

TRUSTEE REPORT YEAR END 13/9/24

CHARITY NAME: ODAT LIMITED
ADDRESS: PEACE HOUSE
224 LISBURN ROAD
BELFAST
BT96GE
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI102967
FINANCIAL YEAR: 14/9/23 – 13/9/24

ODAT Ltd is constituted by our Memorandum of Association dated 14/9/93

TRUSTEE INFORMATION

ODAT Ltd was established in Northern Ireland on 14/9/93 to serve Al-Anon Family Groups, to carry out Public Information about the help which is available to Families and Friends of Alcoholics and to distribute Literature to Groups and members of the public in Northern Ireland.

Our Aim is to relieve poverty and distress among families and dependants suffering by reason of someone else's alcoholism, to help those affected, to understand the nature of the illness of alcoholism, its causes and effects and by instruction, guidance and example in proper and helpful attitudes and behaviour towards the sufferer.

Our Trustees are nominated for a 3 year period with an option to succeed themselves for a further 3 years, at our Annual General Meetings which takes place every year.

The AGM of ODAT Ltd took place on 10th December 2023. Our Office Bearers are elected from the New Board at its first meeting

after the AGM. All Trustees receive written documentation of roles, duties and responsibilities. There are terms of reference contained within this Induction Pack.

Board meetings take place 4 times per year and Trustees attend the AGM.

The Trustees were successful in Registering as a recognised Charity in Northern Ireland on 7/9/15 and are committed to carrying out their duties in accordance with its Charitable purposes.

ODAT LTD is also registered as a Charity with HMRC.

ODAT LTD employs an Office Manager on a part-time basis. Office Managers contract is permanent. We have Volunteers who assist the Office Manager on 3 mornings per week. They are Al-Anon members who want to give back to people who need help as they did when they reached out and the Office and Al-Anon were there for them. Their help is invaluable.

The Administration Office is situated in Belfast and rent is paid in accordance with a contractual arrangement on a monthly basis.

THIS REPORT COVERS THE PERIOD OF 14/9/23 – 13/9/24

ACTIVITIES

We offer support and guidance throughout Northern Ireland to the ever growing number of people reaching out for help with someone else's problem drinking.

We have found an increase in calls from Southern Ireland as the Al-Anon Office in Dublin has closed. We are also now supplying literature to groups in the South of Ireland and have seen an increase in callers coming into the office to collect literature for Groups across Southern Ireland and to have a chat with Office Volunteer and the Office Manager

Our 24 hr telephone helpline continues to provide information to members of the public living with someone else's alcoholism; they can access information about Al-Anon Family Groups and speak to

Al -Anon volunteers. They offer to send Newcomer Booklets and meeting lists.

We continued to offer telephone support and there were approximately 976 distress calls throughout the year from friends and families of people with an alcohol problem. Many of these calls were from members of the public who have a relationship with someone who has an alcohol problem.

Al-Anon members continued to use the helpline between meetings to get the support they need, often a listening ear is all that is required for them to know they are no longer alone.

An important part of these calls is that members of the Public are now aware of the help which is available to them at any time. We continued to give hope to distressed callers and encourage them to reach out via the helpline and to attend the Al-Anon meetings either in person or online.

Al-Anon Online meetings continue and newcomers and members are able to get support and help from members who also share the anguish of living around problem drinking. These meeting are filling a void for people who cannot attend In-Person meetings due to their Personal circumstances.

Our online presence on various Websites has proved again this year to be a great way for members of the public to become aware of Al-Anon and the help we offer to Families and Friends of people with a problem drinker in their life. These organisations have a referral form on their Website which can be completed and then they email to us, enabling us to contact the enquirer and offer our help and support. We always recommend that where possible they attend an Al-Anon meeting which is where the best help is.

134 Newcomer Packs were sent out throughout the year with literature and meeting details enclosed. This includes information on online meetings which have continued since Covid and are another way for members of the Public to join an Al-Anon meeting. We have found an increase in people preferring to collect

Newcomer Booklets at meetings rather than being posted to their address for safety reasons.

We continue to send Newcomer Booklets to Cuan Mhuire Rehab Centre and Northlands Rehab Centre for families of in patients. These Newcomer Booklets also contain a list of Al-Anon meetings both in person and online across Northern Ireland. We send various leaflet and PI Magazines to these Rehabs and are looking at increasing to include other Rehab Centres during 2024/2025 as the Family meetings within these facilities are often the first place that family members hear that there is help for them too.

We received 73 calls from professionals looking for help for clients and we sent Public Information Packs which we offer to replenish as required. These contain posters for their offices and leaflets and business cards with the Al-Anon Office Information on them so that they can be distributed to their Service Users.

We continue to participate in Alcoholic Anonymous Public Information Meetings. We are invited to these meetings by AA so that members of the Public and AA members can hear about the effects of problem drinking from a family perspective rather than the drinker. A member of Al-Anon can tell their story of how it was before they came into Al-Anon and how attending the meetings and getting the support has helped and in many cases changed their lives.

We have literature available for anyone who wants more information and meeting lists to direct them to their local meetings.

During this year we were able to supply literature to 3 Al-Anon Days of Gratitude. Members come together for meetings and also open meetings are available for the public to attend.

FINANCIAL

The accounts for the year ending 13/9/24 are presented as attached, in the form of Statement of Financial Activities in order to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) *Accounting and Reporting by Charities in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable.*

ODAT Ltd were successful in making 2 Gift Aid claims during the financial period 14/9/23 – 13/9/24.

ACCOUNTANT

DALY PARK & COMPANY

TITANIC SUITES

55 – 59 ADELAIDE STREET

BELFAST

BT2 8FE

TEL NO 02890 726000

Accounts closed on 13/9/24 were passed and signed off at a Board meeting on 10/12/24.

The finances for the administration of the Charity and to fulfil its purposes are from donations from Al-Anon Family Groups in Northern Ireland and fundraising activities by Al-Anon Members. ODAT is self supporting through these voluntary contributions.

A Reserve Account with one years running costs is held as a sustainability measure. *See Page 9 of audited accounts.*

Dated 2/6/24 Signed *.Seaneen Weir.....*Treasurer