

Macan Trust for the Blind

(Northern Ireland Charity Commission Number: 104924)

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

**Noel Conn & Company
Chartered Accountants**

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

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Trustees and Other Information

Trustees	Archbishop John McDowell Archbishop of Armagh Most Revd Eamon Columba Martin Archbishop of Armagh Revd Thomas Shane Forster Mr George Henry Emerson Mrs Laura Hassan Mr Desmond Robert David Mitchell Miss Melanie Houston
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Contact Details	Dr Stephen Day Summerhill 28 Tullygarden Road Richhill Armagh BT61 8QT Telephone: 028 38871831 Email: themacantrustfortheblind@gmail.com
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Independent Examiner	Noel Conn FCA 7 Seven Houses English Street Armagh BT61 7LA
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Bankers	AIB 18-20 Scotch Street Dungannon BT70 1AZ
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Charity Commission NI Number	104924
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Trustees report for the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out of page 11.

Constitution

Macan Trust for the Blind is a non-incorporated body and is an accepted charity by the Charity Commission Northern Ireland on the 1 April 2016 under number 104924.

Organisation

The Trustees who have served during the year are detailed out on page 3.

Public Benefit

The Trustees believe that both our purposes and the activities undertaken in this last financial year clearly satisfy elements of the public benefit requirement.

Statement of Public Benefit

Our purpose is to provide financial assistance to organisations in Armagh City and surrounding district who support the blind in their local communities. We also provide financial assistance to any recognised Charity for the Blind as the trustees, after consultation with the committee, think fit, provided that the trustees are satisfied that the recipient thereof shall apply such income or capital (as the case may be) for the benefit of the prescribed class. ("Recognised Charities for the Blind" shall include the Royal National Institute for the Blind and such other institutions or trusts provided for the blind in Northern Ireland recognised as charitable according to the law of Northern Ireland.) The direct benefits which flow from this purpose are the enabling of the provision of comforts and special equipment to improve the quality of life and opportunities of members of the "prescribed class." (The "Prescribed Class" means blind persons in Northern Ireland, preference being given to blind persons resident in the city of Armagh and surrounding district.) These benefits are evidenced through:-

- (a) Feedback from beneficiaries
- (b) A survey of yearly applications including what the previous year's grant monies were spent on and what the forthcoming year's grants will be spent on
- (c) Regular independent evaluation of our services

What is Macan Trust for the Blind

We liaise with local groups and organisations who provide support to the blind in their own communities. In November of each year the Secretary of the Macan Trust writes to their representatives inviting them to make application for grant monies for the following year. In late January/early February the applications are considered by the Advisory Committee and their recommendations are presented to the Trustees who decide on the merits of each application. Where grants are approved the monies are provided at a formal presentation in March. (Special applications can be submitted at any time of the year.)

During the year ended 31 December 2024 the charity donated support to 14 groups and organisations, ranging from donations of £680 to £2,000.

Financial review and Investment Policy

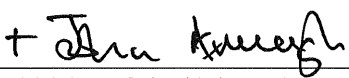
During the year ended 31 December 2024, the charity received investment income of £20,495 which yielded a surplus of £2,101.

Share disposals resulted in proceeds of £43,396.32 and a capital loss of £11,903. During the year there were share additions at a cost of £62,783


Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to reduce these risks. These include quarterly reports from Evelyn Partners on the investments held and how they have performed, along with any recommendations on how to minimise the risk of those investments while yielding a good return to enable the charity to give grants to those in need.

By order of the Trustees



Archbishop John McDowell



Date

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the United Kingdom (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council in the UK, including Charities SORP (FRS 102). Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in the United Kingdom and United Kingdom Law). Under that law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the statement of financial activities of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the application of accounting standards has 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 charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charities website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement as to disclosure to our Independent Examiner

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our trustees' annual report:

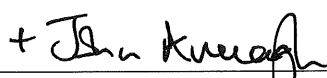
- there is no relevant accounts information of which the charitable company's independent examiner is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's independent examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

A resolution to re-appoint the Independent Examiner, Noel Conn FCA, will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

By Order of the board

By order of the Trustees

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Archbishop John McDowell

3.3.2025

Date

Independent Examiners Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

We report on the financial statements of Macan Trust for the Blind as set out on pages 9 - 13 for the year ended 31 December 2024, which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, The Balance Sheet, and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

This report is made solely to the Charity Trustees, as a body, in accordance with regulations made under the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Responsibilities of the Macan Trust for the Blind 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 our 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

We 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.

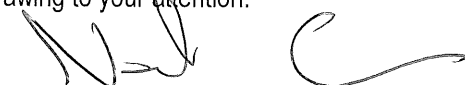
Our examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such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

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

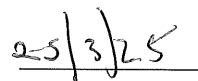
1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper 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 Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Noel Conn FCA
Chartered Accountant
7 Seven Houses
Upper English Street
Armagh
BT61 7LA



Date

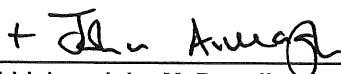
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
	<u>Notes</u>				
Incoming Resources:					
Investment Income		20,495	-	20,495	20,914
Grants Receivable		-	-	-	-
Total Incoming Resources		20,495	-	20,495	20,914
 Resources Expended:					
Fundraising and Publicity		-	-	-	-
 Net Income from Resources Available For Charitable Applications		20,495	-	20,495	20,914
 Charitable Expenditure:					
Cost of activities for charitable objectives	2	9,375	-	-	9,164
Management and Administration	5	9,019	-	-	6,447
Total Charitable Expenditure		18,394	-	18,394	15,611
 Total Resources Expended		18,394	-	18,394	15,611
 Net Income/Expenditure for the year		2,101	-	2,101	5,303
Gross Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Income/(expenditure) for the year		2,101	-	2,101	5,303
 (Loss)/Gain on Investments		(11,903)	-	(11,903)	(60,444)
 Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		547,795	-	547,795	547,795
 Total Funds to Carry Forward		537,993	-	537,993	492,654

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2024

Employment of Capital	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Investments					
Investments	4	441,502	-	441,502	361,660
Current Assets					
Debtors and Prepayments	5	-	-	-	-
Bank and Cash		41,350	-	41,350	58,635
		<u>41,350</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,350</u>	<u>58,635</u>
Current Liabilities					
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	6	-	-	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Current Assets		41,350	-	41,350	58,635
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>482,852</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>482,852</u>	<u>420,295</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted Funds	7			482,852	420,295
Restricted Funds	7			-	-
				<u>482,852</u>	<u>420,295</u>

I approve these accounts on behalf of the Board of Trustees and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information required for their preparation

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Archbishop John McDowell

Trustee

3-3-2025

Date

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024**1 Principal accounting policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. A summary of the more important accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, is set out below.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are accounted for in accordance with the particular terms of trust arising from the express or implied wishes of the donors in so far as these are intended to be binding on the charity. Where such wishes are not intended to be binding, they are taken into account and recognised in appropriately designated funds.

Unrestricted Free Reserves

Free Reserves represent amount which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for any other purpose. Such funds may be held in order to finance working capital or capital expenditure.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income or capital is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to it, its financial value can be quantified with reasonable certainty and there is reasonable certainty of its ultimate receipt. Entitlement to legacies is considered established when the charity has been notified of a distribution to be made by the executors. Income received in advance of due performance under a contract is accounted for as deferred income until earned. Grants for activities are recognised as income when the related conditions for legal entitlement have been met. All other income is accounted for on an accrual basis.

Resources Expended

All resources expended are accounted for on an accrual basis. Charitable activities include costs of services and grants, support costs and depreciation on related assets. Costs of generating funds similarly include fundraising activities. Non –staff costs not attributed to one category of activity are allocated or apportioned pro-rat to the staffing of the relevant service. Finance, HR and administrative staff costs are directly attributable to individual activities by objective. Governance costs are those associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Government grants

Grants that relate to specific capital expenditure are treated as deferred income, which is then credited to the Statement of Financial Activities over the related asset's useful life. Revenue grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the same year as the related expenditure is incurred.

2 Costs of Activities in For Charitable Purposes

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Grants	9,375	-	9,375	9,164
	<u>9,375</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,375</u>	<u>9,164</u>

3 Management and Administration

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Honorarium - Secretary	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Secretary Expenses	309	-	309	249
Honorarium - Independent Examiner	684	-	684	468
Stockbroker Fees	6,901	-	6,901	4,565
Stationary/Printing/Advertising	49	-	49	87
Bank Charges	76	-	76	78
	<u>9,019</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,019</u>	<u>6,447</u>

4 Investments

Equity investments are stated at the lower of original cost or current book value on the Balance Sheet

Investment with Smith and Williamson

	2024 £	2023 £
Cost / Valuation At 1 January 2024	434,018	506,376
Additions at Cost	62,783	9,926
Disposals at Cost	(42,622)	(28,672)
Revaluation	(12,677)	(53,612)
Total Cost / Valuation at 31 December 2024	<u>441,502</u>	<u>434,018</u>

5 Debtors and Prepayments

	2024 £	2023 £
Investment Income	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

6 Sundry Creditors and Accruals

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accountancy	-	-
Sundry Creditors	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

7 Movement in Funds

	At the 01/01/2024	Movement In Funds	Transfers In Funds	At the 31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	480,706	2,101	(11,903)	470,904
Restricted Funds				
Restricted	-	-	-	-
Total Funds	<u>480,706</u>	<u>2,101</u>	<u>(11,903)</u>	<u>470,904</u>

Net Movement in Funds, included in the above are follows:

	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Movement in Funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	20,495	(18,394)	2,101
Restricted Funds			
Restricted	-	-	-
Total Funds	<u>20,495</u>	<u>(18,394)</u>	<u>2,101</u>

8 Independent Examiner Payments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent Examiner	684	468
Other Financial Services	-	-
	<u>684</u>	<u>468</u>
	<u>684</u>	<u>468</u>

9 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

No trustee received any remuneration during the year ended 31 December 2024 (2023 –Nil).

No Trustee received any reimbursement for approved expenses incurred in connection with the charity.