

North Belfast District Scout Council

Northern Ireland · Charity number 103804

Details

Status Received

Registered 2015-08-13

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

Contact

Address 12 Holly Lane
Newtownabbey
County Antrim
Bt36 5gu
BT36 5GU

Phone 028 90588614

Activities

Purposes: Promoting the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of citizenship or community development

How the charity works: Cross-border/cross-community, Cultural, Sport/recreation, Volunteer development, Youth development

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£31,241	£21,514	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Agnes Colgan		
Harry Porter		
Mr John White		
Mr William Geoffrey Davidson		
Mrs Elizabeth McClean		
Mrs Maureen Joan Davidson		
Phyllis Cooke		

North Belfast District Scout Council

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103804

Accounts

**NORTH BELFAST DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INVESTMENTS
1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025**

RECEIPTS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL
Transfer - Santander Business Savings A/C	1,000.00	4,000.00	5,000.00
Transfer - Danske Fixed Term A/C	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
2025 Membership Fees	0.00	12,857.00	12,857.00
E A Grant - District Explorers	0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
District Explorers	0.00	1,535.00	1,535.00
Christingle Service Collection	0.00	90.91	90.91
2024 Membership Rebate	0.00	147.00	147.00
Bank Interest	11.45	0.00	11.45
TOTAL RECEIPTS	1,011.45	30,229.91	31,241.36

PAYMENTS

2025 Membership Fees.	0.00	12,857.00	12,857.00
78th Belfast Scout Group - Donation towards Hall upgrade	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
E A Grant Expenditure	0.00	1,342.70	1,342.70
Ballyhoran Explorers'Weekend	0.00	1,606.00	1,606.00
Donation - St Brigid's Church	250.00	0.00	250.00
2024 Membership Rebate	0.00	147.00	147.00
Summit 25 Conference	910.00	0.00	910.00
Childrens Heartbeat Trust - Christingle Service	0.00	90.91	90.91
District Secretary Expenses	49.72	0.00	49.72
NISC - SOWA Contribution	25.00	0.00	25.00
District Treasurer's Expenses	50.64	0.00	50.64
Group Leaders & Trustees Evening	142.59	0.00	142.59
Bank Charges	42.37	0.00	42.37
	1,470.32	20,043.61	21,513.93

Excess of Receipts over Payments	458.87	10,186.30	9,727.43
Payments over Receipts			

**NORTH BELFAST DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INVESTMENTS - Continued
1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL
Cash Funds				
Current Accounts	12,577.77	1,652.39	0.00	14,230.16
Deposit Accounts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Cash Funds	12,577.77	1,652.39	0.00	14,230.16

INVESTMENT ASSETS

Equity Investments	86,517.00	0.00	0.00	
Other Listed Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	86,517.00
Investments in Unit Trusts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Investment	86,517.00	0.00	0.00	86,517.00

Assets

Assets retained for the Council's own own use	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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**John White
District Treasurer
31 March 2025**

North Belfast District Scout Council

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103804

Accounts

**NORTH BELFAST DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INVESTMENTS
1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL
RECEIPTS			
2024 Membership Subscriptions	0.00	11,172.00	11,172.00
E A Grant - District Explorers	0.00	1,789.00	1,789.00
District Explorers	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Christingle Service Collection	0.00	78.43	78.43
2023 Membership Rebate	0.00	139.50	139.50
Balance of 2023 Membership Fees	0.00	24.00	24.00
District Badges	37.50	0.00	37.50
Bank Interest	5.31	0.00	5.31
TOTAL RECEIPTS	42.81	14,202.93	14,245.74
PAYMENTS			
2024 Membership Subscriptions.	0.00	11,172.00	11,172.00
E A Grant Expenditure	0.00	1,901.86	1,901.86
Donation - St Brigid's Church	250.00	0.00	250.00
2023 Membership Rebate	0.00	139.50	139.50
Donation to Islandmagee Scout Council	120.00	0.00	120.00
NI Hospice - Memory of Late Prue Sutton	100.00	0.00	100.00
NI Childrens Hospice - Christingle Service	0.00	78.43	78.43
District Treasurer's Expenses	55.98	0.00	55.98
District Secretary Expenses	53.87	0.00	53.87
Flowers for Speaker at Islandmagee Scout Centre	30.00	0.00	30.00
Mail Promotion Day	24.00	0.00	24.00
Bank Charges	0.00	42.14	42.14
	633.85	13,333.93	13,967.78
Excess of Receipts over Payments	561.04	839.00	277.96
Payments over Receipts			

**NORTH BELFAST DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INVESTMENTS - Continued
1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL £
Cash Funds				
Current Accounts	3,036.64	1,466.09	0.00	4,502.73
Deposit Accounts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Cash Funds	3,304.37	1,466.09	0.00	4,502.73
INVESTMENT ASSETS				
Equity Investments	87,509.20	0.00	0.00	87,509.20
Other Listed Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Investments in Unit Trusts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Investment	87,509.20	0.00	0.00	87,509.20
Assets				
Assets retained for the Council's own own use	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**John White
District Treasurer
31 March 2024**

North Belfast District Scout Council

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103804

Annual report



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

The North Belfast District Scout Council is a Trust established under the Rules which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

TRUSTEES

Geoffrey Davidson (Chair): Maureen Davidson (Secretary): John White (Treasurer): Agnes Colgan: Margaret Mitchell: Phyllis Cooke: Elizabeth McClean: Harry Porter: Jeanette Allen.

As Trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation application to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts records and relate returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Trustees met four times during 2023/24. At each Trustees' Meeting the Treasurer gave a Finance Report which detailed the financial activities since the last meeting of the Trustees and the Bank Balances and the Investments held by the District. A request for Funding was received from one of the Scout Groups, within the District, in 2024 to enable them to carry out essential renovations to their Scout Hall. The Trustees requested further information from them before giving their final approval which will be in 2024/25.

The Trustees continue to ensure that there is sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short. This is in accordance with its Reserve Policy.

The Trustees regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure that they obtain maximum value and income from its banking arrangements.

REVIEW OF 2023/24 YEAR

The District has implemented most of the changes and restructuring processes accompanying the Scout UK Transformation Project. Work to complete the transition continues. North Belfast District now sits within Northern Region as Belfast County disappeared under the NI Scouting restructure.

Training for volunteers remained important and a Young Leaders Training Team has been established to facilitate those who wish to become Leaders and support the continued growth and development of North Belfast District.

The District has completed the Duke of Edinburgh Award pilot scheme and offers Bronze, Silver and Gold level Award opportunities for Scouts.

Events for Sections included visits to the W5 Science Centre; 10 Pin Bowling and Quiz Nights; the Annual District Christingle and Explorers District Camps were favourably received and well attended.

The District continued to provide financial support for various activities e.g. District Explorers Camp. District Recruitment Day, Leadership Training for the Duke of Edinburgh Award and repairs to Scout premises.

Geoffrey Davidson - Chair

North Belfast District Scout Council

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103804

Annual return

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE CHARITY TRUSTEES OF NORTH BELFAST DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

I report on the Accounts of the Trust for the year ending 31 March 2024

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.
- 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.

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 63 of the Charities Act
- 2 That the records 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 the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Signed:



Name Mrs Kathy Wolff
Independent Examiner
Address The Barron Hall, Antrim Road, Glengormley BT367QX

28 May 2024

North Belfast District Scout Council

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103804

Accounts

**NORTH BELFAST DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INVESTMENTS
1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL
RECEIPTS			
2023 Membership Subscriptions	0.00	10,020.00	10,020.00
57th St Peters (COI) - Closing Bank Balance	0.00	1,418.21	1,418.21
E A Grant - District Explorers	0.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
2022 County Levy	0.00	430.50	430.50
Glengormley Explorers	0.00	279.00	279.00
Christingle Service Collection	0.00	200.83	200.83
2022 Membership Rebate	0.00	147.50	147.50
Glengormley Explorers - Balance of 2022 M'ship Fees	0.00	90.00	90.00
District Badges	50.00	0.00	50.00
Bank Interest	6.88	0.00	6.88
TOTAL RECEIPTS	56.88	13,986.04	14,042.92
PAYMENTS			
2023 Membership Subscriptions.	0.00	10,044.00	10,044.00
Transfer of 57th Closing Bank Balance to 78th	0.00	1,310.21	1,310.21
E A Grant Expenditure	0.00	1,399.75	1,399.75
Rose McConnell - World Jamboree	0.00	600.00	600.00
2022 County Levy	0.00	442.50	442.50
5th - Balance of Glengormley Explorers Closing Balance	0.00	186.00	186.00
108th - Balance of Glengormley Explorers Closing Balance	0.00	93.00	93.00
Christingle Service	0.00	200.88	200.88
Belfast County - 2022 M'ship Rebate	0.00	136.00	136.00
Donation - St Brigid's Church	250.00	0.00	250.00
District Secretary Expenses	97.20	0.00	97.20
District Treasurer's Expenses	56.00	0.00	56.00
Adam McCambridge - Attendance at Late Queen's Funeral	40.00	0.00	40.00
District Commissioner - Reimbursement	14.20	0.00	14.20
Death Notice	79.80	0.00	79.80
Bank Charges	45.80	0.00	45.80
	583.00	14,412.34	14,995.34
Excess of Payments over Receipts	526.12	426.30	952.42

**NORTH BELFAST DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INVESTMENTS - Continued
1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL £
Cash Funds				
Current Accounts	3,304.37	923.95	0.00	4,228.32
Deposit Accounts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Cash Funds	3,304.37	923.95	0.00	4,228.32
INVESTMENT ASSETS				
Equity Investments	86,517.00	0.00	0.00	86,517.00
Other Listed Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Investments in Unit Trusts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Investment	86,517.00	0.00	0.00	86,517.00
Assets				
Assets retained for the Council's own own use	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**John White
District Treasurer
31 March 2023**

North Belfast District Scout Council

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103804

Annual report

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

0	1	0	4	2	2
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 to end date

3	1	0	3	2	3
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Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

North Belfast District Scout Council

Other names the charity is known by

North Belfast Scouts

Registered charity number (if any)

1	0	3	8	0	4
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HQ registration number

1	0	0	0	1	9	8	8
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Charity's principal address

12 Holly Lane							
Newtownabbey							
Co Antrim							
Postcode	B	T	3	6	5	G	U

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Geoff Davidson	Chair	
2	Margaret Mitchell		
3	Maureen Davidson	Secretary	
4	Agnes Colgan		
5	Phyllis Cooke		
6	Elizabeth McClean		
7	Prue Sutton		30-Nov-22
8	Harry Porter		
9	John White	Treasurer	
10	Jeanette Allen		
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

Type of advisor	Name	Address

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

The District Scout Council's governing documents are those of the The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

(e.g. trust deed, constitution)

How the charity is constituted

The District Scout Council is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

(e.g. trust, association, company)

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

(e.g. appointed by, elected by)

Additional governance issues (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

The District is managed by the District Scout Council, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout District which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the Group Scout Leaders, individual section leaders (if opted to take on the responsibility by the District Commissioner) and parent's representation and meets 4 times per year.

Members of the District Scout Council complete 'Essential Information for Executive Committee' training within the first 5 months of joining the committee.

This District Scout Council exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:
Compliance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association;
Managing District finances;

Ensuring insurance of persons, property and equipment;

Providing sufficient resources for Scouting to operate. This includes but is not limited to supporting recruitment, other adult support and fundraising activities;
District public occasions;

Promoting and supporting development of Scouting in the local area;

Managing and implementing the Safety Policy locally;

Ensuring that a positive image of Scouting exists in the local community;

Opening, closing and amalgamating Groups in the District as necessary;

Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;

Appointing any sub committees that may be required;

Appointing District Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

The District Scout Council also:

Presents the Annual Report and Annual Accounts at the Annual General Meeting and submits them to the Charities Commission for N Ireland;

Maintains confidentiality with regard to appropriate District Scout Council business.

Policies and procedures adopted for:

- the induction and training of trustees;
- trustee' consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them

Risk and Internal Control

The District Scout Council has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The District through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income from fund raising. The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The District does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The District Scout Council could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the District on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders. The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the District as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the District.

Reduction or loss of members. The District provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the District as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the District.

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and ensuring that insurable risks are covered.

Section C**Objectives and activities**

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Purpose of Scouting

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

Integrity - We act with integrity, we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.

Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.

Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.

Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.

Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The above objectives are achieved by providing an enjoyable scheme of progressive training based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership. This includes weekly Section meetings with age-appropriate activities, including games, badgework and craft/art activities. Young people also participate in Outings and Camps and events organised at both District and County level. The District Scout Council provides financial support and guidance to Groups within North District.

Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- contribution made by volunteers;
- policy on investments.

All requests for grant assistance are discussed by the District Scout Council and awards made as appropriate, approved and recorded in Council minutes.

Public benefit statement

The District Scout Council meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Section D**Achievements and performance**

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The District continued to provide financial support for various activities eg grants to young people and Leaders planning to attend international camps. The District provided assistance to a North Belfast Scout selected to represent NI Scouts at the 2023 World Jamboree in South Korea. Activities resumed during the year with groups meeting regularly as the effects of the pandemic receded. The Christingle service was well attended with Groups present who hadn't previously engaged with the District at this event. An Explorer weekend was held with all places taken and included discussions with the Explorers on what activities they would like moving forward. The District commenced development of a Duke of Edinburgh pilot scheme. Training of volunteers continued.

Section E**Financial Review**

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves Policy

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Scout Council considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 3 months running costs, circa £100.

The District held reserves of approximately £86,000 against this at year end. This is above the level required for operating expenses and is the result of the sale of Cavehill Road premises. The reserve is held for the benefit of the District.

Quantify and explain any designations

Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)

Further financial review details (optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);

Investment Policy

The District's Income and Expenditure is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The District has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;

The District Scout Council regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the District obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the District Scout Council considers the cash flow requirements.

• investment policy and objectives

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Section F

Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

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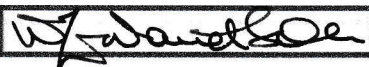
Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

William Geoffrey Davidson	
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

Chair	
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Date

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North Belfast District Scout Council

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103804

Annual return

Independent Examiners Report to the Charity Trustees of North Belfast District Scout Council

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2023

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 (N. 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**
- **state whether particular matters have come to my attention**

Basis of Independent examiners 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 N. 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 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 63 of the Charities Act**
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 N. Ireland; I have found no matters that require drawing to you attention.

Signed: 

Name: Mrs Kathy Wolff

Address:- The Barron Hall 230 Antrim Road Glengormley BT36 7QX

Date: 4th May 2023