

Registration number NI036267

ESC Films Limited
Company limited by guarantee

Annual report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ESC Films Limited
Company limited by guarantee

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Trustee Report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and to "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019".

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: ESC Films Limited
Charity Registration number: NIC102123
Company Registration number: NI036267
Registered Office: Blick Studios, 46 Hill Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 2LB
Business Address: Blick Studios, 46 Hill Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 2LB

Trustees

Don Leeson (Chair)
Paul McAleer
Heather Moorhead
Moyra Richardson
Neil Gilmore

Secretary

Moyra Richardson

Independent Examiner

McCreery Turkington Stockman LTD, 1 Lanyon Quay, Belfast, BT1 3LG

Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank Plc, P.O. Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

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Trustee Report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Legal structure of the charity

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Acts. The governing documents of the charity are its Memorandum and Articles of Association establishing the company under company legislation and its constitution.

There are no restrictions in the governing documents on the operation of the Charity or on its investment powers other than those imposed by Charity Law.

By operation of law all trustees are directors under the Companies Act 2006 and all directors are trustees under Charities legislation and have responsibilities, as such, under both company and charity legislation.

The trustees are all individuals.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The methods used to recruit and appoint new charity trustees.

Governance and management of ESC films is undertaken by a Board of Directors comprising a Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and other Directors. The Board normally meets six times a year and is responsible for the overall strategic direction and control of esc film's activities. The day to day management of esc films is led by the Chief Executive with authority delegated by the Board of Directors. The Chief Executive and Artistic Director, have clearly defined areas of responsibility and accountability. They are supported by a cohort of freelance associates who are contracted for specialist expertise when the need arises.

The charity recruits and appoints trustees with a range of skills, experience and knowledge in keeping with the pursuance of its objects.

The charity's financial control procedures

In relation to ESC film's overall financial control procedures, the charity has in place a comprehensive Strategic Plan supplemented by an annual budget approved by the Board of Trustees. Actual results are reported against budget on a monthly basis and projections to year end are reviewed by the Board at every meeting. The charity's day to day financial processes, which are governed by financial regulations, are approved by the Board.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Objectives, Activities, Achievements and Performance

Main Aim

The charity's objects are set out in its constitution and are to advance education for the public benefit and to promote arts and culture. A more detailed explanation of the charity's objects is contained below in the section entitled "The main activities undertaken during the year to further the charity's purpose for the public benefit".

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for the year ended 31 March 2024

The main activities undertaken in relation to those purposes during the year 2023-24

SUMMARY: Over the course of the year we worked with 144 individuals, impacting directly on 47 participants in our therapeutic work, on a further 94 family members and an additional 31 staff members and volunteers. The charity awarded 5 ASDAN Peer Mentoring Awards and made 27 short films.

The main achievements and performance of the charity in 2023-24.

Esc films worked continuously to deliver on the goals outlined in the new Strategic Plan and Business Plan 2023-25.

Esc films focused on fulfilling the following aims for the year 2023-24:

We delivered a series of co-designed and co-produced short films based on the lived experience of the participants:

MindWise - Snakes and Ladders

The Snakes and Ladders peer learning film-making project was facilitated by esc films in partnership with MindWise and Action Mental Health. It was kindly supported by the LFT Charitable Foundation. esc films worked with a group of people with lived experience of substance abuse and mental health issues to create a series of short films telling the true stories of the ladders that former addicts used to climb out of their pits of addiction. The project launched at the MAC in Belfast on June 2023 and aims to help others with similar problems rebuild their lives.

Watch the films here - <https://esc-film.com/snakes-and-ladders/>

Belfast Trust - Perinatal Mental Health

Esc films was commissioned to create a film called My Safe Space, co-designed with a group of mothers who had all experience of perinatal mental health issues and had availed of BHSC's perinatal mental health services. The film encourages other mothers facing similar problems to seek help. The programme was accredited and 5 women received ASDAN peer mentoring awards. The programme launched at the MAC in Belfast in September 2023.

Watch the film here:

<https://esc-film.com/portfolio-item/belfast-trust-our-safe-space/>

and a powerful co-produced behind the scenes documentary here:

<https://esc-film.com/portfolio-item/our-safe-space-evaluation-film/>

We were also commissioned to deliver a series of films for other third sector organisations:

MindWise - A Day in the Life

A behind the scenes documentary film created for MindWise mental health charity, focusing on day in the life of MindWise clients & staff.

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Trustee Report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Cancer Focus - A Day in the Life

Completing the 4-year tender with Cancer Focus, esc films are continuing to work on the final film which is set to showcase A Day in the Life of Cancer Focus staff and clients, with an emphasis on living well with cancer. During the year esc films also created an evaluation film for Cancer Focus' family support team.

Boardroom Apprentice - films

- esc films were successful again in tendering for the filming at the Boardroom Apprentice Panel Day 2023 and created a series of 19 short films which were shared widely as part of the ongoing Boardroom Apprentice marketing drive. <https://boardroomapprentice.com/>

Housing Rights & Women's Aid

esc films were commissioned to create an immersive Virtual Reality experience for a Housing Rights training programme for housing advisors. Esc films worked with a group of women who had experienced domestic abuse and had presented as homeless in Northern Ireland. Parallel to this we worked with a group of housing advisors so that the issue was addressed from multiple perspectives. The 3D film is now incorporated into Housing Rights training and is being rolled out across NI.

SEHSCT - Challenging Conversations

We were commissioned to workshop and create short films for the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust on the theme of Challenging Conversations to be used in their in house training.

We continued our development work in VR with former participants in our therapeutic mental health programmes:

Future Screens - research

We completed the research elements of our Future Screens NI Virtual Reality research project during the year, exploring how our previous participants responded to VR technology. We received follow up mentoring from Digital Catapult which was used to work on larger scale VR funding bids.

Financial Review

The charity's financial position at the end of the year ended 31 March 2024 is set out in the financial statements.

Reserves Policy

The directors have set a reserves target of at least £25,000 of unrestricted reserves representing approx. 3 months running costs.

The directors regularly review the level of reserves held and consider opportunities to apply them in line with, and in furtherance of its charitable objectives.

Going Concern

The board of Trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund.

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Trustee Report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of the Directors' and Trustees' Responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing those financial statements the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The directors are responsible for keeping 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.

This report was approved by the Board on 19th August 2024.

Don Leeson
Director



**Independent examiner 's report to the Trustees of
ESC Films Limited**

I report on the accounts of the for the for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 7-17.

Respective responsibilities of and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company 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. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

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

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

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



Richard McClay FCA
For and on behalf of McCreery Turkington Stockman LTD

1 Lanyon Quay
Belfast
BT1 3LG

19 August 2024

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

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year Total	Year Total
		2024	2024	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Income from:	Notes				
Donation income:	4	2,918	-	2,918	14,443
Charitable activities	11	81,987	5,851	87,838	81,534
Total incoming resources		<u>84,905</u>	<u>5,851</u>	<u>90,756</u>	<u>95,977</u>
Expenditure on:					
Costs of charitable activities	5	(83,363)	(8,021)	(91,384)	(114,719)
Total resources expended		<u>(83,363)</u>	<u>(8,021)</u>	<u>(91,384)</u>	<u>(114,719)</u>
Net income before transfers		<u>1,542</u>	<u>(2,170)</u>	<u>(628)</u>	<u>(18,742)</u>
Transfer between funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net incoming resources		<u>1,542</u>	<u>(2,170)</u>	<u>(628)</u>	<u>(18,742)</u>
 Fund balances brought forward		<u>17,269</u>	<u>8,681</u>	<u>25,950</u>	<u>44,692</u>
Fund balances carried forward		<u>18,811</u>	<u>6,511</u>	<u>25,322</u>	<u>25,950</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 10 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

ESC Films Limited
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Balance sheet
as at 31 March 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		8,432		11,242
Current assets					
Debtors	10	17,030		4,474	
Cash at bank and in hand		24,671		21,164	
		<u>41,701</u>		<u>25,638</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(24,811)</u>		<u>(10,930)</u>	
Net current assets			16,890		14,708
Net assets			<u>25,322</u>		<u>25,950</u>
Capital and reserves					
Unrestricted funds	11		18,811		17,269
Restricted funds	11		6,511		8,681
General funds			<u>25,322</u>		<u>25,950</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

ESC Films Limited
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Balance sheet (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

For the year ending 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- (a) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- (b) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 19 August 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Don Leeson
Director



Registration number NI036267

The notes on pages 10 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

ESC Films Limited
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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies

Company information

ESC FILMS LTD is a Company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is Blick Studios, 46 Hill Street, Belfast, Antrim, Northern Ireland, BT1 2LB.

1.1. Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019".

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures and fittings - 25% reducing balance

1.3. Cash at bank and in hand

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

1.4. Financial Instruments

The Company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Company balance sheet when the Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Society after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

1.5. Equity instruments

Income recognition

Equity instruments issued by the Company are recorded at the proceeds received, net of direct issue costs. Dividends payable on equity instruments are recognised as liabilities once they are no longer at the discretion of the Company.

1.6. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a legal or constructive present obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Company will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting end date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation.

Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the amount expected to be required to settle the obligation is recognised at present value. When a provision is measured at present value the unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in profit and loss in the period it arises.

1.7. Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

1.8. Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

2. Net incoming resources for the year	2024	2023
	£	£
Net incoming resources is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	2,810	3,748
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3. Employees

	Year ended	Year ended
	2024	2023
Number of employees	Number	Number
The average monthly numbers of employees during the year were:		
Management and administrative staff	2	2
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

	Year ended	Year ended
	2024	2023
Employment costs	£	£
Salary costs	49,709	72,143
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

There were no employees earning over £60,000 in the year ended 31 March 2024.

4. Income from:	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Donation income				
Donation income	2,918	-	2,918	14,443
	<u>2,918</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,918</u>	<u>14,443</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
5. Expenditure on:		
Costs directly allocated to charitable activities		
Salaries	49,709	72,143
Direct project costs	869	1,923
Insurance	549	821
Rent, light and heat	3,600	3,950
Office costs	4,070	4,390
Computer expenses	508	633
Equipment	1,416	(1,986)
Travel	8	16
Freelance costs	24,646	22,295
Independent examination	1,200	1,200
Bank fees	25	24
Website design	-	4,740
General expenses	1,974	822
	<u>88,574</u>	<u>110,971</u>
Depreciation		
Depreciation on intangibles, fixtures and computers	2,810	3,748
	<u><u>91,384</u></u>	<u><u>114,719</u></u>
Analysis by fund		
Restricted funds	8,021	
Unrestricted funds	83,363	
	<u>91,384</u>	
For the year ended 31 March 2023		
Restricted funds		67,286
Unrestricted funds		47,433
		<u>114,719</u>

6. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the year. The Company is a registered charity .

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	1,240	47
Trade creditors	8,216	738
Deferred income (See note 8)	14,155	8,945
Accruals	1,200	1,200
	<u>24,811</u>	<u>10,930</u>

8. Deferred income (Included in note 7)

	Balance 1 April 2023	Released in year	Deferral in year	Balance 31 March 2024
Cancer Focus	3,202	(3,202)	5,122	5,122
LFT Charitable Trust	910	(910)	5,034	5,034
Housing Rights	-	-	3,999	3,999
Belfast Trust- Perinatal Mental Health	3,754	(3,754)	-	-
Future Screens	1,079	(1,079)	-	-
	<u>8,945</u>	<u>(8,945)</u>	<u>14,155</u>	<u>14,155</u>

9. Tangible fixed assets	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2023	28,329	28,329
At 31 March 2024	<u>28,329</u>	<u>28,329</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	17,087	17,087
Charge for the year	2,810	2,810
At 31 March 2024	<u>19,897</u>	<u>19,897</u>
Net book values		
At 31 March 2024	<u>8,432</u>	<u>8,432</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>11,242</u>	<u>11,242</u>

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

10. Debtors	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	<u>17,030</u>	<u>4,474</u>

11. Statement of funds

	Balance 1 April 2023	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance 31 March 2024
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	17,269	80,488	(81,864)	-	15,893
St Anne's Cathedral Sitout	-	1,499	(1,499)	-	-
	<u>17,269</u>	<u>81,987</u>	<u>(83,363)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,893</u>
Restricted funds					
Restricted fixed asset fund	8,681	-	(2,170)	-	6,511
Future Screens	-	1,085	(1,085)	-	-
LFT Charitable Trust	-	4,766	(4,766)	-	-
	<u>8,681</u>	<u>5,851</u>	<u>(8,021)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,511</u>
	<u>25,950</u>	<u>87,838</u>	<u>(91,384)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,404</u>

The unrestricted reserve represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

The restricted funds represent grants received by the charity for specific purposes as laid out in the terms of the grant, and the application of those funds for those purposes.

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

12. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed Assets	Net current Assets/ (Liabilities)	Total
Unrestricted Funds			
General fund	1,921	16,890	18,811
	<u>1,921</u>	<u>16,890</u>	<u>18,811</u>
Restricted funds			
Restricted fixed asset fund	6,511	-	6,511
	<u>6,511</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,511</u>
	<u>8,432</u>	<u>16,890</u>	<u>25,322</u>

13. Company limited by guarantee

ESC FILMS LTD is a company limited by guarantee and the liability of the members is limited to a maximum of £1 for each member.