



Trustee Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. 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 LTD

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 (that served during the year under review)

Don Leeson (Chair)

Paul McAleer (Resigned 30 May 2024)

Heather Moorhead

Moyra Richardson

Neil Gilmore (Resigned 30 May 2024)

Sarah McErlain (Appointed 6 September 2024)

Roisin Scott (Appointed 20 September 2024)

Gillian McNaul (Appointed 20 September 2024)

Charlotte Scott (Appointed 20 September 2024)

Christopher Carlin (Appointed 31 October 2024)

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

Transforming lives through film

Blick Studios, 46 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LB
www.esc-film.com | info@esc-film.com | 07504 826 236 | 02890 502 169

Statutory Information: esc films is a registered charity (NIC102123) and a company limited by guarantee registered in N. Ireland (NI036267).



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

Governance and management of esc films is undertaken by a Board of Trustees comprising a Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and other Trustees. The Board normally meets between four - six times a year and is responsible for the overall strategic direction and control of esc films' activities. The day to day management of esc films is led by the Chief Executive with authority delegated by the Board of Trustees. 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 methods used to recruit and appoint new charity trustees.

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 films' 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".

The main activities undertaken in relation to those purposes during the year 2024-25

SUMMARY: Over the course of the year we worked with 40 individuals, impacting directly on 40 participants in our therapeutic work, on a further 320 family members and an additional 15 staff members and volunteers. The charity awarded 40 ASDAN Awards of which 32 were Expressive Arts and 8 were ASDAN Peer Mentoring Awards.

The main achievements and performance of the charity in 2024-25.

esc films worked continuously to deliver on the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan and Business Plan 2023-25. esc films focused on fulfilling the following aims for the year 2024-25:

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

Cancer Focus - final year.

esc films are continuing to work with Cancer Focus staff and clients on shaping a film to fulfil their needs.

esc films have been working within the NI Prison Service, delivering accredited expressive writing programmes to pre-release prisoners.

In 2024 -25 we ran 4 of our flagship programme "Snakes & Ladders" in Maghaberry and Magilligan prisons with recalled prisoners focusing on mental health, ACEs, PTSD and addiction. We piloted a new programme called "Unboxing Women" in Hydebank Wood College, working with female prisoners with mental health needs, addiction issues and complex trauma through the medium of expressive writing. We continued to promote our feature film Mickey B internationally including a screening with Q & A for the University of Murcia, Spain.

Financial Review

The charity's financial position at the end of the year ended 31 March 2025 is set out in the financial statements.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have set a reserves target of at least £25,000 of unrestricted reserves representing approx. 3 months running costs. The trustees 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. The trustees 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 trustees 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 trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Board on 1 December 2025.

Don Leeson

Don Leeson
Chair, Board of Directors

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