Moore Roy McBrine David McDonald..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Laura McGirr..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Neil McIlwaine..... *resigned 31st March 2024* David Phelan..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Raymond Pollock OBE..... *resigned 31st December 2023* Aaron Portis
Company Secretary	William Connor MBE
Company Number	NI020310
Registered Office	19a Ballinderry Road Lisburn Co Antrim BT28 2SA
Auditors	Diamond & Skillen Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor Sinclair House 89/101 Royal Avenue Belfast BT1 1FE
Bankers	Ulster Bank Ltd 11/16 Donegall Square East Belfast BT1 5UB
Chief Executive	William Connor MBE

SENTINUS

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The Trustees (who are also the Board of Directors of the company) are pleased to submit their annual Directors' Report together with the audited financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31st March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and also to meet the requirements for accounts for the purposes of The Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). The present Trustee / Directors, and any past Trustee / Directors who served during the year, are given on page 3, together with the names of the charity's external advisors.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

General

Sentinus is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 23rd March 1987, amended 3rd December 1987 to reflect current governance arrangements and amended 4th May 2001 for change of company name. The company adopted a new Memorandum and Articles of Association on 19th January 2015 in accordance with guidance issued by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland
In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Trustee / Directors

Each Trustee of the company sits on the Board of Directors. This Board is responsible for the overall governance of the Company. Trustee / Directors are appointed by the Chairman. The total number of trustee / directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less then two.

The Board delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the Company to the Chief Executive. This is controlled by regular reporting back to the Board, so that all decisions made under delegated powers can be ratified by the full Board in due course.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of the company's affairs.

The company adopted a Governance Framework which was implemented in March 2008.

Statement of Trustee / Directors' Responsibilities and Corporate Governance

The Trustee / Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company produces proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the Company is operating efficiently and effectively;
- all assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Company, or for publication, is reliable;
- the Company complies with relevant laws and regulations.

Internal controls over all forms of commitment and expenditure continue to be reviewed to improve efficiency.

Processes are in place to ensure that performance is monitored and the appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed on an ongoing basis by executive management and quarterly by the Board of Trustee / Directors.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurances against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and annual budget approved by the Trustee / Directors;
- regular consideration by the Trustee / Directors of financial results, variances from budget, non financial performance indicators and bench marking reviews;
- delegation of day to day management authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

In accordance with company law the Directors certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and
- as the Trustees and Directors of the Company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

cont'd.../

Risk Management

During the year the Directors have considered and examined the major risks that face the charity and established strategies that will mitigate the impact they may have on the charity's future. This process will be continued on an ongoing basis for each financial year.

Public Benefit Report

OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY

In accordance with the Memorandum of Association the objects for which the Company is established are:
Promotion and participation in liaison activities between industry and education.
The strategies employed to achieve the company's objectives included:

- Developing and deepening the existing partnerships with the education sector by organising activities and projects involving students directly with industry.

PUBLIC BENEFIT REPORT

Purposes of the Charity	The purpose of the Company is to advance the theoretical and practical education of young people in Northern Ireland in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and promote greater understanding of industry, its essential role and service to the community and economy and encourage the establishment and development of partnerships between industry and education.
What the Charity has done during the year to carry out its purposes?	Despite the withdrawal of Department of Education funding at the end of May 2023, Sentinus continued to engage beneficiaries in curriculum relevant activity in science, technology, engineering and maths which helped them understand the importance of the STEM subjects and the impact of science and engineering on the modern world. Programmes delivered included: • Research & development projects; • Research projects; • Insight and careers programmes; • Celebration events for STEM project work; • STEM Workshops and challenges; • Digital Skills & Computer Programming workshops; • Provision of STEM resources and materials to support learning in STEM subjects; • Employability Skills programmes. In 2023-24 Sentinus worked with a total of 388 primary, post primary and special educational needs schools, engaging 35,071 young people, between the ages of 5 and 19 years. Outputs included 459 STEM and Digital Skills workshops, involving 23,837 pupils; 78 Employability Skills road shows involving 7,589 students. A total of 881 teacher engagements took place.
How have the activities provided benefit to its beneficiaries and how can this be demonstrated - the achievements of the Charity?	The direct benefits to beneficiaries from the activities of the Charity include: · improved scientific and technological skills and knowledge, allowing them to maximise learning in science and technology and understand the relevance of the STEM subjects to the world of work; · contextualisation of learning in STEM subjects; · increased awareness and understanding of the importance of the STEM subjects and their value to potential employers; · increased awareness of career opportunities within the STEM sector in Northern Ireland; · enhanced ability for beneficiaries to make informed career decisions; · enhanced interpersonal and employability skills. These benefits can be demonstrated through direct feedback from both teachers and young people involved in the programmes.
How has the Charity mitigated any harm flowing from its purposes?	No harm flowed from the purposes of the Charity.
How has the Charity ensured that any private benefit has been incidental to the public benefit?	No private benefit flowed from the Charity's activities.
Statement of compliance with the duty to have regard to the Commission's guidance	In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the Charity's purpose and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

cont'd.../

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE
SENTINUS STATISTICS 2023/2024

	2024	2023
Number of Pupils Involved	35,071	56,379
Number of Schools Involved	388	523
Number of Teachers Engagements	881	1,646
Number of Employability Skills Roadshows	78	62
Number of Pupils Participating in Employability Skills Programmes	7,589	14,095
Number of Digital Skills Roadshows	217	-
Number of Pupils Participating in Digital Skills Programmes	12,047	-
Number of STEM Roadshows	242	403
Number of Pupils Participating in STEM Roadshows	11,790	20,209

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR
The Statement of Financial Activities on page 7 is designed to reflect all incoming resources receivable in the year irrespective of when income is actually received. Total incoming resources for the year amounted to £237,052 (2023: £458,256). Total resources expended (including depreciation of fixed assets) of £402,167 (2023: £495,512) resulted in net outgoing resources for the year of £165,115 (2023: net outgoing resources of £37,255). There is no balance on restricted funds at the end of the year. The total balance on unrestricted funds at the year end was £794,805 (2023: £959,920) which is free and represents the reserves available to the Directors to help fulfill current and future plans.

RESERVES POLICY
Introduction
Financial reserves offer a mechanism to retain surpluses which are not distributed or spent shortly after an accounting year end, but rather retained to allow for any future reductions in income or unanticipated expenditure not provided for in annual budgets. The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable time scale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the financial statements.
Reserves do not include capital assets or funds which are restricted in use by conditions imposed by the donor.
The Charity Commission requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable timescale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the accounts.

Income
The Department of Education withdrew funding for Sentinus at the end of May 2023. Since that point, Sentinus' income has been generated from a range of sources. Without the core grant, income has reduced significantly and outgoings have exceed income in the last two years. Until Sentinus can replace the income lost as a result of the withdrawl of funding, reserves will be needed to cover the shortfall of income versus outgoings.

Expenditure
Trustees should consider the pattern of Sentinus' expenditure and the need for reserves to cover that expenditure in the event of a serious shortfall in income.
An immediate reduction in programme delivery may be possible for some projects. Other contracts, however, represent longer term commitments and would, therefore, be more difficult to terminate.
Certain costs are of a fixed nature in the short to medium term and will continue to be incurred regardless of the level of activity. The largest element of 'fixed' expenditure will be employee costs, followed normally by accommodation costs.

Assessment of Reserves Level
In determining the level of reserves required, it is necessary to assess how long it would take to wind up Sentinus and the cost to run it during this period, assuming a sustained fall in its level of income such that it no longer remained viable to continue to operate.
Allowance would also need to be made for termination costs such as redundancy and early settlement of leases and any legal and other professional fees arising during this process.
The trustees deem it prudent to set aside reserves representing approximately twelve months full costs and a provision for winding up the company to account for costs such as redundancy, leases outstanding on premises and any other contractual financial commitment. Reserves should be at least this level to ensure the charity can run efficiently and meet its legal requirements. Factors taken into account would include the need to cover fluctuations in income, current liabilities and unplanned expenditure.
The trustees calculate that the overall reserve provision as at 31st March 2024 should be no less than £750,671 (2021: £857,581).
The actual reserves at 31st March 2024 were £794,805 (2023: £959,920) which is £44,134 above the company's target minimum and c.105.9% (2023: 111.9%) of that minimum figure. Trustees will closely monitor the actual reserves each year to ensure they are maintained at an appropriate level.

cont'd.../

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS
The company plans continuing the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements

DIRECTORS
The directors who served during the year were:

- E Ackah
- M Baker (appointed 14/06/23)
- C Doran (appointed 14/06/23)
- T Edgar
- T Hedley
- J Moore
- R McBrine
- D McDonald (appointed 14/06/23)
- L McGirr (appointed 14/06/23)
- N McIlwaine
- D Phelan (appointed 14/06/23)
- R Pollock
- A Portis

The following were in attendance at Board Meetings during the year

- W Connor *Chief Executive and Statutory Company Secretary*

AUDITORS
Diamond & Skillen were appointed auditors to the company and are deemed to be re-appointed in accordance with Section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

By order of the Board

Tanya Hedley - Chair of Directors
12th June 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sentinus (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31st March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position 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 Charity's affairs as at 31st 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;
- 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 Charity 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 the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 19 to the financial statements, 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which theISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) have 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 Trustees' Annual Report [including the Strategic 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 accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

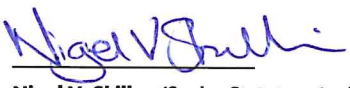
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Responsibilities of the trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 1, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they 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 Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our 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.
Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with UK law and International Standards on Auditing (UK). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's [(APB's)] Ethical Standards for Auditors including "APB Ethical Standard – Provisions Available for Small Entities (Revised)", in the circumstances set out in note 19 to the financialstatements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: 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 Charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Nigel V. Skillen (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House, 89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast, BT1 1FE

12th June 2024

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31st March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
REVENUE:					
from donations and legacies					
• Government Grants	4.1	74,000	-	**74,000**	322,178
from charitable activities:					
• Contract income	4.2	145,274	-	**145,274**	132,060
from other activities:					
• Other income		-	-	**0**	-
from investments:					
• Bank interest received	4.3	17,778	-	**17,778**	4,018
TOTAL REVENUE		237,052	0	**237,052**	458,256
EXPENDITURE:					
on raising funds					
• Promotion and marketing	5.1	1,129	-	**1,129**	4,205
on charitable activities					
• Charitable expenditure	5.2	332,837	-	**332,837**	433,391
on other items					
• Allocated support costs	5.3	68,201	-	**68,201**	57,915
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		402,167	0	**402,167**	495,511
Net (outgoing) resources		(165,115)	0	**(165,115)**	(37,255)
• Transfers between funds	17	-	-	**0**	-
Net movement in funds		(165,115)	0	**(165,115)**	(37,255)
Fund balances brought fwd at 1st April		959,920	-	**959,920**	997,175
Fund balances carried fwd at 31st March		794,805	0	**794,805**	959,920

The income and expenditure summary as required to be disclosed by the Companies Act 2006 is included at note 16.
All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.
The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus or deficit for the above two financial years.
The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Position
as at 31st March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
Non-Current Assets				
• Tangible assets	9		**408**	543
Current Assets				
• Receivables	10	**49,672**		148,662
• Cash at bank and in hand	11	**814,194**		909,083
		863,866		1,057,745
Payables: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(69,469)**		(98,368)
Net current assets			**794,397**	959,377
Payables: amounts falling due after more than one year			-	-
Total assets less current liabilities			**794,805**	959,920
The funds of the charity:				
Unrestricted income funds:				
• General fund	15		**794,805**	959,920
			794,805	959,920
Restricted income funds:				
• n/a	15		-	-
Total funds			**794,805**	959,920

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

For the year in question, the charitable company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act2006.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The trustee/directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 7 to 14 were approved by the Board of Trustee / Directors on 12th June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Tanya Hedley
Director, Chair of Directors

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1st January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Companies Act 2006.
Exemption has been taken from the requirement under FRS1 to prepare a cash flow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.
Sentinus meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102 and the Charities SORP. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Reconciliation with previously Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)

In preparing the accounts the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) the restatement of comparative items was required - No restatements were required.

1.3 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees are of the view that as the reserves of the charity are within the requirement of the charity's reserves policy, the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 to 18 months is secure and on that basis the charity is a going concern.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustee / directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. The fund comprises the accumulated surpluses and deficits of unrestricted income and expenditure.
Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of administering such funds are charges against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

1.5 Non Current Assets

Amounts greater than £10,000 spent on equipment and similar are recognised as fixed assets in the accounts.
Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.
Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of fixed assets over their anticipated useful lives.
Depreciation is provided at the following rates:

Fixtures and fittings	-	25% reducing balance

1.6 Income recognition policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:
- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- Any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- There is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; *and*
- The amount can be measured reliably

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Grants receivable

Grants receivable which relate to the year are credited to income within the Statement of Financial Activities, with unspent balances being carried forward to subsequent years within the relevant fund.
Specific debts are recognised where approved grant expenditure exceeds grant income received to date.
Grant income relating to future periods is carried forward under creditors.

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:
- Expenditure on raising funds comprises the costs of marketing and promoting the charity;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the direct costs allocated to the performance of educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs;
- Expenditure on other items represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between and "expenditure on charitable activities" and "expenditure on other items". The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 6.

1.8 Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable by the charity during the year. Contributions are invested separately from the company's assets.

1.9 Taxation

There is no liability to taxation due to the company's charitable status.

1.10 Receivables

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

1.11 Payables and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a 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 normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.12 Transition to FRS 102

The transition date was 1st April 2016.
There was no requirement to restate any comparative balances in making the transition to FRS 102.

2 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

3 EMPLOYEE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Wages and salaries	162,992	-	**162,992**	135,763
SMP recovery & NIC compensation payments	-	-	**0**	(644)
Social security costs	16,808	-	**16,808**	14,646
Employer Allowance	(5,000)	-	**(5,000)**	(5,000)
Other pension costs	14,798	-	**14,798**	13,487
	189,598	0	**189,598**	158,252

The average number of persons, including part-time staff, employed on UK contracts was 4 (2023: 4)
No trustee or director received any remuneration from the charity in the year (2023: £nil)
One employee was paid more than £60,000 in the year (2023: 1)
The amount of employer pension cost included in respect of employees paid more than £60,000 was £10,420 (2023: £10,420)

4 INCOME

4.1 from donations and legacies

GOVERNMENT GRANTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Department of Education, NI	54,000	-	**54,000**	300,000
Department of Education, NI - IT's your choice	-	-	**0**	22,178
Department for the Economy - Sentinus Digital Skills	20,000	-	**20,000**	-
	74,000	0	**74,000**	322,178

4.2 from charitable activities

CONTRACTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Belfast Metropolitan College - Bring IT On	27,783	-	**27,783**	-
Engineering UK - Big Bang	16,500	-	**16,500**	10,597
Engineering UK - Tomorrows Engineers	4,500	-	**4,500**	-
Instituion o f Engineering & Technology	5,700	-	**5,700**	-
Spirit Aerosystems	3,520	-	**3,520**	-
Queen's University, Belfast	8,538	-	**8,538**	8,932
Ulster Wool Group	2,075	-	**2,075**	-
Income from Events, Schemes, Roadshows and Workshops	75,658	-	**75,658**	112,531
Other	1,000	-	**1,000**	-
	145,274	0	**145,274**	132,060

4.3 from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Bank interest	17,778	-	**17,778**	4,018
	17,778	0	**17,778**	4,018

5 EXPENDITURE

5.1 on raising funds

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Promotion and marketing expenses	1,129	-	**1,129**	4,205
Business development	-	-	**0**	-
	1,129	0	**1,129**	4,205

5.2 on charitable activities

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Associates	95,405	-	**95,405**	210,635
Prizes & Bursaries	997	-	**997**	-
Travel & subsistence	22,849	-	**22,849**	26,795
Materials	29,040	-	**29,040**	23,010
Food and accommodation	1,014	-	**1,014**	7,280
Sundry project costs	826	-	**826**	-
Registration / subscription fees	35	-	**35**	35
	150,166	0	**150,166**	267,755

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Premises	23,248	-	**23,248**	25,543
General office	3,509	-	**3,509**	5,816
Information technology	8,976	-	**8,976**	9,951
Legal and professional	-	-	**0**	-
Salaries, wages and related costs	146,938	-	**146,938**	124,326
Bank charges	-	-	**0**	-
Depreciation	-	-	**0**	-
	182,671	0	**182,671**	165,636
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	332,837	0	**332,837**	433,391

5.3 on other items

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON OTHER ITEMS (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Premises	7,749	-	**7,749**	6,385
General office	1,170	-	**1,170**	1,454
Information technology	2,992	-	**2,992**	2,488
Legal and professional	13,151	-	**13,151**	13,151
Salaries, wages and related costs	42,660	-	**42,660**	33,908
Bank charges	343	-	**343**	348
Depreciation	136	-	**136**	181
	68,201	0	**68,201**	57,915

6 ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS	Charitable activities £	Other items £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £	***Basis of apportionment***
Premises costs	23,248	7,749	**30,997**	31,928	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
General office	3,509	1,170	**4,679**	7,270	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Information technology	8,976	2,992	**11,968**	12,439	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Legal and professional	-	13,151	**13,151**	13,151	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
Salaries, wages and related costs	146,938	42,660	**189,598**	158,234	*Based on staff activity*
Bank charges	-	343	**343**	348	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
Depreciation	-	136	**136**	181	*Allocated to other costs*
	182,671	68,201	**250,872**	223,551	

7 Net incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:				
Depreciation of fixed assets	136	-	**136**	181
Diamond & Skillen - Auditor's remuneration	3,600	-	**3,600**	3,600
Diamond & Skillen - Payroll Bureau	2,000	-	**2,000**	2,000
Diamond & Skillen - Accountancy & management accounts	7,500	-	**7,500**	7,500

8 Pension costs

The company operated defined contribution schemes in respect of its staff. The schemes and their assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents agreed employer contributions due from Sentinus and amounted to £14,798 (2023: £13,487)

9 Non Current assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	**Totals £**
Cost:		
At 1 April 2023	165,598	**165,598**
Additions	-	**0**
At 31 March 2024	165,598	**165,598**
Accumulated depreciation:		
At 1 April 2023	165,055	**165,055**
Charge for year	136	**136**
At 31 March 2024	165,191	**165,191**
Net book value:		
At 31st March 2024	**408**	**408**
At 31st March 2023	**543**	**543**

10 Receivables

	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Trade debtors	**46,311**	35,048
Other debtors	**3,361**	113,614
	49,672	148,662

11 Cash at bank and in hand

	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Petty Cash	**114**	114
Ulster Bank Ltd - Current Account	**(13,783)**	(16,456)
Ulster Bank Ltd - Liquidity Manager Account	**327,847**	925,409
Ulster Bank Ltd - TRO placement	**500,000**	925,409
Ulster Bank Ltd - 30-day Business Reserve	**16**	16
	814,194	1,834,492

An arrangement is in place for the Ulster Bank to automatically transfer surplus current account funds to the Liquidity Manager Account and also to transfer funds to the current account from the Liquidity Manager Account to meet all cheques when presented for payment. In this way, the running balance on the Current Account is kept to a minimum. For this reason, the directors deem it inappropriate to include a negative current account balance under creditors, since the actual balance on call is the sum of the Current Account and Liquidity Manager accounts.
As at 31st March 2024, there are £17,672-88 (2023: £17,672-88) of cheques written which have not been presented to the bank for payment. All of these were more than 12 months old.

12 Payables: amounts falling due within one year

	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Trade creditors	**13,396**	33,260
Accrued expenses	**54,573**	65,108
Income in advance	**1,500**	-
	69,469	98,368

13 Financial Commitments

At 31st March 2024 the company has no annual commitments under non-cancellable leases nor any other financial commitments that are not recognised in the accounts (2023: £nil). Sentinus has entered into a number of long term contracts for the supply of services all of which are cancellable. In 2019 the company signed a new 5-year lease to rent the premises at 19a Ballinderry Road, Lisburn at an annual rent of £21,000 pa. The potential liability on cancellation of this lease has been reflected in the company's capital requirement under its reserves policy disclosed in the Directors' Report on page 3 of these financial statements.

14 Analysis of charity net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Totals 2024 £
Fixed Assets	408	-	**408**
Current Assets	863,866	-	**863,866**
Current liabilities	(69,469)	-	**(69,469)**
	794,805	0	**794,805**

15 Statement of Funds

	At 1 Apr 2023 £	Income £	Exp. £	Investmnt Gains £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 2024 £
General fund	959,920	219,274	(402,167)	17,778	-	**794,805**
Total unrestricted	**959,920**	**219,274**	**(402,167)**	**17,778**	**0**	**794,805**
n/a	-	-	-	-	-	**0**
Total restricted	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total funds	**959,920**	**219,274**	**(402,167)**	**17,778**	**0**	**794,805**

The general fund represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

16 Income and expenditure summary

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross income	**237,052**	458,256
Resources expended		
Direct charitable expenditure	**150,166**	267,755
Administration costs	**252,001**	227,756
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources	**(165,115)**	(37,255)
(Deficit) for the year	**(165,115)**	(37,255)

The above reflects the Income and Expenditure accounts as required by the Companies Act 2006 as opposed to that required under he SORP as detailed on page 5. Detailed analyses of the expenditure are provided in the Statement of Financial Activities and note 5.

17 Transfer between funds

There were no transfers between the funds this accounting year.

18 Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions with related parties in the year.

19 Disclosure of relevant circumstances

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to:

i. prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities;
ii. assist with the preparation of the financial statements; *and*
iii. prepare and submit payroll calculations to HM Revenue & Customs.

During the year our auditors also assisted with the preparation of quarterly management accounts for perusal of the Board.

SENTINUS

Detailed income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31st March 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
TURNOVER				
Income		219,274		454,238
COST OF SALES				
Project costs		(150,166)		(267,755)
GROSS SURPLUS		69,108		186,483
OTHER INCOME				
Deposit account interest		17,778		4,018
Sundry income		-		-
		86,886		190,501
EXPENDITURE				
Employee costs	189,598		158,234	
Rent	21,000		21,000	
Rates, water rates and sewerage costs	-		-	
Insurance	5,260		6,126	
Light & Heat	2,256		2,682	
Repairs and maintenance	2,490		2,245	
Printing, postage and stationery	998		3,247	
Advertising / PR	1,129		4,205	
Business Development	-		-	
Telephone	3,672		3,897	
Computer and IT costs	11,967		12,439	
Accountancy and audit	13,100		13,100	
Sundry expenses	52		52	
Legal and professional fees	-	251,522	-	227,227
Total resources expended		(164,636)		(36,726)
Finance costs				
Bank charges		343		348
		(164,979)		(37,074)
Depreciation				
Fixtures and fittings		136		181
NET (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS		(165,115)		(37,255)

THIS PAGE DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sentinus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102064

Annual return

Company Registration Number: **NI020310**
HMRC Charity Registration Number: **XN86071**
The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration Number: **NIC102064**

SENTINUS

(a company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House, 89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast BT1 1FE

Sentinus
Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

SENTINUS

Company Information for 2024/2025

Trustee / Directors	Tanya Hedley (chair) Elizabeth Ackah Mark Baker..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Clare Doran..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Tom Edgar James Moore Roy McBrine David McDonald..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Laura McGirr..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Neil McIlwaine..... *resigned 31st March 2024* David Phelan..... *appointed 14th June 2023* Raymond Pollock OBE..... *resigned 31st December 2023* Aaron Portis
Company Secretary	William Connor MBE
Company Number	NI020310
Registered Office	19a Ballinderry Road Lisburn Co Antrim BT28 2SA
Auditors	Diamond & Skillen Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor Sinclair House 89/101 Royal Avenue Belfast BT1 1FE
Bankers	Ulster Bank Ltd 11/16 Donegall Square East Belfast BT1 5UB
Chief Executive	William Connor MBE

SENTINUS

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Statement of Financial Position	8
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The following page does not form part of the statutory financial statements: Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	15

The Trustees (who are also the Board of Directors of the company) are pleased to submit their annual Directors' Report together with the audited financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31st March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and also to meet the requirements for accounts for the purposes of The Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). The present Trustee / Directors, and any past Trustee / Directors who served during the year, are given on page 3, together with the names of the charity's external advisors.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

General

Sentinus is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 23rd March 1987, amended 3rd December 1987 to reflect current governance arrangements and amended 4th May 2001 for change of company name. The company adopted a new Memorandum and Articles of Association on 19th January 2015 in accordance with guidance issued by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland
In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Trustee / Directors

Each Trustee of the company sits on the Board of Directors. This Board is responsible for the overall governance of the Company. Trustee / Directors are appointed by the Chairman. The total number of trustee / directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less then two.

The Board delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the Company to the Chief Executive. This is controlled by regular reporting back to the Board, so that all decisions made under delegated powers can be ratified by the full Board in due course.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of the company's affairs.

The company adopted a Governance Framework which was implemented in March 2008.

Statement of Trustee / Directors' Responsibilities and Corporate Governance

The Trustee / Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company produces proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the Company is operating efficiently and effectively;
- all assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Company, or for publication, is reliable;
- the Company complies with relevant laws and regulations.

Internal controls over all forms of commitment and expenditure continue to be reviewed to improve efficiency.

Processes are in place to ensure that performance is monitored and the appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed on an ongoing basis by executive management and quarterly by the Board of Trustee / Directors.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurances against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and annual budget approved by the Trustee / Directors;
- regular consideration by the Trustee / Directors of financial results, variances from budget, non financial performance indicators and bench marking reviews;
- delegation of day to day management authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

In accordance with company law the Directors certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and
- as the Trustees and Directors of the Company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

cont'd.../

Risk Management

During the year the Directors have considered and examined the major risks that face the charity and established strategies that will mitigate the impact they may have on the charity's future. This process will be continued on an ongoing basis for each financial year.

Public Benefit Report

OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY

In accordance with the Memorandum of Association the objects for which the Company is established are:
Promotion and participation in liaison activities between industry and education.
The strategies employed to achieve the company's objectives included:

- Developing and deepening the existing partnerships with the education sector by organising activities and projects involving students directly with industry.

PUBLIC BENEFIT REPORT

Purposes of the Charity	The purpose of the Company is to advance the theoretical and practical education of young people in Northern Ireland in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and promote greater understanding of industry, its essential role and service to the community and economy and encourage the establishment and development of partnerships between industry and education.
What the Charity has done during the year to carry out its purposes?	Despite the withdrawal of Department of Education funding at the end of May 2023, Sentinus continued to engage beneficiaries in curriculum relevant activity in science, technology, engineering and maths which helped them understand the importance of the STEM subjects and the impact of science and engineering on the modern world. Programmes delivered included: • Research & development projects; • Research projects; • Insight and careers programmes; • Celebration events for STEM project work; • STEM Workshops and challenges; • Digital Skills & Computer Programming workshops; • Provision of STEM resources and materials to support learning in STEM subjects; • Employability Skills programmes. In 2023-24 Sentinus worked with a total of 388 primary, post primary and special educational needs schools, engaging 35,071 young people, between the ages of 5 and 19 years. Outputs included 459 STEM and Digital Skills workshops, involving 23,837 pupils; 78 Employability Skills road shows involving 7,589 students. A total of 881 teacher engagements took place.
How have the activities provided benefit to its beneficiaries and how can this be demonstrated - the achievements of the Charity?	The direct benefits to beneficiaries from the activities of the Charity include: · improved scientific and technological skills and knowledge, allowing them to maximise learning in science and technology and understand the relevance of the STEM subjects to the world of work; · contextualisation of learning in STEM subjects; · increased awareness and understanding of the importance of the STEM subjects and their value to potential employers; · increased awareness of career opportunities within the STEM sector in Northern Ireland; · enhanced ability for beneficiaries to make informed career decisions; · enhanced interpersonal and employability skills. These benefits can be demonstrated through direct feedback from both teachers and young people involved in the programmes.
How has the Charity mitigated any harm flowing from its purposes?	No harm flowed from the purposes of the Charity.
How has the Charity ensured that any private benefit has been incidental to the public benefit?	No private benefit flowed from the Charity's activities.
Statement of compliance with the duty to have regard to the Commission's guidance	In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the Charity's purpose and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

cont'd.../

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE
SENTINUS STATISTICS 2023/2024

	2024	2023
Number of Pupils Involved	35,071	56,379
Number of Schools Involved	388	523
Number of Teachers Engagements	881	1,646
Number of Employability Skills Roadshows	78	62
Number of Pupils Participating in Employability Skills Programmes	7,589	14,095
Number of Digital Skills Roadshows	217	-
Number of Pupils Participating in Digital Skills Programmes	12,047	-
Number of STEM Roadshows	242	403
Number of Pupils Participating in STEM Roadshows	11,790	20,209

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR
The Statement of Financial Activities on page 7 is designed to reflect all incoming resources receivable in the year irrespective of when income is actually received. Total incoming resources for the year amounted to £237,052 (2023: £458,256). Total resources expended (including depreciation of fixed assets) of £402,167 (2023: £495,512) resulted in net outgoing resources for the year of £165,115 (2023: net outgoing resources of £37,255). There is no balance on restricted funds at the end of the year. The total balance on unrestricted funds at the year end was £794,805 (2023: £959,920) which is free and represents the reserves available to the Directors to help fulfill current and future plans.

RESERVES POLICY
Introduction
Financial reserves offer a mechanism to retain surpluses which are not distributed or spent shortly after an accounting year end, but rather retained to allow for any future reductions in income or unanticipated expenditure not provided for in annual budgets. The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable time scale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the financial statements.
Reserves do not include capital assets or funds which are restricted in use by conditions imposed by the donor.
The Charity Commission requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable timescale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the accounts.

Income
The Department of Education withdrew funding for Sentinus at the end of May 2023. Since that point, Sentinus' income has been generated from a range of sources. Without the core grant, income has reduced significantly and outgoings have exceed income in the last two years. Until Sentinus can replace the income lost as a result of the withdrawl of funding, reserves will be needed to cover the shortfall of income versus outgoings.

Expenditure
Trustees should consider the pattern of Sentinus' expenditure and the need for reserves to cover that expenditure in the event of a serious shortfall in income.
An immediate reduction in programme delivery may be possible for some projects. Other contracts, however, represent longer term commitments and would, therefore, be more difficult to terminate.
Certain costs are of a fixed nature in the short to medium term and will continue to be incurred regardless of the level of activity. The largest element of 'fixed' expenditure will be employee costs, followed normally by accommodation costs.

Assessment of Reserves Level
In determining the level of reserves required, it is necessary to assess how long it would take to wind up Sentinus and the cost to run it during this period, assuming a sustained fall in its level of income such that it no longer remained viable to continue to operate.
Allowance would also need to be made for termination costs such as redundancy and early settlement of leases and any legal and other professional fees arising during this process.
The trustees deem it prudent to set aside reserves representing approximately twelve months full costs and a provision for winding up the company to account for costs such as redundancy, leases outstanding on premises and any other contractual financial commitment. Reserves should be at least this level to ensure the charity can run efficiently and meet its legal requirements. Factors taken into account would include the need to cover fluctuations in income, current liabilities and unplanned expenditure.
The trustees calculate that the overall reserve provision as at 31st March 2024 should be no less than £750,671 (2021: £857,581).
The actual reserves at 31st March 2024 were £794,805 (2023: £959,920) which is £44,134 above the company's target minimum and c.105.9% (2023: 111.9%) of that minimum figure. Trustees will closely monitor the actual reserves each year to ensure they are maintained at an appropriate level.

cont'd.../

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS
The company plans continuing the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements

DIRECTORS
The directors who served during the year were:

- E Ackah
- M Baker (appointed 14/06/23)
- C Doran (appointed 14/06/23)
- T Edgar
- T Hedley
- J Moore
- R McBrine
- D McDonald (appointed 14/06/23)
- L McGirr (appointed 14/06/23)
- N McIlwaine
- D Phelan (appointed 14/06/23)
- R Pollock
- A Portis

The following were in attendance at Board Meetings during the year

- W Connor *Chief Executive and Statutory Company Secretary*

AUDITORS
Diamond & Skillen were appointed auditors to the company and are deemed to be re-appointed in accordance with Section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

By order of the Board

Tanya Hedley - Chair of Directors
12th June 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sentinus (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31st March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position 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 Charity's affairs as at 31st 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;
- 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 Charity 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 the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 19 to the financial statements, 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which theISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) have 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 Trustees' Annual Report [including the Strategic 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 accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

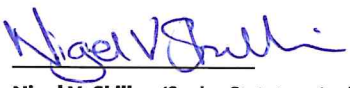
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Responsibilities of the trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 1, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they 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 Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our 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.
Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with UK law and International Standards on Auditing (UK). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's [(APB's)] Ethical Standards for Auditors including "APB Ethical Standard – Provisions Available for Small Entities (Revised)", in the circumstances set out in note 19 to the financialstatements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: 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 Charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Nigel V. Skillen (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House, 89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast, BT1 1FE

12th June 2024

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31st March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
REVENUE:					
from donations and legacies					
• Government Grants	4.1	74,000	-	**74,000**	322,178
from charitable activities:					
• Contract income	4.2	145,274	-	**145,274**	132,060
from other activities:					
• Other income		-	-	**0**	-
from investments:					
• Bank interest received	4.3	17,778	-	**17,778**	4,018
TOTAL REVENUE		237,052	0	**237,052**	458,256
EXPENDITURE:					
on raising funds					
• Promotion and marketing	5.1	1,129	-	**1,129**	4,205
on charitable activities					
• Charitable expenditure	5.2	332,837	-	**332,837**	433,391
on other items					
• Allocated support costs	5.3	68,201	-	**68,201**	57,915
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		402,167	0	**402,167**	495,511
Net (outgoing) resources		(165,115)	0	**(165,115)**	(37,255)
• Transfers between funds	17	-	-	**0**	-
Net movement in funds		(165,115)	0	**(165,115)**	(37,255)
Fund balances brought fwd at 1st April		959,920	-	**959,920**	997,175
Fund balances carried fwd at 31st March		794,805	0	**794,805**	959,920

The income and expenditure summary as required to be disclosed by the Companies Act 2006 is included at note 16.
All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.
The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus or deficit for the above two financial years.
The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Position
as at 31st March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
Non-Current Assets				
• Tangible assets	9		**408**	543
Current Assets				
• Receivables	10	**49,672**		148,662
• Cash at bank and in hand	11	**814,194**		909,083
		863,866		1,057,745
Payables: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(69,469)**		(98,368)
Net current assets			**794,397**	959,377
Payables: amounts falling due after more than one year			-	-
Total assets less current liabilities			**794,805**	959,920
The funds of the charity:				
Unrestricted income funds:				
• General fund	15		**794,805**	959,920
			794,805	959,920
Restricted income funds:				
• n/a	15		-	-
Total funds			**794,805**	959,920

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

For the year in question, the charitable company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act2006.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The trustee/directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 7 to 14 were approved by the Board of Trustee / Directors on 12th June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Tanya Hedley
Director, Chair of Directors

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1st January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Companies Act 2006.
Exemption has been taken from the requirement under FRS1 to prepare a cash flow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.
Sentinus meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102 and the Charities SORP. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Reconciliation with previously Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)

In preparing the accounts the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) the restatement of comparative items was required - No restatements were required.

1.3 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees are of the view that as the reserves of the charity are within the requirement of the charity's reserves policy, the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 to 18 months is secure and on that basis the charity is a going concern.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustee / directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. The fund comprises the accumulated surpluses and deficits of unrestricted income and expenditure.
Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of administering such funds are charges against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

1.5 Non Current Assets

Amounts greater than £10,000 spent on equipment and similar are recognised as fixed assets in the accounts.
Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.
Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of fixed assets over their anticipated useful lives.
Depreciation is provided at the following rates:

Fixtures and fittings	-	25% reducing balance

1.6 Income recognition policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:
- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- Any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- There is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; *and*
- The amount can be measured reliably

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Grants receivable

Grants receivable which relate to the year are credited to income within the Statement of Financial Activities, with unspent balances being carried forward to subsequent years within the relevant fund.
Specific debts are recognised where approved grant expenditure exceeds grant income received to date.
Grant income relating to future periods is carried forward under creditors.

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:
- Expenditure on raising funds comprises the costs of marketing and promoting the charity;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the direct costs allocated to the performance of educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs;
- Expenditure on other items represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between and "expenditure on charitable activities" and "expenditure on other items". The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 6.

1.8 Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable by the charity during the year. Contributions are invested separately from the company's assets.

1.9 Taxation

There is no liability to taxation due to the company's charitable status.

1.10 Receivables

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

1.11 Payables and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a 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 normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.12 Transition to FRS 102

The transition date was 1st April 2016.
There was no requirement to restate any comparative balances in making the transition to FRS 102.

2 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

3 EMPLOYEE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Wages and salaries	162,992	-	**162,992**	135,763
SMP recovery & NIC compensation payments	-	-	**0**	(644)
Social security costs	16,808	-	**16,808**	14,646
Employer Allowance	(5,000)	-	**(5,000)**	(5,000)
Other pension costs	14,798	-	**14,798**	13,487
	189,598	0	**189,598**	158,252

The average number of persons, including part-time staff, employed on UK contracts was 4 (2023: 4)
No trustee or director received any remuneration from the charity in the year (2023: £nil)
One employee was paid more than £60,000 in the year (2023: 1)
The amount of employer pension cost included in respect of employees paid more than £60,000 was £10,420 (2023: £10,420)

4 INCOME

4.1 from donations and legacies

GOVERNMENT GRANTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Department of Education, NI	54,000	-	**54,000**	300,000
Department of Education, NI - IT's your choice	-	-	**0**	22,178
Department for the Economy - Sentinus Digital Skills	20,000	-	**20,000**	-
	74,000	0	**74,000**	322,178

4.2 from charitable activities

CONTRACTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Belfast Metropolitan College - Bring IT On	27,783	-	**27,783**	-
Engineering UK - Big Bang	16,500	-	**16,500**	10,597
Engineering UK - Tomorrows Engineers	4,500	-	**4,500**	-
Instituion o f Engineering & Technology	5,700	-	**5,700**	-
Spirit Aerosystems	3,520	-	**3,520**	-
Queen's University, Belfast	8,538	-	**8,538**	8,932
Ulster Wool Group	2,075	-	**2,075**	-
Income from Events, Schemes, Roadshows and Workshops	75,658	-	**75,658**	112,531
Other	1,000	-	**1,000**	-
	145,274	0	**145,274**	132,060

4.3 from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Bank interest	17,778	-	**17,778**	4,018
	17,778	0	**17,778**	4,018

5 EXPENDITURE

5.1 on raising funds

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Promotion and marketing expenses	1,129	-	**1,129**	4,205
Business development	-	-	**0**	-
	1,129	0	**1,129**	4,205

5.2 on charitable activities

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Associates	95,405	-	**95,405**	210,635
Prizes & Bursaries	997	-	**997**	-
Travel & subsistence	22,849	-	**22,849**	26,795
Materials	29,040	-	**29,040**	23,010
Food and accommodation	1,014	-	**1,014**	7,280
Sundry project costs	826	-	**826**	-
Registration / subscription fees	35	-	**35**	35
	150,166	0	**150,166**	267,755

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Premises	23,248	-	**23,248**	25,543
General office	3,509	-	**3,509**	5,816
Information technology	8,976	-	**8,976**	9,951
Legal and professional	-	-	**0**	-
Salaries, wages and related costs	146,938	-	**146,938**	124,326
Bank charges	-	-	**0**	-
Depreciation	-	-	**0**	-
	182,671	0	**182,671**	165,636
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	332,837	0	**332,837**	433,391

5.3 on other items

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON OTHER ITEMS (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Premises	7,749	-	**7,749**	6,385
General office	1,170	-	**1,170**	1,454
Information technology	2,992	-	**2,992**	2,488
Legal and professional	13,151	-	**13,151**	13,151
Salaries, wages and related costs	42,660	-	**42,660**	33,908
Bank charges	343	-	**343**	348
Depreciation	136	-	**136**	181
	68,201	0	**68,201**	57,915

6 ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS	Charitable activities £	Other items £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £	***Basis of apportionment***
Premises costs	23,248	7,749	**30,997**	31,928	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
General office	3,509	1,170	**4,679**	7,270	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Information technology	8,976	2,992	**11,968**	12,439	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Legal and professional	-	13,151	**13,151**	13,151	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
Salaries, wages and related costs	146,938	42,660	**189,598**	158,234	*Based on staff activity*
Bank charges	-	343	**343**	348	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
Depreciation	-	136	**136**	181	*Allocated to other costs*
	182,671	68,201	**250,872**	223,551	

7 Net incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2024 £**	Totals 2023 £
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:				
Depreciation of fixed assets	136	-	**136**	181
Diamond & Skillen - Auditor's remuneration	3,600	-	**3,600**	3,600
Diamond & Skillen - Payroll Bureau	2,000	-	**2,000**	2,000
Diamond & Skillen - Accountancy & management accounts	7,500	-	**7,500**	7,500

8 Pension costs

The company operated defined contribution schemes in respect of its staff. The schemes and their assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents agreed employer contributions due from Sentinus and amounted to £14,798 (2023: £13,487)

9 Non Current assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	**Totals £**
Cost:		
At 1 April 2023	165,598	**165,598**
Additions	-	**0**
At 31 March 2024	165,598	**165,598**
Accumulated depreciation:		
At 1 April 2023	165,055	**165,055**
Charge for year	136	**136**
At 31 March 2024	165,191	**165,191**
Net book value:		
At 31st March 2024	**408**	**408**
At 31st March 2023	**543**	**543**

10 Receivables

	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Trade debtors	**46,311**	35,048
Other debtors	**3,361**	113,614
	49,672	148,662

11 Cash at bank and in hand

	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Petty Cash	**114**	114
Ulster Bank Ltd - Current Account	**(13,783)**	(16,456)
Ulster Bank Ltd - Liquidity Manager Account	**327,847**	925,409
Ulster Bank Ltd - TRO placement	**500,000**	925,409
Ulster Bank Ltd - 30-day Business Reserve	**16**	16
	814,194	1,834,492

An arrangement is in place for the Ulster Bank to automatically transfer surplus current account funds to the Liquidity Manager Account and also to transfer funds to the current account from the Liquidity Manager Account to meet all cheques when presented for payment. In this way, the running balance on the Current Account is kept to a minimum. For this reason, the directors deem it inappropriate to include a negative current account balance under creditors, since the actual balance on call is the sum of the Current Account and Liquidity Manager accounts.
As at 31st March 2024, there are £17,672-88 (2023: £17,672-88) of cheques written which have not been presented to the bank for payment. All of these were more than 12 months old.

12 Payables: amounts falling due within one year

	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Trade creditors	**13,396**	33,260
Accrued expenses	**54,573**	65,108
Income in advance	**1,500**	-
	69,469	98,368

13 Financial Commitments

At 31st March 2024 the company has no annual commitments under non-cancellable leases nor any other financial commitments that are not recognised in the accounts (2023: £nil). Sentinus has entered into a number of long term contracts for the supply of services all of which are cancellable. In 2019 the company signed a new 5-year lease to rent the premises at 19a Ballinderry Road, Lisburn at an annual rent of £21,000 pa. The potential liability on cancellation of this lease has been reflected in the company's capital requirement under its reserves policy disclosed in the Directors' Report on page 3 of these financial statements.

14 Analysis of charity net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Totals 2024 £
Fixed Assets	408	-	**408**
Current Assets	863,866	-	**863,866**
Current liabilities	(69,469)	-	**(69,469)**
	794,805	0	**794,805**

15 Statement of Funds

	At 1 Apr 2023 £	Income £	Exp. £	Investmnt Gains £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 2024 £
General fund	959,920	219,274	(402,167)	17,778	-	**794,805**
Total unrestricted	**959,920**	**219,274**	**(402,167)**	**17,778**	**0**	**794,805**
n/a	-	-	-	-	-	**0**
Total restricted	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total funds	**959,920**	**219,274**	**(402,167)**	**17,778**	**0**	**794,805**

The general fund represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

16 Income and expenditure summary

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross income	**237,052**	458,256
Resources expended		
Direct charitable expenditure	**150,166**	267,755
Administration costs	**252,001**	227,756
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources	**(165,115)**	(37,255)
(Deficit) for the year	**(165,115)**	(37,255)

The above reflects the Income and Expenditure accounts as required by the Companies Act 2006 as opposed to that required under he SORP as detailed on page 5. Detailed analyses of the expenditure are provided in the Statement of Financial Activities and note 5.

17 Transfer between funds

There were no transfers between the funds this accounting year.

18 Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions with related parties in the year.

19 Disclosure of relevant circumstances

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to:

i. prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities;
ii. assist with the preparation of the financial statements; *and*
iii. prepare and submit payroll calculations to HM Revenue & Customs.

During the year our auditors also assisted with the preparation of quarterly management accounts for perusal of the Board.

SENTINUS

Detailed income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31st March 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
TURNOVER				
Income		219,274		454,238
COST OF SALES				
Project costs		(150,166)		(267,755)
GROSS SURPLUS		69,108		186,483
OTHER INCOME				
Deposit account interest		17,778		4,018
Sundry income		-		-
		86,886		190,501
EXPENDITURE				
Employee costs	189,598		158,234	
Rent	21,000		21,000	
Rates, water rates and sewerage costs	-		-	
Insurance	5,260		6,126	
Light & Heat	2,256		2,682	
Repairs and maintenance	2,490		2,245	
Printing, postage and stationery	998		3,247	
Advertising / PR	1,129		4,205	
Business Development	-		-	
Telephone	3,672		3,897	
Computer and IT costs	11,967		12,439	
Accountancy and audit	13,100		13,100	
Sundry expenses	52		52	
Legal and professional fees	-	251,522	-	227,227
Total resources expended		(164,636)		(36,726)
Finance costs				
Bank charges		343		348
		(164,979)		(37,074)
Depreciation				
Fixtures and fittings		136		181
NET (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS		(165,115)		(37,255)

THIS PAGE DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sentinus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102064

Accounts

Company Registration Number: **NI020310**
HMRC Charity Registration Number: **XN86071**
The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration Number: **NIC102064**

SENTINUS

(a company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023

Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House, 89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast BT1 1FE

Sentinus
Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

SENTINUS

Company Information for 2023/2024

Trustee / Directors	Tanya Hedley (chair) Elizabeth Ackah Tom Edgar James Moore Roy McBrine Neil McIlwaine Raymond Pollock Aaron Portis
Company Secretary	William Connor MBE
Company Number	NI020310
Registered Office	19a Ballinderry Road Lisburn Co Antrim BT28 2SA
Auditors	Diamond & Skillen Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor Sinclair House 89/101 Royal Avenue Belfast BT1 1FE
Bankers	Ulster Bank Ltd 11/16 Donegall Square East Belfast BT1 5UB
Solicitors	Cunningham and Dickey 68 Upper Church Lane Belfast BT1 4LG
Chief Executive	William Connor MBE

SENTINUS

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Statement of Financial Position	8
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The following page does not form part of the statutory financial statements:	
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	15

The Trustees (who are also the Board of Directors of the company) are pleased to submit their annual Directors' Report together with the audited financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31st March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and also to meet the requirements for accounts for the purposes of The Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). The present Trustee / Directors, and any past Trustee / Directors who served during the year, are given on page 3, together with the names of the charity's external advisors.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

General

Sentinus is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 23rd March 1987, amended 3rd December 1987 to reflect current governance arrangements and amended 4th May 2001 for change of company name. The company adopted a new Memorandum and Articles of Association on 19th January 2015 in accordance with guidance issued by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland
In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Trustee / Directors

Each Trustee of the company sits on the Board of Directors. This Board is responsible for the overall governance of the Company. Trustee / Directors are appointed by the Chairman. The total number of trustee / directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less then two.

The Board delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the Company to the Chief Executive. This is controlled by regular reporting back to the Board, so that all decisions made under delegated powers can be ratified by the full Board in due course.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of the company's affairs.

The company adopted a Governance Framework which was implemented in March 2008.

Statement of Trustee / Directors' Responsibilities and Corporate Governance

The Trustee / Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company produces proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the Company is operating efficiently and effectively;
- all assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Company, or for publication, is reliable;
- the Company complies with relevant laws and regulations.

Internal controls over all forms of commitment and expenditure continue to be reviewed to improve efficiency.

Processes are in place to ensure that performance is monitored and the appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed on an ongoing basis by executive management and quarterly by the Board of Trustee / Directors.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurances against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and annual budget approved by the Trustee / Directors;
- regular consideration by the Trustee / Directors of financial results, variances from budget, non financial performance indicators and bench marking reviews;
- delegation of day to day management authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

In accordance with company law the Directors certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and
- as the Trustees and Directors of the Company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

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Risk Management
During the year the Directors have considered and examined the major risks that face the charity and established strategies that will mitigate the impact they may have on the charity's future. This process will be continued on an ongoing basis for each financial year.

Public Benefit Report

OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY
In accordance with the Memorandum of Association the objects for which the Company is established are:
Promotion and participation in liaison activities between industry and education.
The strategies employed to achieve the company's objectives included:

- Developing and deepening the existing partnerships with the education sector by organising activities and projects involving students directly with industry.

PUBLIC BENEFIT REPORT

Purposes of the Charity	The purpose of the Company is to advance the theoretical and practical education of young people in Northern Ireland in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and promote greater understanding of industry, its essential role and service to the community and economy and encourage the establishment and development of partnerships between industry and education.
What the Charity has done during the year to carry out its purposes?	In the early part of the financial year the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the work of the charity, with schools slow to return to normal operating conditions. However, as the year progressed, and by September, the situation had returned to normal and much face to face interaction with beneficiaries took place from that point forward. Sentinus continued to engage beneficiaries in curriculum relevant activity in science, technology, engineering and maths which helped them understand the importance of the STEM subjects and the impact of science and engineering on the modern world. Programmes delivered included: · Research & development projects; · Research projects; · Insight and careers programmes; · Celebration events for STEM project work; · STEM roadshows and challenges; · STEM workshops; · Provision of STEM resources and materials to support learning in STEM subjects. In 2022-23 Sentinus worked with a total of 523 primary, post primary and special educational needs schools, engaging 56,379 young people, between the ages of 5 and 19 years. These outputs included 403 STEM workshops, involving 20,209 pupils 62 Employability Skills road shows involving 14,095 students. A total of 1,646 teacher engagements took place.
How have the activities provided benefit to its beneficiaries and how can this be demonstrated - the achievements of the Charity?	The direct benefits to beneficiaries from the activities of the Charity include: · improved scientific and technological skills and knowledge, allowing them to maximise learning in science and technology and understand the relevance of the STEM subjects to the world of work; · contextualisation of learning in STEM subjects; · increased awareness and understanding of the importance of the STEM subjects and their value to potential employers; · increased awareness of career opportunities within the STEM sector in Northern Ireland; · enhanced ability for beneficiaries to make informed career decisions; · enhanced interpersonal and employability skills. These benefits can be demonstrated through direct feedback from both teachers and young people involved in the programmes.
How has the Charity mitigated any harm flowing from its purposes?	No harm flowed from the purposes of the Charity.
How has the Charity ensured that any private benefit has been incidental to the public benefit?	No private benefit flowed from the Charity's activities.
Statement of compliance with the duty to have regard to the Commission's guidance	In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the Charity's purpose and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE
SENTINUS STATISTICS 2022/2023

	2023	2022
Numbers of Pupils Involved	56,379	43,817
Numbers of Schools Involved	523	515
Numbers of Teachers Engagements	1,646	457
Numbers of Employability Skills Roadshows	62	44
Numbers of Pupils Participating in Employability Skills Programmes	14,095	2,384
Numbers of STEM Roadshows	403	357
Numbers of Pupils Participating in STEM Roadshows	20,209	13,090

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

The Statement of Financial Activities on page 7 is designed to reflect all incoming resources receivable in the year irrespective of when income is actually received. Total incoming resources for the year amounted to £458,256 (2022: £599,360). Total resources expended (including depreciation of fixed assets) of £495,512 (2022: £529,026) resulted in net outgoing resources for the year of £37,255 (2022: net incoming resources of £70,334). There is no balance on restricted funds at the end of the year. The total balance on unrestricted funds at the year end was £959,920 (2022: £997,175) which is free and represents the reserves available to the Directors to help fulfill current and future plans.

RESERVES POLICY

Introduction

Financial reserves offer a mechanism to retain surpluses which are not distributed or spent shortly after an accounting year end, but rather retained to allow for any future reductions in income or unanticipated expenditure not provided for in annual budgets. The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable time scale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the financial statements.
Reserves do not include capital assets or funds which are restricted in use by conditions imposed by the donor.
The Charity Commission requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable timescale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the accounts.

Income

Currently a core grant from the Department of Education represents more than 50% of Sentinus' income, with the remaining being generated from a wide range of other sources. If income from any of these sources, and in particular the Department of Education, reduced significantly Sentinus would experience financial difficulties. If the fall was of a temporary nature caused by a delay in reviewing contractual arrangements, then reserves would be needed to cover the income lost during the temporary period.

Expenditure

Trustees should consider the pattern of Sentinus' expenditure and the need for reserves to cover that expenditure in the event of a serious shortfall in income.
An immediate reduction in programme delivery may be possible for some projects. Other contracts, however, represent longer term commitments and would, therefore, be more difficult to terminate.
Certain costs are of a fixed nature in the short to medium term and will continue to be incurred regardless of the level of activity. The largest element of 'fixed' expenditure will be employee costs, followed normally by accommodation costs.

Assessment of Reserves Level

In determining the level of reserves required, it is necessary to assess how long it would take to wind up Sentinus and the cost to run it during this period, assuming a major fall in its level of income such that it no longer remained viable to continue to operate.
Allowance would also need to be made for termination costs such as redundancy and early settlement of leases and any legal and other professional fees arising during this process.
The trustees deem it prudent to set aside reserves representing approximately twelve months full costs and a provision for winding up the company to account for costs such as redundancy, leases outstanding on premises and any other contractual financial commitment. Reserves should be at least this level to ensure the charity can run efficiently and meet its legal requirements. Factors taken into account would include the need to cover fluctuations in income, current liabilities and unplanned expenditure.
The trustees calculate that the overall reserve provision as at 31st March 2023 should be no less than £857,581 (2021: £965,649).
The actual reserves at 31st March 2023 were £959,920 (2021: £997,175) which is £102,339 above the company's target minimum and c.111.9% (2022: 103.25%) of that minimum figure. Trustees will closely monitor the actual reserves each year to ensure they are maintained at an appropriate level.

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PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS
The company plans continuing the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements

DIRECTORS
The directors who served during the year were:
- E Ackah
- C Cunningham (resigned 1/11/22)
- T Edgar
- T Hedley
- V Jordan (resigned 1/11/22)
- J Moore
- R McBrine
- N McIlwaine
- R Pollock
- A Portis
- J Stewart (resigned 1/11/22)

The following were in attendance at Board Meetings during the year
- W Connor *Chief Executive and Statutory Company Secretary*

AUDITORS
Diamond & Skillen were appointed auditors to the company and are deemed to be re-appointed in accordance with Section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

By order of the Board

_____
Tanya Hedley - Chair of Directors
14th June 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sentinus (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31st March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position 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 Charity's affairs as at 31st March 2023 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;
- 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 Charity 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 the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 19 to the financial statements, 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which theISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) have 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 Trustees' Annual Report [including the Strategic 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 accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

cont'd.../

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 1, the trustees 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 they 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 Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: 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 Charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

_____

Nigel V. Skillen (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House, 89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast, BT1 1FE

14th June 2023

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31st March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
REVENUE:					
from donations and legacies					
• Government Grants	4.1	322,178	-	**322,178**	464,996
from charitable activities:					
• Contract income	4.2	132,060	-	**132,060**	134,274
from other activities:					
• Other income		-	-	**0**	-
from investments:					
• Bank interest received	4.3	4,018	-	**4,018**	90
TOTAL REVENUE		458,256	0	**458,256**	599,360
EXPENDITURE:					
on raising funds					
• Promotion and marketing	5.1	4,205	-	**4,205**	2,381
on charitable activities					
• Charitable expenditure	5.2	433,391	-	**433,391**	469,801
on other items					
• Allocated support costs	5.3	57,915	-	**57,915**	56,844
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		495,511	0	**495,511**	529,026
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		(37,255)	0	**(37,255)**	70,334
• Transfers between funds	17	-	-	**0**	-
Net movement in funds		(37,255)	0	**(37,255)**	70,334
Fund balances brought fwd at 1st April		997,175	-	**997,175**	926,841
Fund balances carried fwd at 31st March		959,920	0	**959,920**	997,175

The income and expenditure summary as required to be disclosed by the Companies Act 2006 is included at note 16.
All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.
The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus or deficit for the above two financial years.
The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Position
as at 31st March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
Non-Current Assets				
• Tangible assets	9		**543**	724
Current Assets				
• Receivables	10	**148,662**		168,375
• Cash at bank and in hand	11	**909,083**		922,745
		1,057,745		1,091,120
Payables: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(98,368)**		(94,669)
Net current assets			**959,377**	996,451
Payables: amounts falling due after more than one year			**-**	-
Total assets less current liabilities			**959,920**	997,175
The funds of the charity:				
Unrestricted income funds:				
• General fund	15		**959,920**	997,175
			959,920	997,175
Restricted income funds:				
• n/a	15		**-**	-
Total funds			**959,920**	997,175

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 7 to 14 were approved by the Board of Trustee / Directors on14th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

_____

Tanya Hedley
Director, Chair of Directors

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1st January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Companies Act 2006.
Exemption has been taken from the requirement under FRS1 to prepare a cash flow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.
Sentinus meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102 and the Charities SORP. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Reconciliation with previously Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)

In preparing the accounts the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) the restatement of comparative items was required - No restatements were required.

1.3 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees are of the view that as the reserves of the charity are within the requirement of the charity's reserves policy, the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 to 18 months is secure and on that basis the charity is a going concern.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustee / directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. The fund comprises the accumulated surpluses and deficits of unrestricted income and expenditure.
Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of administering such funds are charges against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

1.5 Non Current Assets

Amounts greater than £10,000 spent on equipment and similar are recognised as fixed assets in the accounts**.**
Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.
Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of fixed assets over their anticipated useful lives.
Depreciation is provided at the following rates:

Fixtures and fittings	-	25% reducing balance

1.6 Income recognition policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:
- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- Any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- There is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; *and*
- The amount can be measured reliably

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Grants receivable

Grants receivable which relate to the year are credited to income within the Statement of Financial Activities, with unspent balances being carried forward to subsequent years within the relevant fund.
Specific debts are recognised where approved grant expenditure exceeds grant income received to date.
Grant income relating to future periods is carried forward under creditors.

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:
- Expenditure on raising funds comprises the costs of marketing and promoting the charity;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the direct costs allocated to the performance of educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs;
- Expenditure on other items represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between and "expenditure on charitable activities" and "expenditure on other items". The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 6.

1.8 Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable by the charity during the year. Contributions are invested separately from the company's assets.

1.9 Taxation

There is no liability to taxation due to the company's charitable status.

1.10 Receivables

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

1.11 Payables and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a 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 normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.12 Transition to FRS 102

The transition date was 1st April 2016.
There was no requirement to restate any comparative balances in making the transition to FRS 102.

2 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

3 EMPLOYEE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Wages and salaries	135,763	-	**135,763**	136,091
SMP recovery & NIC compensation payments	(644)	-	**(644)**	(6,827)
Social security costs	14,646	-	**14,646**	13,603
Employer Allowance	(5,000)	-	**(5,000)**	(4,000)
Other pension costs	13,487	-	**13,487**	12,098
	158,252	0	**158,252**	150,965

The average number of persons, including part-time staff, employed on UK contracts was 5 (2022: 5)
No trustee or director received any remuneration from the charity in the year (2022: £nil)
One employee was paid more than £60,000 in the year (2022: 1)
The amount of employer pension cost included in respect of employees paid more than £60,000 was £10,420 (2022: £9,831)

4 INCOME

4.1 from donations and legacies

GOVERNMENT GRANTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Department of Education, NI	300,000	-	**300,000**	300,000
Department of Education, NI - IT's your choice	22,178	-	**22,178**	54,800
Department of Education, NI - NI 100	-	-	**0**	74,710
Department for the Economy - STEM events programme	-	-	**0**	35,486
	322,178	0	**322,178**	464,996

4.2 from charitable activities

CONTRACTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Belfast Metropolitan College - Bring IT On	-	-	**0**	6,889
Charities Aid Foundation	-	-	**0**	1,000
Engineering UK - Big Bang	10,597	-	**10,597**	7,500
Ernest Cook Trust	-	-	**0**	2,000
Nuffield Curriculum Project Centre - Nuffield Research Placements	-	-	**0**	32,350
Sentinus Research Placements	-	-	**0**	4,300
Queen's University, Belfast	8,932	-	**8,932**	-
Society for Science - Broadcom Masters	-	-	**0**	1,361
Income from Events, Schemes, Roadshows and Workshops	112,531	-	**112,531**	78,874
Other	-	-	**0**	-
	132,060	0	**132,060**	134,274

4.3 from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Bank interest	4,018	-	**4,018**	90
	4,018	0	**4,018**	90

5 EXPENDITURE

5.1 on raising funds

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Promotion and marketing expenses	4,205	-	**4,205**	2,381
Business development	-	-	**0**	-
	4,205	0	**4,205**	2,381

5.2 on charitable activities

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Associates	210,635	-	**210,635**	188,555
Prizes & Bursaries	-	-	**0**	1,642
Travel & subsistence	26,795	-	**26,795**	18,786
Materials	23,010	-	**23,010**	98,323
Food and accommodation	7,280	-	**7,280**	1,363
Sundry project costs	-	-	**0**	100
Project support	-	-	**0**	-
Registration / subscription fees	35	-	**35**	35
	267,755	0	**267,755**	308,804

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Premises	25,543	-	**25,543**	25,898
General office	5,816	-	**5,816**	3,927
Information technology	9,951	-	**9,951**	12,625
Legal and professional	-	-	**0**	-
Salaries, wages and related costs	124,326	-	**124,326**	118,547
Bank charges	-	-	**0**	-
Depreciation	-	-	**0**	-
	165,636	0	**165,636**	160,997
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	433,391	0	**433,391**	469,801

5.3 on other items

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON OTHER ITEMS (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Premises	6,385	-	**6,385**	6,474
General office	1,454	-	**1,454**	982
Information technology	2,488	-	**2,488**	3,156
Legal and professional	13,151	-	**13,151**	13,100
Salaries, wages and related costs	33,908	-	**33,908**	32,418
Bank charges	348	-	**348**	472
Depreciation	181	-	**181**	242
	57,915	0	**57,915**	56,844

6 ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS	Charitable activities £	Other items £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £	***Basis of apportionment***
Premises costs	25,543	6,385	**31,928**	32,372	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
General office	5,816	1,454	**7,270**	4,909	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Information technology	9,951	2,488	**12,439**	15,781	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Legal and professional	-	13,151	**13,151**	13,100	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
Salaries, wages and related costs	124,326	33,908	**158,234**	150,965	*Based on staff activity*
Bank charges	-	348	**348**	472	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
Depreciation	-	181	**181**	242	*Allocated to other costs*
	165,636	57,915	**223,551**	217,841	

7 Net incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:				
Depreciation of fixed assets	242	-	**242**	242
Diamond & Skillen - Auditor's remuneration	3,600	-	**3,600**	3,600
Diamond & Skillen - Payroll Bureau	2,000	-	**2,000**	2,000
Diamond & Skillen - Accountancy & management accounts	7,500	-	**7,500**	7,500

8 Pension costs

The company operated defined contribution schemes in respect of its staff. The schemes and their assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents agreed employer contributions due from Sentinus and amounted to £13,487 (2022: £12,098)

9 Non Current assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	**Totals £**
Cost:		
At 1 April 2022	165,598	**165,598**
Additions	-	**0**
At 31 March 2023	165,598	**165,598**
Accumulated depreciation:		
At 1 April 2022	164,874	**164,874**
Charge for year	181	**181**
At 31 March 2023	165,055	**165,055**
Net book value:		
At 31st March 2023	**543**	**543**
At 31st March 2022	**724**	**724**

10 Receivables

	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Trade debtors	**35,048**	47,025
Other debtors	**113,614**	121,350
	148,662	168,375

11 Cash at bank and in hand

	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Petty Cash	**114**	114
Ulster Bank Ltd - Current Account	**(16,456)**	(18,856)
Ulster Bank Ltd - Liquidity Manager Account	**925,409**	941,471
Ulster Bank Ltd - 30-day Business Reserve	**16**	16
	909,083	922,745

An arrangement is in place for the Ulster Bank to automatically transfer surplus current account funds to the Liquidity Manager Account and also to transfer funds to the current account from the Liquidity Manager Account to meet all cheques when presented for payment. In this way, the running balance on the Current Account is kept to a minimum. For this reason, the directors deem it inappropriate to include a negative current account balance under creditors, since the actual balance on call is the sum of the Current Account and Liquidity Manager accounts.
As at 31st March 2023, there are £17,672-88 (2022: £17,672-88) of cheques written which have not been presented to the bank for payment. All of these were more than 6 months old.

12 Payables: amounts falling due within one year

	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Trade creditors	**33,260**	11,324
Accrued expenses	**65,108**	78,345
Income in advance	**-**	5,000
	98,368	94,669

13 Financial Commitments

At 31st March 2023 the company has no annual commitments under non-cancellable leases nor any other financial commitments that are not recognised in the accounts (2022: £nil). Sentinus has entered into a number of long term contracts for the supply of services all of which are cancellable. In 2019 the company signed a new 5-year lease to rent the premises at 19a Ballinderry Road, Lisburn at an annual rent of £21,000 pa. The potential liability on cancellation of this lease has been reflected in the company's capital requirement under its reserves policy disclosed in the Directors' Report on page 3 of these financial statements.

14 Analysis of charity net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**
Fixed Assets	543	-	**543**
Current Assets	1,057,745	-	**1,057,745**
Current liabilities	(98,368)	-	**(98,368)**
	959,920	0	**959,920**

15 Statement of Funds

	At 1 Apr 2022 £	Income £	Exp. £	Investmnt Gains £	Transfers £	**At 31 Mar 2023 £**
General fund	997,175	454,238	(495,511)	4,018	-	**959,920**
Total unrestricted	**997,175**	**454,238**	**(495,511)**	**4,018**	**0**	**959,920**
n/a	-	-	-	-	-	**0**
Total restricted	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total funds	**997,175**	**454,238**	**(495,511)**	**4,018**	**0**	**959,920**

The general fund represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

16 Income and expenditure summary

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross income	**458,256**	599,360
Resources expended		
Direct charitable expenditure	**267,755**	308,804
Administration costs	**227,756**	220,222
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources	**(37,255)**	70,334
Surplus for the year	**(37,255)**	70,334

The above reflects the Income and Expenditure accounts as required by the Companies Act 2006 as opposed to that required under the SORP as detailed on page 5. Detailed analyses of the expenditure are provided in the Statement of Financial Activities and note 5.

17 Transfer between funds

There were no transfers between the funds this accounting year.

18 Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions with related parties in the year.

19 Disclosure of relevant circumstances

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to:

i. prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities;
ii. assist with the preparation of the financial statements; *and*
iii. prepare and submit payroll calculations to HM Revenue & Customs.

During the year our auditors also assisted with the preparation of quarterly management accounts for perusal of the Board.

SENTINUS

Detailed income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31st March 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
TURNOVER				
Income		454,238		599,270
COST OF SALES				
Project costs		(267,755)		(308,804)
GROSS SURPLUS		186,483		290,466
OTHER INCOME				
Deposit account interest		4,018		90
Sundry income		-		-
		190,501		290,556
EXPENDITURE				
Employee costs	158,234		150,965	
Rent	21,000		21,000	
Rates, water rates and sewerage costs	-		-	
Insurance	6,126		6,860	
Light & Heat	2,682		1,975	
Repairs and maintenance	2,245		2,537	
Printing, postage and stationery	3,247		1,223	
Advertising / PR	4,205		2,381	
Business Development	-		-	
Telephone	3,897		3,686	
Computer and IT costs	12,439		15,781	
Accountancy and audit	13,100		13,100	
Sundry expenses	52		-	
Legal and professional fees	-	227,227	-	219,508
Total resources expended		(36,726)		71,048
Finance costs				
Bank charges		348		472
		(37,074)		70,576
Depreciation				
Fixtures and fittings		181		242
NET (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS		(37,255)		70,334

THIS PAGE DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sentinus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102064

Annual report

Company Registration Number: **NI020310**
HMRC Charity Registration Number: **XN86071**
The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration Number: **NIC102064**

SENTINUS

(a company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023

Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House, 89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast BT1 1FE

Sentinus
Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

SENTINUS

Company Information for 2023/2024

Trustee / Directors	Tanya Hedley (chair) Elizabeth Ackah Tom Edgar James Moore Roy McBrine Neil McIlwaine Raymond Pollock Aaron Portis
Company Secretary	William Connor MBE
Company Number	NI020310
Registered Office	19a Ballinderry Road Lisburn Co Antrim BT28 2SA
Auditors	Diamond & Skillen Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor Sinclair House 89/101 Royal Avenue Belfast BT1 1FE
Bankers	Ulster Bank Ltd 11/16 Donegall Square East Belfast BT1 5UB
Solicitors	Cunningham and Dickey 68 Upper Church Lane Belfast BT1 4LG
Chief Executive	William Connor MBE

SENTINUS

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Statement of Financial Position	8
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The following page does not form part of the statutory financial statements:	
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	15

The Trustees (who are also the Board of Directors of the company) are pleased to submit their annual Directors' Report together with the audited financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31st March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and also to meet the requirements for accounts for the purposes of The Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). The present Trustee / Directors, and any past Trustee / Directors who served during the year, are given on page 3, together with the names of the charity's external advisors.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

General

Sentinus is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 23rd March 1987, amended 3rd December 1987 to reflect current governance arrangements and amended 4th May 2001 for change of company name. The company adopted a new Memorandum and Articles of Association on 19th January 2015 in accordance with guidance issued by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland
In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Trustee / Directors

Each Trustee of the company sits on the Board of Directors. This Board is responsible for the overall governance of the Company. Trustee / Directors are appointed by the Chairman. The total number of trustee / directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less then two.

The Board delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the Company to the Chief Executive. This is controlled by regular reporting back to the Board, so that all decisions made under delegated powers can be ratified by the full Board in due course.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of the company's affairs.

The company adopted a Governance Framework which was implemented in March 2008.

Statement of Trustee / Directors' Responsibilities and Corporate Governance

The Trustee / Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company produces proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the Company is operating efficiently and effectively;
- all assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Company, or for publication, is reliable;
- the Company complies with relevant laws and regulations.

Internal controls over all forms of commitment and expenditure continue to be reviewed to improve efficiency.

Processes are in place to ensure that performance is monitored and the appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed on an ongoing basis by executive management and quarterly by the Board of Trustee / Directors.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurances against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and annual budget approved by the Trustee / Directors;
- regular consideration by the Trustee / Directors of financial results, variances from budget, non financial performance indicators and bench marking reviews;
- delegation of day to day management authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

In accordance with company law the Directors certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and
- as the Trustees and Directors of the Company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

cont'd.../

Risk Management
During the year the Directors have considered and examined the major risks that face the charity and established strategies that will mitigate the impact they may have on the charity's future. This process will be continued on an ongoing basis for each financial year.

Public Benefit Report

OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY
In accordance with the Memorandum of Association the objects for which the Company is established are:
Promotion and participation in liaison activities between industry and education.
The strategies employed to achieve the company's objectives included:

- Developing and deepening the existing partnerships with the education sector by organising activities and projects involving students directly with industry.

PUBLIC BENEFIT REPORT

Purposes of the Charity	The purpose of the Company is to advance the theoretical and practical education of young people in Northern Ireland in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and promote greater understanding of industry, its essential role and service to the community and economy and encourage the establishment and development of partnerships between industry and education.
What the Charity has done during the year to carry out its purposes?	In the early part of the financial year the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the work of the charity, with schools slow to return to normal operating conditions. However, as the year progressed, and by September, the situation had returned to normal and much face to face interaction with beneficiaries took place from that point forward. Sentinus continued to engage beneficiaries in curriculum relevant activity in science, technology, engineering and maths which helped them understand the importance of the STEM subjects and the impact of science and engineering on the modern world. Programmes delivered included: · Research & development projects; · Research projects; · Insight and careers programmes; · Celebration events for STEM project work; · STEM roadshows and challenges; · STEM workshops; · Provision of STEM resources and materials to support learning in STEM subjects. In 2022-23 Sentinus worked with a total of 523 primary, post primary and special educational needs schools, engaging 56,379 young people, between the ages of 5 and 19 years. These outputs included 403 STEM workshops, involving 20,209 pupils 62 Employability Skills road shows involving 14,095 students. A total of 1,646 teacher engagements took place.
How have the activities provided benefit to its beneficiaries and how can this be demonstrated - the achievements of the Charity?	The direct benefits to beneficiaries from the activities of the Charity include: · improved scientific and technological skills and knowledge, allowing them to maximise learning in science and technology and understand the relevance of the STEM subjects to the world of work; · contextualisation of learning in STEM subjects; · increased awareness and understanding of the importance of the STEM subjects and their value to potential employers; · increased awareness of career opportunities within the STEM sector in Northern Ireland; · enhanced ability for beneficiaries to make informed career decisions; · enhanced interpersonal and employability skills. These benefits can be demonstrated through direct feedback from both teachers and young people involved in the programmes.
How has the Charity mitigated any harm flowing from its purposes?	No harm flowed from the purposes of the Charity.
How has the Charity ensured that any private benefit has been incidental to the public benefit?	No private benefit flowed from the Charity's activities.
Statement of compliance with the duty to have regard to the Commission's guidance	In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the Charity's purpose and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE
SENTINUS STATISTICS 2022/2023

	2023	2022
Numbers of Pupils Involved	56,379	43,817
Numbers of Schools Involved	523	515
Numbers of Teachers Engagements	1,646	457
Numbers of Employability Skills Roadshows	62	44
Numbers of Pupils Participating in Employability Skills Programmes	14,095	2,384
Numbers of STEM Roadshows	403	357
Numbers of Pupils Participating in STEM Roadshows	20,209	13,090

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

The Statement of Financial Activities on page 7 is designed to reflect all incoming resources receivable in the year irrespective of when income is actually received. Total incoming resources for the year amounted to £458,256 (2022: £599,360). Total resources expended (including depreciation of fixed assets) of £495,512 (2022: £529,026) resulted in net outgoing resources for the year of £37,255 (2022: net incoming resources of £70,334). There is no balance on restricted funds at the end of the year. The total balance on unrestricted funds at the year end was £959,920 (2022: £997,175) which is free and represents the reserves available to the Directors to help fulfill current and future plans.

RESERVES POLICY

Introduction

Financial reserves offer a mechanism to retain surpluses which are not distributed or spent shortly after an accounting year end, but rather retained to allow for any future reductions in income or unanticipated expenditure not provided for in annual budgets. The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable time scale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the financial statements.
Reserves do not include capital assets or funds which are restricted in use by conditions imposed by the donor.
The Charity Commission requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable timescale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the accounts.

Income

Currently a core grant from the Department of Education represents more than 50% of Sentinus' income, with the remaining being generated from a wide range of other sources. If income from any of these sources, and in particular the Department of Education, reduced significantly Sentinus would experience financial difficulties. If the fall was of a temporary nature caused by a delay in reviewing contractual arrangements, then reserves would be needed to cover the income lost during the temporary period.

Expenditure

Trustees should consider the pattern of Sentinus' expenditure and the need for reserves to cover that expenditure in the event of a serious shortfall in income.
An immediate reduction in programme delivery may be possible for some projects. Other contracts, however, represent longer term commitments and would, therefore, be more difficult to terminate.
Certain costs are of a fixed nature in the short to medium term and will continue to be incurred regardless of the level of activity. The largest element of 'fixed' expenditure will be employee costs, followed normally by accommodation costs.

Assessment of Reserves Level

In determining the level of reserves required, it is necessary to assess how long it would take to wind up Sentinus and the cost to run it during this period, assuming a major fall in its level of income such that it no longer remained viable to continue to operate.
Allowance would also need to be made for termination costs such as redundancy and early settlement of leases and any legal and other professional fees arising during this process.
The trustees deem it prudent to set aside reserves representing approximately twelve months full costs and a provision for winding up the company to account for costs such as redundancy, leases outstanding on premises and any other contractual financial commitment. Reserves should be at least this level to ensure the charity can run efficiently and meet its legal requirements. Factors taken into account would include the need to cover fluctuations in income, current liabilities and unplanned expenditure.
The trustees calculate that the overall reserve provision as at 31st March 2023 should be no less than £857,581 (2021: £965,649).
The actual reserves at 31st March 2023 were £959,920 (2021: £997,175) which is £102,339 above the company's target minimum and c.111.9% (2022: 103.25%) of that minimum figure. Trustees will closely monitor the actual reserves each year to ensure they are maintained at an appropriate level.

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PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS
The company plans continuing the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements

DIRECTORS
The directors who served during the year were:
- E Ackah
- C Cunningham (resigned 1/11/22)
- T Edgar
- T Hedley
- V Jordan (resigned 1/11/22)
- J Moore
- R McBrine
- N McIlwaine
- R Pollock
- A Portis
- J Stewart (resigned 1/11/22)

The following were in attendance at Board Meetings during the year
- W Connor *Chief Executive and Statutory Company Secretary*

AUDITORS
Diamond & Skillen were appointed auditors to the company and are deemed to be re-appointed in accordance with Section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

By order of the Board

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Tanya Hedley - Chair of Directors
14th June 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sentinus (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31st March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position 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 Charity's affairs as at 31st March 2023 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;
- 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 Charity 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 the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 19 to the financial statements, 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which theISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) have 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 Trustees' Annual Report [including the Strategic 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 accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

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Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 1, the trustees 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 they 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 Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: 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 Charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

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Nigel V. Skillen (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House, 89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast, BT1 1FE

14th June 2023

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31st March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
REVENUE:					
from donations and legacies					
• Government Grants	4.1	322,178	-	**322,178**	464,996
from charitable activities:					
• Contract income	4.2	132,060	-	**132,060**	134,274
from other activities:					
• Other income		-	-	**0**	-
from investments:					
• Bank interest received	4.3	4,018	-	**4,018**	90
TOTAL REVENUE		458,256	0	**458,256**	599,360
EXPENDITURE:					
on raising funds					
• Promotion and marketing	5.1	4,205	-	**4,205**	2,381
on charitable activities					
• Charitable expenditure	5.2	433,391	-	**433,391**	469,801
on other items					
• Allocated support costs	5.3	57,915	-	**57,915**	56,844
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		495,511	0	**495,511**	529,026
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		(37,255)	0	**(37,255)**	70,334
• Transfers between funds	17	-	-	**0**	-
Net movement in funds		(37,255)	0	**(37,255)**	70,334
Fund balances brought fwd at 1st April		997,175	-	**997,175**	926,841
Fund balances carried fwd at 31st March		959,920	0	**959,920**	997,175

The income and expenditure summary as required to be disclosed by the Companies Act 2006 is included at note 16.
All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.
The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus or deficit for the above two financial years.
The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Position
as at 31st March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
Non-Current Assets				
• Tangible assets	9		**543**	724
Current Assets				
• Receivables	10	**148,662**		168,375
• Cash at bank and in hand	11	**909,083**		922,745
		1,057,745		1,091,120
Payables: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(98,368)**		(94,669)
Net current assets			**959,377**	996,451
Payables: amounts falling due after more than one year			**-**	-
Total assets less current liabilities			**959,920**	997,175
The funds of the charity:				
Unrestricted income funds:				
• General fund	15		**959,920**	997,175
			959,920	997,175
Restricted income funds:				
• n/a	15		**-**	-
Total funds			**959,920**	997,175

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 7 to 14 were approved by the Board of Trustee / Directors on14th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

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Tanya Hedley
Director, Chair of Directors

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1st January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Companies Act 2006.
Exemption has been taken from the requirement under FRS1 to prepare a cash flow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.
Sentinus meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102 and the Charities SORP. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Reconciliation with previously Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)

In preparing the accounts the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) the restatement of comparative items was required - No restatements were required.

1.3 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees are of the view that as the reserves of the charity are within the requirement of the charity's reserves policy, the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 to 18 months is secure and on that basis the charity is a going concern.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustee / directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. The fund comprises the accumulated surpluses and deficits of unrestricted income and expenditure.
Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of administering such funds are charges against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

1.5 Non Current Assets

Amounts greater than £10,000 spent on equipment and similar are recognised as fixed assets in the accounts**.**
Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.
Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of fixed assets over their anticipated useful lives.
Depreciation is provided at the following rates:

Fixtures and fittings	-	25% reducing balance

1.6 Income recognition policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:
- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- Any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- There is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; *and*
- The amount can be measured reliably

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Grants receivable

Grants receivable which relate to the year are credited to income within the Statement of Financial Activities, with unspent balances being carried forward to subsequent years within the relevant fund.
Specific debts are recognised where approved grant expenditure exceeds grant income received to date.
Grant income relating to future periods is carried forward under creditors.

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:
- Expenditure on raising funds comprises the costs of marketing and promoting the charity;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the direct costs allocated to the performance of educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs;
- Expenditure on other items represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between and "expenditure on charitable activities" and "expenditure on other items". The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 6.

1.8 Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable by the charity during the year. Contributions are invested separately from the company's assets.

1.9 Taxation

There is no liability to taxation due to the company's charitable status.

1.10 Receivables

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

1.11 Payables and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a 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 normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.12 Transition to FRS 102

The transition date was 1st April 2016.
There was no requirement to restate any comparative balances in making the transition to FRS 102.

2 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

3 EMPLOYEE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Wages and salaries	135,763	-	**135,763**	136,091
SMP recovery & NIC compensation payments	(644)	-	**(644)**	(6,827)
Social security costs	14,646	-	**14,646**	13,603
Employer Allowance	(5,000)	-	**(5,000)**	(4,000)
Other pension costs	13,487	-	**13,487**	12,098
	158,252	0	**158,252**	150,965

The average number of persons, including part-time staff, employed on UK contracts was 5 (2022: 5)
No trustee or director received any remuneration from the charity in the year (2022: £nil)
One employee was paid more than £60,000 in the year (2022: 1)
The amount of employer pension cost included in respect of employees paid more than £60,000 was £10,420 (2022: £9,831)

4 INCOME

4.1 from donations and legacies

GOVERNMENT GRANTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Department of Education, NI	300,000	-	**300,000**	300,000
Department of Education, NI - IT's your choice	22,178	-	**22,178**	54,800
Department of Education, NI - NI 100	-	-	**0**	74,710
Department for the Economy - STEM events programme	-	-	**0**	35,486
	322,178	0	**322,178**	464,996

4.2 from charitable activities

CONTRACTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Belfast Metropolitan College - Bring IT On	-	-	**0**	6,889
Charities Aid Foundation	-	-	**0**	1,000
Engineering UK - Big Bang	10,597	-	**10,597**	7,500
Ernest Cook Trust	-	-	**0**	2,000
Nuffield Curriculum Project Centre - Nuffield Research Placements	-	-	**0**	32,350
Sentinus Research Placements	-	-	**0**	4,300
Queen's University, Belfast	8,932	-	**8,932**	-
Society for Science - Broadcom Masters	-	-	**0**	1,361
Income from Events, Schemes, Roadshows and Workshops	112,531	-	**112,531**	78,874
Other	-	-	**0**	-
	132,060	0	**132,060**	134,274

4.3 from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Bank interest	4,018	-	**4,018**	90
	4,018	0	**4,018**	90

5 EXPENDITURE

5.1 on raising funds

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Promotion and marketing expenses	4,205	-	**4,205**	2,381
Business development	-	-	**0**	-
	4,205	0	**4,205**	2,381

5.2 on charitable activities

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Associates	210,635	-	**210,635**	188,555
Prizes & Bursaries	-	-	**0**	1,642
Travel & subsistence	26,795	-	**26,795**	18,786
Materials	23,010	-	**23,010**	98,323
Food and accommodation	7,280	-	**7,280**	1,363
Sundry project costs	-	-	**0**	100
Project support	-	-	**0**	-
Registration / subscription fees	35	-	**35**	35
	267,755	0	**267,755**	308,804

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Premises	25,543	-	**25,543**	25,898
General office	5,816	-	**5,816**	3,927
Information technology	9,951	-	**9,951**	12,625
Legal and professional	-	-	**0**	-
Salaries, wages and related costs	124,326	-	**124,326**	118,547
Bank charges	-	-	**0**	-
Depreciation	-	-	**0**	-
	165,636	0	**165,636**	160,997
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	433,391	0	**433,391**	469,801

5.3 on other items

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON OTHER ITEMS (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Premises	6,385	-	**6,385**	6,474
General office	1,454	-	**1,454**	982
Information technology	2,488	-	**2,488**	3,156
Legal and professional	13,151	-	**13,151**	13,100
Salaries, wages and related costs	33,908	-	**33,908**	32,418
Bank charges	348	-	**348**	472
Depreciation	181	-	**181**	242
	57,915	0	**57,915**	56,844

6 ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS	Charitable activities £	Other items £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £	***Basis of apportionment***
Premises costs	25,543	6,385	**31,928**	32,372	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
General office	5,816	1,454	**7,270**	4,909	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Information technology	9,951	2,488	**12,439**	15,781	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Legal and professional	-	13,151	**13,151**	13,100	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
Salaries, wages and related costs	124,326	33,908	**158,234**	150,965	*Based on staff activity*
Bank charges	-	348	**348**	472	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
Depreciation	-	181	**181**	242	*Allocated to other costs*
	165,636	57,915	**223,551**	217,841	

7 Net incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:				
Depreciation of fixed assets	242	-	**242**	242
Diamond & Skillen - Auditor's remuneration	3,600	-	**3,600**	3,600
Diamond & Skillen - Payroll Bureau	2,000	-	**2,000**	2,000
Diamond & Skillen - Accountancy & management accounts	7,500	-	**7,500**	7,500

8 Pension costs

The company operated defined contribution schemes in respect of its staff. The schemes and their assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents agreed employer contributions due from Sentinus and amounted to £13,487 (2022: £12,098)

9 Non Current assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	**Totals £**
Cost:		
At 1 April 2022	165,598	**165,598**
Additions	-	**0**
At 31 March 2023	165,598	**165,598**
Accumulated depreciation:		
At 1 April 2022	164,874	**164,874**
Charge for year	181	**181**
At 31 March 2023	165,055	**165,055**
Net book value:		
At 31st March 2023	**543**	**543**
At 31st March 2022	**724**	**724**

10 Receivables

	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Trade debtors	**35,048**	47,025
Other debtors	**113,614**	121,350
	148,662	168,375

11 Cash at bank and in hand

	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Petty Cash	**114**	114
Ulster Bank Ltd - Current Account	**(16,456)**	(18,856)
Ulster Bank Ltd - Liquidity Manager Account	**925,409**	941,471
Ulster Bank Ltd - 30-day Business Reserve	**16**	16
	909,083	922,745

An arrangement is in place for the Ulster Bank to automatically transfer surplus current account funds to the Liquidity Manager Account and also to transfer funds to the current account from the Liquidity Manager Account to meet all cheques when presented for payment. In this way, the running balance on the Current Account is kept to a minimum. For this reason, the directors deem it inappropriate to include a negative current account balance under creditors, since the actual balance on call is the sum of the Current Account and Liquidity Manager accounts.
As at 31st March 2023, there are £17,672-88 (2022: £17,672-88) of cheques written which have not been presented to the bank for payment. All of these were more than 6 months old.

12 Payables: amounts falling due within one year

	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Trade creditors	**33,260**	11,324
Accrued expenses	**65,108**	78,345
Income in advance	**-**	5,000
	98,368	94,669

13 Financial Commitments

At 31st March 2023 the company has no annual commitments under non-cancellable leases nor any other financial commitments that are not recognised in the accounts (2022: £nil). Sentinus has entered into a number of long term contracts for the supply of services all of which are cancellable. In 2019 the company signed a new 5-year lease to rent the premises at 19a Ballinderry Road, Lisburn at an annual rent of £21,000 pa. The potential liability on cancellation of this lease has been reflected in the company's capital requirement under its reserves policy disclosed in the Directors' Report on page 3 of these financial statements.

14 Analysis of charity net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**
Fixed Assets	543	-	**543**
Current Assets	1,057,745	-	**1,057,745**
Current liabilities	(98,368)	-	**(98,368)**
	959,920	0	**959,920**

15 Statement of Funds

	At 1 Apr 2022 £	Income £	Exp. £	Investmnt Gains £	Transfers £	**At 31 Mar 2023 £**
General fund	997,175	454,238	(495,511)	4,018	-	**959,920**
Total unrestricted	**997,175**	**454,238**	**(495,511)**	**4,018**	**0**	**959,920**
n/a	-	-	-	-	-	**0**
Total restricted	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total funds	**997,175**	**454,238**	**(495,511)**	**4,018**	**0**	**959,920**

The general fund represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

16 Income and expenditure summary

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross income	**458,256**	599,360
Resources expended		
Direct charitable expenditure	**267,755**	308,804
Administration costs	**227,756**	220,222
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources	**(37,255)**	70,334
Surplus for the year	**(37,255)**	70,334

The above reflects the Income and Expenditure accounts as required by the Companies Act 2006 as opposed to that required under the SORP as detailed on page 5. Detailed analyses of the expenditure are provided in the Statement of Financial Activities and note 5.

17 Transfer between funds

There were no transfers between the funds this accounting year.

18 Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions with related parties in the year.

19 Disclosure of relevant circumstances

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to:

i. prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities;
ii. assist with the preparation of the financial statements; *and*
iii. prepare and submit payroll calculations to HM Revenue & Customs.

During the year our auditors also assisted with the preparation of quarterly management accounts for perusal of the Board.

SENTINUS

Detailed income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31st March 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
TURNOVER				
Income		454,238		599,270
COST OF SALES				
Project costs		(267,755)		(308,804)
GROSS SURPLUS		186,483		290,466
OTHER INCOME				
Deposit account interest		4,018		90
Sundry income		-		-
		190,501		290,556
EXPENDITURE				
Employee costs	158,234		150,965	
Rent	21,000		21,000	
Rates, water rates and sewerage costs	-		-	
Insurance	6,126		6,860	
Light & Heat	2,682		1,975	
Repairs and maintenance	2,245		2,537	
Printing, postage and stationery	3,247		1,223	
Advertising / PR	4,205		2,381	
Business Development	-		-	
Telephone	3,897		3,686	
Computer and IT costs	12,439		15,781	
Accountancy and audit	13,100		13,100	
Sundry expenses	52		-	
Legal and professional fees	-	227,227	-	219,508
Total resources expended		(36,726)		71,048
Finance costs				
Bank charges		348		472
		(37,074)		70,576
Depreciation				
Fixtures and fittings		181		242
NET (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS		(37,255)		70,334

THIS PAGE DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sentinus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102064

Annual return

Company Registration Number: **NI020310**
HMRC Charity Registration Number: **XN86071**
The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration Number: **NIC102064**

SENTINUS

(a company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023

Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House, 89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast BT1 1FE

Sentinus
Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

SENTINUS

Company Information for 2023/2024

Trustee / Directors	Tanya Hedley (chair) Elizabeth Ackah Tom Edgar James Moore Roy McBrine Neil McIlwaine Raymond Pollock Aaron Portis
Company Secretary	William Connor MBE
Company Number	NI020310
Registered Office	19a Ballinderry Road Lisburn Co Antrim BT28 2SA
Auditors	Diamond & Skillen Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor Sinclair House 89/101 Royal Avenue Belfast BT1 1FE
Bankers	Ulster Bank Ltd 11/16 Donegall Square East Belfast BT1 5UB
Solicitors	Cunningham and Dickey 68 Upper Church Lane Belfast BT1 4LG
Chief Executive	William Connor MBE

SENTINUS

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Statement of Financial Position	8
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The following page does not form part of the statutory financial statements:	
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	15

The Trustees (who are also the Board of Directors of the company) are pleased to submit their annual Directors' Report together with the audited financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31st March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and also to meet the requirements for accounts for the purposes of The Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). The present Trustee / Directors, and any past Trustee / Directors who served during the year, are given on page 3, together with the names of the charity's external advisors.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

General

Sentinus is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 23rd March 1987, amended 3rd December 1987 to reflect current governance arrangements and amended 4th May 2001 for change of company name. The company adopted a new Memorandum and Articles of Association on 19th January 2015 in accordance with guidance issued by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland
In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Trustee / Directors

Each Trustee of the company sits on the Board of Directors. This Board is responsible for the overall governance of the Company. Trustee / Directors are appointed by the Chairman. The total number of trustee / directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less then two.

The Board delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the Company to the Chief Executive. This is controlled by regular reporting back to the Board, so that all decisions made under delegated powers can be ratified by the full Board in due course.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of the company's affairs.

The company adopted a Governance Framework which was implemented in March 2008.

Statement of Trustee / Directors' Responsibilities and Corporate Governance

The Trustee / Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company produces proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the Company is operating efficiently and effectively;
- all assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Company, or for publication, is reliable;
- the Company complies with relevant laws and regulations.

Internal controls over all forms of commitment and expenditure continue to be reviewed to improve efficiency.

Processes are in place to ensure that performance is monitored and the appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed on an ongoing basis by executive management and quarterly by the Board of Trustee / Directors.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurances against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and annual budget approved by the Trustee / Directors;
- regular consideration by the Trustee / Directors of financial results, variances from budget, non financial performance indicators and bench marking reviews;
- delegation of day to day management authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

In accordance with company law the Directors certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and
- as the Trustees and Directors of the Company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

cont'd.../

Risk Management
During the year the Directors have considered and examined the major risks that face the charity and established strategies that will mitigate the impact they may have on the charity's future. This process will be continued on an ongoing basis for each financial year.

Public Benefit Report

OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY
In accordance with the Memorandum of Association the objects for which the Company is established are:
Promotion and participation in liaison activities between industry and education.
The strategies employed to achieve the company's objectives included:

- Developing and deepening the existing partnerships with the education sector by organising activities and projects involving students directly with industry.

PUBLIC BENEFIT REPORT

Purposes of the Charity	The purpose of the Company is to advance the theoretical and practical education of young people in Northern Ireland in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and promote greater understanding of industry, its essential role and service to the community and economy and encourage the establishment and development of partnerships between industry and education.
What the Charity has done during the year to carry out its purposes?	In the early part of the financial year the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the work of the charity, with schools slow to return to normal operating conditions. However, as the year progressed, and by September, the situation had returned to normal and much face to face interaction with beneficiaries took place from that point forward. Sentinus continued to engage beneficiaries in curriculum relevant activity in science, technology, engineering and maths which helped them understand the importance of the STEM subjects and the impact of science and engineering on the modern world. Programmes delivered included: · Research & development projects; · Research projects; · Insight and careers programmes; · Celebration events for STEM project work; · STEM roadshows and challenges; · STEM workshops; · Provision of STEM resources and materials to support learning in STEM subjects. In 2022-23 Sentinus worked with a total of 523 primary, post primary and special educational needs schools, engaging 56,379 young people, between the ages of 5 and 19 years. These outputs included 403 STEM workshops, involving 20,209 pupils 62 Employability Skills road shows involving 14,095 students. A total of 1,646 teacher engagements took place.
How have the activities provided benefit to its beneficiaries and how can this be demonstrated - the achievements of the Charity?	The direct benefits to beneficiaries from the activities of the Charity include: · improved scientific and technological skills and knowledge, allowing them to maximise learning in science and technology and understand the relevance of the STEM subjects to the world of work; · contextualisation of learning in STEM subjects; · increased awareness and understanding of the importance of the STEM subjects and their value to potential employers; · increased awareness of career opportunities within the STEM sector in Northern Ireland; · enhanced ability for beneficiaries to make informed career decisions; · enhanced interpersonal and employability skills. These benefits can be demonstrated through direct feedback from both teachers and young people involved in the programmes.
How has the Charity mitigated any harm flowing from its purposes?	No harm flowed from the purposes of the Charity.
How has the Charity ensured that any private benefit has been incidental to the public benefit?	No private benefit flowed from the Charity's activities.
Statement of compliance with the duty to have regard to the Commission's guidance	In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the Charity's purpose and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

cont'd.../

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE
SENTINUS STATISTICS 2022/2023

	2023	2022
Numbers of Pupils Involved	56,379	43,817
Numbers of Schools Involved	523	515
Numbers of Teachers Engagements	1,646	457
Numbers of Employability Skills Roadshows	62	44
Numbers of Pupils Participating in Employability Skills Programmes	14,095	2,384
Numbers of STEM Roadshows	403	357
Numbers of Pupils Participating in STEM Roadshows	20,209	13,090

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

The Statement of Financial Activities on page 7 is designed to reflect all incoming resources receivable in the year irrespective of when income is actually received. Total incoming resources for the year amounted to £458,256 (2022: £599,360). Total resources expended (including depreciation of fixed assets) of £495,512 (2022: £529,026) resulted in net outgoing resources for the year of £37,255 (2022: net incoming resources of £70,334). There is no balance on restricted funds at the end of the year. The total balance on unrestricted funds at the year end was £959,920 (2022: £997,175) which is free and represents the reserves available to the Directors to help fulfill current and future plans.

RESERVES POLICY

Introduction

Financial reserves offer a mechanism to retain surpluses which are not distributed or spent shortly after an accounting year end, but rather retained to allow for any future reductions in income or unanticipated expenditure not provided for in annual budgets. The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable time scale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the financial statements.
Reserves do not include capital assets or funds which are restricted in use by conditions imposed by the donor.
The Charity Commission requires that trustees recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable timescale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the accounts.

Income

Currently a core grant from the Department of Education represents more than 50% of Sentinus' income, with the remaining being generated from a wide range of other sources. If income from any of these sources, and in particular the Department of Education, reduced significantly Sentinus would experience financial difficulties. If the fall was of a temporary nature caused by a delay in reviewing contractual arrangements, then reserves would be needed to cover the income lost during the temporary period.

Expenditure

Trustees should consider the pattern of Sentinus' expenditure and the need for reserves to cover that expenditure in the event of a serious shortfall in income.
An immediate reduction in programme delivery may be possible for some projects. Other contracts, however, represent longer term commitments and would, therefore, be more difficult to terminate.
Certain costs are of a fixed nature in the short to medium term and will continue to be incurred regardless of the level of activity. The largest element of 'fixed' expenditure will be employee costs, followed normally by accommodation costs.

Assessment of Reserves Level

In determining the level of reserves required, it is necessary to assess how long it would take to wind up Sentinus and the cost to run it during this period, assuming a major fall in its level of income such that it no longer remained viable to continue to operate.
Allowance would also need to be made for termination costs such as redundancy and early settlement of leases and any legal and other professional fees arising during this process.
The trustees deem it prudent to set aside reserves representing approximately twelve months full costs and a provision for winding up the company to account for costs such as redundancy, leases outstanding on premises and any other contractual financial commitment. Reserves should be at least this level to ensure the charity can run efficiently and meet its legal requirements. Factors taken into account would include the need to cover fluctuations in income, current liabilities and unplanned expenditure.
The trustees calculate that the overall reserve provision as at 31st March 2023 should be no less than £857,581 (2021: £965,649).
The actual reserves at 31st March 2023 were £959,920 (2021: £997,175) which is £102,339 above the company's target minimum and c.111.9% (2022: 103.25%) of that minimum figure. Trustees will closely monitor the actual reserves each year to ensure they are maintained at an appropriate level.

cont'd.../

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS
The company plans continuing the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements

DIRECTORS
The directors who served during the year were:
- E Ackah
- C Cunningham (resigned 1/11/22)
- T Edgar
- T Hedley
- V Jordan (resigned 1/11/22)
- J Moore
- R McBrine
- N McIlwaine
- R Pollock
- A Portis
- J Stewart (resigned 1/11/22)

The following were in attendance at Board Meetings during the year
- W Connor *Chief Executive and Statutory Company Secretary*

AUDITORS
Diamond & Skillen were appointed auditors to the company and are deemed to be re-appointed in accordance with Section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

By order of the Board

_____
Tanya Hedley - Chair of Directors
14th June 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sentinus (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31st March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position 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 Charity's affairs as at 31st March 2023 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;
- 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 Charity 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 the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 19 to the financial statements, 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which theISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) have 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 Trustees' Annual Report [including the Strategic 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 accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

cont'd.../

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 1, the trustees 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 they 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 Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: 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 Charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

_____

Nigel V. Skillen (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
Sinclair House, 89/101 Royal Avenue
Belfast, BT1 1FE

14th June 2023

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31st March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
REVENUE:					
from donations and legacies					
• Government Grants	4.1	322,178	-	**322,178**	464,996
from charitable activities:					
• Contract income	4.2	132,060	-	**132,060**	134,274
from other activities:					
• Other income		-	-	**0**	-
from investments:					
• Bank interest received	4.3	4,018	-	**4,018**	90
TOTAL REVENUE		458,256	0	**458,256**	599,360
EXPENDITURE:					
on raising funds					
• Promotion and marketing	5.1	4,205	-	**4,205**	2,381
on charitable activities					
• Charitable expenditure	5.2	433,391	-	**433,391**	469,801
on other items					
• Allocated support costs	5.3	57,915	-	**57,915**	56,844
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		495,511	0	**495,511**	529,026
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		(37,255)	0	**(37,255)**	70,334
• Transfers between funds	17	-	-	**0**	-
Net movement in funds		(37,255)	0	**(37,255)**	70,334
Fund balances brought fwd at 1st April		997,175	-	**997,175**	926,841
Fund balances carried fwd at 31st March		959,920	0	**959,920**	997,175

The income and expenditure summary as required to be disclosed by the Companies Act 2006 is included at note 16.
All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.
The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus or deficit for the above two financial years.
The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

SENTINUS

Statement of Financial Position
as at 31st March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
Non-Current Assets				
• Tangible assets	9		**543**	724
Current Assets				
• Receivables	10	**148,662**		168,375
• Cash at bank and in hand	11	**909,083**		922,745
		1,057,745		1,091,120
Payables: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(98,368)**		(94,669)
Net current assets			**959,377**	996,451
Payables: amounts falling due after more than one year			**-**	-
Total assets less current liabilities			**959,920**	997,175
The funds of the charity:				
Unrestricted income funds:				
• General fund	15		**959,920**	997,175
			959,920	997,175
Restricted income funds:				
• n/a	15		**-**	-
Total funds			**959,920**	997,175

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 7 to 14 were approved by the Board of Trustee / Directors on14th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

_____

Tanya Hedley
Director, Chair of Directors

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1st January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Companies Act 2006.
Exemption has been taken from the requirement under FRS1 to prepare a cash flow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.
Sentinus meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102 and the Charities SORP. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Reconciliation with previously Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)

In preparing the accounts the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) the restatement of comparative items was required - No restatements were required.

1.3 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees are of the view that as the reserves of the charity are within the requirement of the charity's reserves policy, the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 to 18 months is secure and on that basis the charity is a going concern.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustee / directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. The fund comprises the accumulated surpluses and deficits of unrestricted income and expenditure.
Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of administering such funds are charges against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

1.5 Non Current Assets

Amounts greater than £10,000 spent on equipment and similar are recognised as fixed assets in the accounts**.**
Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.
Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of fixed assets over their anticipated useful lives.
Depreciation is provided at the following rates:

Fixtures and fittings	-	25% reducing balance

1.6 Income recognition policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:
- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- Any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- There is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; *and*
- The amount can be measured reliably

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Grants receivable

Grants receivable which relate to the year are credited to income within the Statement of Financial Activities, with unspent balances being carried forward to subsequent years within the relevant fund.
Specific debts are recognised where approved grant expenditure exceeds grant income received to date.
Grant income relating to future periods is carried forward under creditors.

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:
- Expenditure on raising funds comprises the costs of marketing and promoting the charity;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the direct costs allocated to the performance of educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs;
- Expenditure on other items represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between and "expenditure on charitable activities" and "expenditure on other items". The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 6.

1.8 Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable by the charity during the year. Contributions are invested separately from the company's assets.

1.9 Taxation

There is no liability to taxation due to the company's charitable status.

1.10 Receivables

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

1.11 Payables and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a 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 normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.12 Transition to FRS 102

The transition date was 1st April 2016.
There was no requirement to restate any comparative balances in making the transition to FRS 102.

2 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

Sentinus is a private company limited by guarantee, registration number NI020310, and is also a registered as a charity with HM Revenue & Customs (number XN86071). Sentinus is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (registration number NIC102064). In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

3 EMPLOYEE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Wages and salaries	135,763	-	**135,763**	136,091
SMP recovery & NIC compensation payments	(644)	-	**(644)**	(6,827)
Social security costs	14,646	-	**14,646**	13,603
Employer Allowance	(5,000)	-	**(5,000)**	(4,000)
Other pension costs	13,487	-	**13,487**	12,098
	158,252	0	**158,252**	150,965

The average number of persons, including part-time staff, employed on UK contracts was 5 (2022: 5)
No trustee or director received any remuneration from the charity in the year (2022: £nil)
One employee was paid more than £60,000 in the year (2022: 1)
The amount of employer pension cost included in respect of employees paid more than £60,000 was £10,420 (2022: £9,831)

4 INCOME

4.1 from donations and legacies

GOVERNMENT GRANTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Department of Education, NI	300,000	-	**300,000**	300,000
Department of Education, NI - IT's your choice	22,178	-	**22,178**	54,800
Department of Education, NI - NI 100	-	-	**0**	74,710
Department for the Economy - STEM events programme	-	-	**0**	35,486
	322,178	0	**322,178**	464,996

4.2 from charitable activities

CONTRACTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Belfast Metropolitan College - Bring IT On	-	-	**0**	6,889
Charities Aid Foundation	-	-	**0**	1,000
Engineering UK - Big Bang	10,597	-	**10,597**	7,500
Ernest Cook Trust	-	-	**0**	2,000
Nuffield Curriculum Project Centre - Nuffield Research Placements	-	-	**0**	32,350
Sentinus Research Placements	-	-	**0**	4,300
Queen's University, Belfast	8,932	-	**8,932**	-
Society for Science - Broadcom Masters	-	-	**0**	1,361
Income from Events, Schemes, Roadshows and Workshops	112,531	-	**112,531**	78,874
Other	-	-	**0**	-
	132,060	0	**132,060**	134,274

4.3 from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Bank interest	4,018	-	**4,018**	90
	4,018	0	**4,018**	90

5 EXPENDITURE

5.1 on raising funds

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Promotion and marketing expenses	4,205	-	**4,205**	2,381
Business development	-	-	**0**	-
	4,205	0	**4,205**	2,381

5.2 on charitable activities

COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Associates	210,635	-	**210,635**	188,555
Prizes & Bursaries	-	-	**0**	1,642
Travel & subsistence	26,795	-	**26,795**	18,786
Materials	23,010	-	**23,010**	98,323
Food and accommodation	7,280	-	**7,280**	1,363
Sundry project costs	-	-	**0**	100
Project support	-	-	**0**	-
Registration / subscription fees	35	-	**35**	35
	267,755	0	**267,755**	308,804

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Premises	25,543	-	**25,543**	25,898
General office	5,816	-	**5,816**	3,927
Information technology	9,951	-	**9,951**	12,625
Legal and professional	-	-	**0**	-
Salaries, wages and related costs	124,326	-	**124,326**	118,547
Bank charges	-	-	**0**	-
Depreciation	-	-	**0**	-
	165,636	0	**165,636**	160,997
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	433,391	0	**433,391**	469,801

5.3 on other items

SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO EXPENDITURE ON OTHER ITEMS (see note 6)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Premises	6,385	-	**6,385**	6,474
General office	1,454	-	**1,454**	982
Information technology	2,488	-	**2,488**	3,156
Legal and professional	13,151	-	**13,151**	13,100
Salaries, wages and related costs	33,908	-	**33,908**	32,418
Bank charges	348	-	**348**	472
Depreciation	181	-	**181**	242
	57,915	0	**57,915**	56,844

6 ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS	Charitable activities £	Other items £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £	***Basis of apportionment***
Premises costs	25,543	6,385	**31,928**	32,372	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
General office	5,816	1,454	**7,270**	4,909	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Information technology	9,951	2,488	**12,439**	15,781	*Pro rata to staff full time equivalents*
Legal and professional	-	13,151	**13,151**	13,100	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
Salaries, wages and related costs	124,326	33,908	**158,234**	150,965	*Based on staff activity*
Bank charges	-	348	**348**	472	*Governance - allocated to other costs*
Depreciation	-	181	**181**	242	*Allocated to other costs*
	165,636	57,915	**223,551**	217,841	

7 Net incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**	Totals 2022 £
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:				
Depreciation of fixed assets	242	-	**242**	242
Diamond & Skillen - Auditor's remuneration	3,600	-	**3,600**	3,600
Diamond & Skillen - Payroll Bureau	2,000	-	**2,000**	2,000
Diamond & Skillen - Accountancy & management accounts	7,500	-	**7,500**	7,500

8 Pension costs

The company operated defined contribution schemes in respect of its staff. The schemes and their assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents agreed employer contributions due from Sentinus and amounted to £13,487 (2022: £12,098)

9 Non Current assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	**Totals £**
Cost:		
At 1 April 2022	165,598	**165,598**
Additions	-	**0**
At 31 March 2023	165,598	**165,598**
Accumulated depreciation:		
At 1 April 2022	164,874	**164,874**
Charge for year	181	**181**
At 31 March 2023	165,055	**165,055**
Net book value:		
At 31st March 2023	**543**	**543**
At 31st March 2022	**724**	**724**

10 Receivables

	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Trade debtors	**35,048**	47,025
Other debtors	**113,614**	121,350
	148,662	168,375

11 Cash at bank and in hand

	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Petty Cash	**114**	114
Ulster Bank Ltd - Current Account	**(16,456)**	(18,856)
Ulster Bank Ltd - Liquidity Manager Account	**925,409**	941,471
Ulster Bank Ltd - 30-day Business Reserve	**16**	16
	909,083	922,745

An arrangement is in place for the Ulster Bank to automatically transfer surplus current account funds to the Liquidity Manager Account and also to transfer funds to the current account from the Liquidity Manager Account to meet all cheques when presented for payment. In this way, the running balance on the Current Account is kept to a minimum. For this reason, the directors deem it inappropriate to include a negative current account balance under creditors, since the actual balance on call is the sum of the Current Account and Liquidity Manager accounts.
As at 31st March 2023, there are £17,672-88 (2022: £17,672-88) of cheques written which have not been presented to the bank for payment. All of these were more than 6 months old.

12 Payables: amounts falling due within one year

	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Trade creditors	**33,260**	11,324
Accrued expenses	**65,108**	78,345
Income in advance	**-**	5,000
	98,368	94,669

13 Financial Commitments

At 31st March 2023 the company has no annual commitments under non-cancellable leases nor any other financial commitments that are not recognised in the accounts (2022: £nil). Sentinus has entered into a number of long term contracts for the supply of services all of which are cancellable. In 2019 the company signed a new 5-year lease to rent the premises at 19a Ballinderry Road, Lisburn at an annual rent of £21,000 pa. The potential liability on cancellation of this lease has been reflected in the company's capital requirement under its reserves policy disclosed in the Directors' Report on page 3 of these financial statements.

14 Analysis of charity net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**Totals 2023 £**
Fixed Assets	543	-	**543**
Current Assets	1,057,745	-	**1,057,745**
Current liabilities	(98,368)	-	**(98,368)**
	959,920	0	**959,920**

15 Statement of Funds

	At 1 Apr 2022 £	Income £	Exp. £	Investmnt Gains £	Transfers £	**At 31 Mar 2023 £**
General fund	997,175	454,238	(495,511)	4,018	-	**959,920**
Total unrestricted	**997,175**	**454,238**	**(495,511)**	**4,018**	**0**	**959,920**
n/a	-	-	-	-	-	**0**
Total restricted	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total funds	**997,175**	**454,238**	**(495,511)**	**4,018**	**0**	**959,920**

The general fund represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

16 Income and expenditure summary

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross income	**458,256**	599,360
Resources expended		
Direct charitable expenditure	**267,755**	308,804
Administration costs	**227,756**	220,222
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources	**(37,255)**	70,334
Surplus for the year	**(37,255)**	70,334

The above reflects the Income and Expenditure accounts as required by the Companies Act 2006 as opposed to that required under the SORP as detailed on page 5. Detailed analyses of the expenditure are provided in the Statement of Financial Activities and note 5.

17 Transfer between funds

There were no transfers between the funds this accounting year.

18 Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions with related parties in the year.

19 Disclosure of relevant circumstances

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to:

i. prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities;
ii. assist with the preparation of the financial statements; *and*
iii. prepare and submit payroll calculations to HM Revenue & Customs.

During the year our auditors also assisted with the preparation of quarterly management accounts for perusal of the Board.

SENTINUS

Detailed income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31st March 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
TURNOVER				
Income		454,238		599,270
COST OF SALES				
Project costs		(267,755)		(308,804)
GROSS SURPLUS		186,483		290,466
OTHER INCOME				
Deposit account interest		4,018		90
Sundry income		-		-
		190,501		290,556
EXPENDITURE				
Employee costs	158,234		150,965	
Rent	21,000		21,000	
Rates, water rates and sewerage costs	-		-	
Insurance	6,126		6,860	
Light & Heat	2,682		1,975	
Repairs and maintenance	2,245		2,537	
Printing, postage and stationery	3,247		1,223	
Advertising / PR	4,205		2,381	
Business Development	-		-	
Telephone	3,897		3,686	
Computer and IT costs	12,439		15,781	
Accountancy and audit	13,100		13,100	
Sundry expenses	52		-	
Legal and professional fees	-	227,227	-	219,508
Total resources expended		(36,726)		71,048
Finance costs				
Bank charges		348		472
		(37,074)		70,576
Depreciation				
Fixtures and fittings		181		242
NET (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS		(37,255)		70,334

THIS PAGE DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS