

22q11 Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 102573

Details

Known as 22q11 NI

Status Received

Registered 2015-10-19

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

Contact

Address 10A Abbacy Road
Ardkeen
Newtownards
BT22 1hh
BT22 1HH

Phone 07743554114

Email 22q11northernireland@gmail.com

Website www.22q11northernireland.co.uk

Activities

Purposes: 1. To raise awareness and provide advocacy for those affected by 22q through dissemination of information to the general public in Northern Ireland and in particular those diagnosed with 22q, local medical clinicians and locally elected MPs and MLAs 2. To support and encourage people residing in Northern Ireland who are affected by 22q through the provision of recreation or other leisure time occupation for individuals, family and friends of those diagnosed with such a condition

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of health or the saving of lives, The advancement of citizenship or community development, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage, Other charitable purposes

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information, Disability, Research/evaluation, Sport/recreation

Who the charity helps: Carers, Children (5-13 year olds), General public, Learning disabilities, Mental health, Parents, Physical disabilities, Preschool (0-5 year olds), Sensory disabilities, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,474	£6,831	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anders Cassidy		
Gillian Cassidy		
Lorraine Stitt		

22q11 Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102573

Accounts

Registered Charity
NIC102573

22011 Northern Ireland

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

22q11 Northern Ireland

22q11 Northern Ireland was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19th October 2015 (Charity Number NIC102573).

Address

10A Abbacy Road
Ardkeen
Newtownards
BT22 1HH

Trustees

Mrs Gillian Cassidy
Mr Anders Cassidy
Mrs Lorraine Stitt
Miss Mia Cassidy-Lowden

Bankers

Santander
64 Main St
BANGOR
Co Down
BT20 5AQ

Independent Examiner

Independent Examiner's report to the charity trustees of 22q11 Northern Ireland

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 4 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act, follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission 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.

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above 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.

Signed: Rosalind Hennessey

Name: ROSALIND HENNESSEY

Address: 31 Lishane Road
Kircubbin BT22 1AW

Date: 13th January 2026

22q11 Northern Ireland

Receipts and payments account

For the year 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds		U/R
	This year		funds
	£	£	last
			year
			£
<u>Receipts</u>			
Donations		2474	16570
Amazon Smile		-	24
		<hr/>	
		2474	16594
<u>Payments</u>			
Ark Farm - 22q at the Zoo	1909		1815
T-Shirt printing	3886		-
Family First tickets	660		110
22q Conferences	-		4543
Cash For Kids (Bank transfers for cash/cheques received)	-		1259
Travel	376		242
Stripe (online payments)			2
		<hr/>	
		6831	7971
Excess of income over expenditure for the year		<hr/>	
		-4355	8623
Surplus brought forward		<hr/>	
		10787	
Surplus carried forward		<hr/>	
		6432	

22q11 Northern Ireland

Statement of balances as at 31 March 2025
Unrestricted Funds

Bank Account – Santander Charity Account

	£
Opening Balance	10787.89
Receipts	2474.05
Payments	(6829.74)
Closing balance	<u>6,432.20</u>

Paypal Account

	£
Opening balance	0
Receipts	-
Payments	-
Closing balance	<u>0</u>

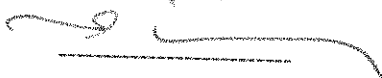
Total Bank & Paypal accounts

<u>6432</u>

Trustee Declaration

We approve the above receipts and payments account which has been prepared from the books and records maintained. We confirm that this is a true reflection of the activities of the charity for the year then ended.

Gillian Cassidy



Trustee

Lorraine Stitt



Trustee

Date

22q11 Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102573

Accounts

Registered Charity
NIC102573

22q11 Northern Ireland

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

22q11 Northern Ireland

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BT22 1HH

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Mr Anders Cassidy
Mrs Lorraine Stitt
Miss Mia Cassidy-Lowden

Bankers

Santander
64 Main St
BANGOR
Co Down
BT20 5AQ

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Independent examiner's statement

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Signed:



Name:

R HENNESSEY

Address:

31 Lisbane Road
Keshubbin BT22 1AW

Date:

17/1/25

22q11 Northern Ireland

Receipts and payments account
For the year 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds		U/R
	This year		funds
	£	£	last
			year
			£
<u>Receipts</u>			
Donations		16570	-
Amazon Smile		24	32
		<hr/>	
		16594	32
<u>Payments</u>			
Ark Farm - 22q at the Zoo	1815		668
Rebecca Gleed Speech (Travel/Accommodation)	-		261
Family First tickets	110		440
22q Conferences	4543		-
Cash For Kids (Bank transfers for cash/cheques received)	1259		-
Travel	242		-
Stripe (online payments)	2		-
		<hr/>	
		7971	1369
Excess of income over expenditure for the year		<hr/>	
		8623	-1337
Surplus brought forward		<hr/>	
		2164	
Surplus carried forward		<hr/>	
		10787	

22q11 Northern Ireland

Statement of balances as at 31 March 2024
Unrestricted Funds

Bank Account – Santander Charity Account

	£
Opening Balance	2164
Receipts	16594
Payments	(7971)
Closing balance	<hr/> 10787 <hr/>

Paypal Account

	£
Opening balance	0
Receipts	-
Payments	-
Closing balance	<hr/> 0 <hr/>

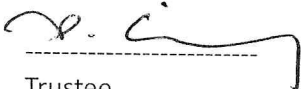
Total Bank & Paypal accounts

10787

Trustee Declaration


We approve the above receipts and payments account which has been prepared from the books and records maintained. We confirm that this is a true reflection of the activities of the charity for the year then ended.

Gillian Cassidy



Trustee

Lorraine Stitt



Trustee

Date

22q11 Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102573

Annual report

22Q11 Northern Ireland Annual Report

For the year to March 31st 2024

Annual Report for year ended March 31st 2024

In May 2023, we held our annual '22q at the Moo' event at Ark Farm in Newtownards. This year's event was a resounding success, with a record 130 attendees! This represents a significant increase in participation, demonstrating the growing need for community and connection amongst 22q families. The day was filled with fun activities like barrel train rides, animal petting and complimentary ice cream, with valuable opportunities for families to connect with one another and build support networks. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees, with many expressing how much they valued the chance to connect with each other.

In June, we took on the exciting challenge of participating in the Cash for Kids Community Challenge. As a charity that has been historically weak at fundraising, we rarely conduct large-scale campaigns. However, this opportunity was too good to miss! Our team rallied together, organizing many events such as "Wear it blue for 22q" at Kircubbin Integrated Primary School, bucket collections, and even a Yoga session and leveraging the power of social media to spread the word. We were absolutely thrilled to not only surpass our initial target of £2,500 but also to win the overall competition, raising a grand total of over £14,000 with the Cash for Kids bonus.

Thanks to the success of our Cash for Kids campaign, we were able to provide financial assistance to 12 families, enabling them to attend the 22q11 European Conference in Dublin in November. This international conference provided a unique platform for families and healthcare professionals to connect, learn from experts in the field, and share their experiences.

The conference provided valuable insights into the latest research and best practices in supporting individuals with 22q11. Key sessions focused on child psychology for individuals with 22q, dual diagnosis, hearing loss and the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach to treatment. Attendees reported feeling empowered by the knowledge they gained and inspired by the sense of community. To extend the reach of the conference, we shared key takeaways and summaries on our Facebook page, ensuring that those who couldn't attend could still benefit from the information.

In December, Gillian Cassidy and Mia Lowden represented our charity at the 22q11 Syndrome All Party Parliamentary Group's House of Commons Event at Westminster. This event was a crucial opportunity to raise awareness among UK policymakers about the challenges faced by individuals with 22q11 and to advocate for improved screening and support services. Gillian delivered a powerful speech, highlighting the success of the 22q Transition Clinic in Belfast City Hospital, the importance of families driving change, and urging MPs to take action by listening to

the concerns of their constituents affected by 22q. We were encouraged by the strong turnout of MPs (though Northern Ireland was sadly under-represented) and the positive engagement we received generally.

Throughout the year, Gillian has continued her invaluable work as a voluntary Family Liaison Officer at the City Hospital's monthly 22q clinic. In this role, she provides emotional support, information on resources, and guidance on navigating the healthcare system to families with newly diagnosed children, ensuring they feel heard and supported during a challenging time. It has become clear that the need to support Young Adults with 22q is a pressing issue. Strategic planning is in progress and a number of people have been contacted in regards to funding, research and idea gathering.

Our Facebook page remains an active and vibrant community with over 1500 members. It serves as a safe space for families to connect, ask questions, share information, and offer each other encouragement.

Our connection to the Northern Ireland Rare Disease community remains strong and Gillian has been working with the NIRDP PPIE group which is building a website resource for people with rare diseases, no matter what part of the journey they are on.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees of 22q11 Northern Ireland confirm that they have complied with their duty under the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 to have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the charity in the year to March 31st 2024.

The trustees believe that all of our purposes satisfy both elements of the public benefit requirement, and that the activities in 2023-24 (detailed in the annual report) contributed to each purpose:

- To seek out information about 22q through conferences, relevant lectures and the World Wide Web in order to provide advocacy through dissemination of information to the public and clinicians in Northern Ireland on symptoms and issues via lectures, articles, social media and information sharing via a dedicated website.
- To support and encourage people residing in Northern Ireland who are affected by chromosome abnormalities including but not limited to 22q11.2 deletion, 22q11.2 duplication, Ring 22, 22q13 duplication, Mosaic 22q deletion, Mosaic 22q duplication, 22q distal deletion and Trisomy 22 through the provision of recreation or other leisure time occupation for individuals, family and friends of those diagnosed with the objective of improving their quality of life.
- To raise the profile of 22q with local elected MPs, MLA's, clinicians, and all those involved in the lives of those living with 22q in Northern Ireland.
- To raise the standard of care for those living with 22q in Northern Ireland via improved health care services, employment and training, social and educational improvements.

Financial Review

Financial Performance

As mentioned above we placed a focus on fund-raising in 2023 as we recovered from the deficits caused by Covid restrictions and were very successful in this goal. Our income was substantially larger than any year in the charity's history.

The charity has no assets or liabilities.

Income

In addition to a small passive income from Amazon Smile (£24) we raised a total of £16,567 via various fundraising initiatives in 2023-24.

Expenditure

£7971 was spent in total. The most significant costs were paying for families to attend the 22q European Conference in Dublin and hosting the '22q at the Moo' event at Ark Farm.

Full accounts are attached.

Approved and adopted by a meeting of the trustees on 11th January 2025 and signed on their behalf,



Gillian Cassidy

Founder

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name

22q11 Northern Ireland also known as 22qNI

Charity Number

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland No 102573

Principal Address

10A Abbacy Road
Ardkeen
Newtownards
BT22 1HH

Charity Trustees as of March 31st 2024

Mrs Gillian Cassidy	Founder
Mr Anders Cassidy	Treasurer
Mrs Lorraine Stitt	Advocate and Support Coordinator
Miss Mia Lowden	Trustee

22q11 Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102573

Annual return

Independent Examiner's report to the charity trustees of 22q11 Northern Ireland

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Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

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Basis of independent examiner's report

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4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

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Signed:



Name:

R HENNESSEY

Address:

31 Lisbane Road
Keshubbin BT22 1AW

Date:

17/1/25

22q11 Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102573

Accounts

Registered Charity
NIC102573

22q11 Northern Ireland
Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

22q11 Northern Ireland

22q11 Northern Ireland was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19th October 2015 (Charity Number NIC102573).

Address

10A Abbacy Road
Ardkeen
Newtownards
BT22 1HH

Trustees

Mrs Gillian Cassidy
Mr Anders Cassidy
Mrs Lorraine Stitt
Miss Mia Cassidy-Lowden

Bankers

Santander
64 Main St
BANGOR
Co Down
BT20 5AQ

Accountants and Independent Examiner

Independent Examiner's report to the charity trustees of 22q11 Northern Ireland

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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.

Signed:

Rosalind Hennessey

Name:

ROSALIND HENNESSEY

Address:

31 LISBANE ROAD
KIRKUBBIN BT22 1AW

Date:

26/1/2024

22q11 Northern Ireland

Receipts and payments account
For the year 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds		U/R
	This year		funds
	£	£	last
			year
			£
<u>Receipts</u>			
Donations			- 535
Amazon Smile			32 62
			<hr/>
			32 597
<u>Payments</u>			
Ark Farm - 22q at the Zoo	668		
Rebecca Gleed Speech (Travel/Accommodation)	261		
Family First tickets	440		
Marketing (enthuse.com)	-		48
			<hr/>
			1369 48
Excess of income over expenditure for the year			<hr/>
			-1337 549
Surplus brought forward			<hr/>
			3501
Surplus carried forward			<hr/>
			2164

22q11 Northern Ireland

Statement of balances as at 31 March 2023
Unrestricted Funds

Bank Account – Santander Charity Account

	£
Opening Balance	3501
Receipts	32
Payments	(1369)
Closing balance	<u>2164</u>

Paypal Account

	£
Opening balance	0
Receipts	-
Payments	-
Closing balance	<u>0</u>

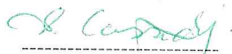
Total Bank & Paypal accounts

2164

Trustee Declaration

We approve the above receipts and payments account which has been prepared from the books and records maintained. We confirm that this is a true reflection of the activities of the charity for the year then ended.


Gillian Cassidy



Trustee

Date

Lorraine Stitt



Trustee

22q11 Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102573

Annual report

22Q11 Northern Ireland Annual Report

For the year to March 31st 2023

Annual Report for year ended March 31st 2023

2022-23 was a quiet year for the charity, however there were still some notable events that impacted the community of those affected by 22q in Northern Ireland.

In May 2022 the annual '22q at the Zoo' event returned, having been cancelled due to Covid in previous years, and at a new venue (the Ark Farm in Newtownards) as some attendees with mobility issues found Belfast Zoo too difficult. The event was a great success as several new families attended and met each other for the first time to discuss challenges and coping strategies common to those affected by 22q.

Gillian attended the 22q Ireland conference in Dublin in October 2022 to collect valuable insights from speakers and attendees affected by 22q, which she shared via the Facebook group.

Throughout 2022 new families in need of help continued to contact Gillian through the 22q11 Northern Ireland Facebook group and she was able to refer them to the 22q Transition Clinic at Belfast City Hospital and provide advice remotely even though she was not yet allowed to attend the clinic for face-to-face contact. Covid restrictions were thankfully finally lifted in early 2023 so Gillian could resume her role as volunteer patient coordinator, distributing information packs and direct support to all involved. The clinic continues to be an essential service for families living with 22q, providing specialist medical and psychiatric advice.

Mia Lowden joined as a trustee in January, 2023.

Public Benefit Statement

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- To raise the standard of care for those living with 22q in Northern Ireland via improved health care services, employment and training, social and educational improvements.

Financial Review

Financial Performance

Fund-raising remained on pause after halting during the Covid lockdown. Fortunately there were sufficient surplus funds from pre-Covid years to pay for 22q at the Zoo.

The charity has no assets or liabilities.

Income

Only the small passive income stream from Amazon Smile supplemented the Charity's funds in 2022-23.

Expenditure

£1369 was spent in total. The main cost was the event at Ark Farm, while there were also some expenses incurred by attending charity events.

Approved and adopted by a meeting of the trustees on 6th January 2024 and signed on their behalf,



Gillian Cassidy

Founder

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name

22q11 Northern Ireland also known as 22qNI

Charity Number

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland No 102573

Principal Address

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Charity Trustees as of March 31st 2023

Mrs Gillian Cassidy	Founder
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22q11 Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102573

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Signed:

Rosalind Hennessey

Name:

ROSALIND HENNESSEY

Address:

31 LISBANE ROAD
KIRKUBBIN BT22 1AW

Date:

26/1/2024