

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS

Northern Ireland · Charity number 107785

Details

Status	Received
Company number	645874
Registered	2020-08-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address 11 Knockwood Crescent
Belfast
BT5 6gd
BT5 6GD

Phone 07865469041

Email info@polca.org.uk

Website <https://www.polca.org.uk/>

Activities

Purposes: The Charity's objects ("Objects") are to:- (1) Advance education in Northern Ireland (the "area of benefit") for the public benefit in all matters relating to the Polish language, Polish affairs, history, geography, arts and crafts and Polish cultural heritage, including promoting and facilitating bilingualism and multilingualism and contributing to research in these fields. (2) Promote community development and active citizenship by: (a) fostering and facilitating social and cultural interaction within the Polish community and between members of this community and wider society; (b) encouraging and facilitating the Polish community to engage in the life of Northern Irish society with the view of advancing equality and good community relations; (c) promoting and supporting social enterprise and other sustainable means of creating employment opportunities and/or providing welfare and community services. (3) Promote amateur sport and healthy lifestyle choices among the Polish community.

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 advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science, The advancement of amateur sport

How the charity works: Community development, Cultural, Education/training, Heritage/historical, Volunteer development, Youth development

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds), Language community, Men, Parents, Preschool (0-5 year olds), Volunteers, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£99,249	£88,560	£0	24
2024-07-31	£78,298	£85,875	£0	24

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Mateusz Gawlik		
Mr Aleksander Paprocki		
Mr John Andrew Cieslik		
Rev Samuel David Armstrong		

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107785

Accounts

Company registration number NI645874 (Northern Ireland)

Charity registration number 107785 (Northern Ireland)

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr A Paprocki Mr J Cieslik Reverend S D Armstrong Dr M Gawlik	
Secretary	Mr A Paprocki	
Country of incorporation	United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)	NI645874
Charity registration	Northern Ireland	107785
Principal address	11 Knockwood Crescent Belfast BT5 6GD	
Registered office	11 Knockwood Crescent Belfast BT5 6GD	
Independent examiner	GMcG Lisburn Century House 40 Crescent Business Park Lisburn BT28 2GN	

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

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POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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 (FRS 102)".

Objectives and activities

Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs (POLCA) is a constituted organisation created by Polish emigrants. POLCA is a registered Charity (NIC107785) and a company limited by guarantee registered at Companies House no. NI645874.

Our principal activity is the provision of a Polish Saturday school for children from Polish and mixed-Polish families. Our school provides Polish education in Polish language, history, geography art, and culture. As well as the Saturday school POLCA also works to support Polish community in Northern Ireland and promote good community relations across Northern Ireland. Our financial year runs from 1st August to 31st July.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

The POLCA school year started in September 2024 with 165 young participants and 24 teachers and assistants. A new group of 3 year old children joined our school nursery unit, but the most significant development was the start of our Youth Club, led by Agnieszka Bialek and Piotr Liburski-both experienced teachers working with the teenagers. We had an enthusiastic response from the parents in regard to the Youth Club, perhaps because teenagers are under-represented in every Polish Saturday school in the UK. This is a promising start to this new project and we hope the Youth Club attracts more young people to join our school.

POLCA held a number of extra-curricular events during the school year, and also participated in a number of events and competitions in in collaboration with other Polish community charities.

The end of the year ushered in a refreshed membership when some of the founder members were replaced in July and plans were put in place to increase the number of Members and Trustees.

The school year for 2024-2025 ended on 31st July with the teachers and parents entertained by the Youth Club's stage presentation.

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

Events and celebrations

Visit to Stormont – 18/01/2025

Our school sent a party of older children to visit Parliament building in Stormont to learn about and experience the political system here in Northern Ireland.

The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity – 25/01/2025

The greatest ever charity event in Poland, organised by Jerzy Owskiak with a number of concerts and activities across all country and among the Poles abroad. As usual, our school actively participated in this event, not only to help to collect money for charity purposes, but also to teach our children the importance of charitable giving to help those less fortunate.

Carnival Party and "POLCA got talent"– 08/02/2025

A party was organised for our pupils with a number of activities including sport and dance and great competition for our young members- "Polca got talent". Children could present in front of the parents and other guests their fantastic skills in dancing, singing, performing and art.

St Patrick's Parade – 17/03/2025

Representatives of the POLCA participated in St Patrick's Parade in Belfast among other Polish.

Anniversary of 1000 years of Polish Crown- April 2025

The whole month preparations for an anniversary of establishing of Polish Kingdom in 1025. Our school actively participated and hold a number of events, workshops and performances in relation to the coronation of the first Polish King- Boleslaw the Brave. This was a great all Poland action in cooperation with Polish Authorities, Consulate and other organisation, as in our tradition the coronation was significant moment of Polish history.

Celebration of the 3th May Constitution- 03/05/2024

POLCA celebrated an anniversary of the first Polish Constitution created in 1791. We celebrated this day with Polish Consulate and Polish Society Belfast, who prepared a special exhibition for our children to show the history of the Polish Constitution and the Polish patriots fighting against the foreign powers in XVIII century.

Youth Club Mourne challenge- 31/05/2025

Youth club trip to Mourne's Mountains. Our teenagers have "conquered" Pierces Castles summit in Mourne Mountains, despite bad weather conditions.

Children's Day-Summer Fair- 07/06/2025

This year an event took a place in Dungannon, in cooperation with the other Polish schools (Dungannon and Newry) and Polish Consulate. This was an opportunity to create bonds between children and parents from different Polish communities in Northern Ireland.

End of the school year – 21/06/2025

As usual we celebrated the end of the school year with the performance prepared by our Youth club for their parents. After the show our pupils were awarded by the Principal for their hard work all year.

Christmas in POLCA - 22/12/2024 *

A celebration known also as "Jaselka" – one of the Polish traditions celebrated with Christmas songs and performances created by our pupils, with – of course – Santa's visit! An event took place in Harding Memorial IPS

*Similar events were organised in the past seasons

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

During financial year 2024-2025, POLCA was supported by:

Institute of Development of the Polish Language of the name of St Maximilian Kolbe

The largest fund providing body in Poland representing the Polish government and Parliament.

National Lottery Community Fund

POLCA has been awarded a two-year National Lottery Community Fund grant of £20,000.

John Moore's Foundation

POLCA received £3,200 from the John Moore's Foundation. This award was received at the end of the financial year, in July 2025, and hence it is allocated to the 2025/6 Financial year.

Aid the Poles in the East Foundation

Polish Foundation supporting Polish community abroad in cooperation with Polish government.

Armenian Foundation

An organisation of Polish Armenians- a community settled in Poland since XVI century-bonded with Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and Republic of Poland

ORPEG- Institute for Development of Polish Education Abroad A Polish government body supporting Polish Education abroad Youth Action

This body usually provides access NI checks for POLCA, as our organisation has YA membership

Education Authority Northern Ireland

POLCA is a member of Youth EA as a body meeting criteria of EA Youth Club

Polish Consulate in Belfast

Polish Consulate in Belfast supporting various projects dedicated to development of Polish community in Northern Ireland in cooperation with Polish Authorities.

Halifax Foundation

Halifax bank related organisation supporting various charities in UK

Polish Sisterhood

Belfast based organisation for women with Polish background

Made In Poland

Polish Folk organisation, cooperating with POLCA

In the past POLCA was also supported by: Wspolnota Polska Foundation, Belfast City Council, Volunteer Now, Black Asian Minority Ethnic.

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

Financial review

There was much improvement in the charity finances this period. POLCA is extremely grateful to the Lottery fund and Fundacja Pomoc Polakom for their generous support. We are further grateful to the John Moore's Foundation, the Halifax Foundation, the Polish Consulate and the Education Authority for their generous donations and support. It would have been very difficult for POLCA to continue its charitable work without such generous financial support.

The National Lottery award is a two year grant and hence half the £20,000 award is accounted for in financial year end July 2025, the other half accrued into 2026. Similarly the Fundacja Pomoc Polakom grant is split across two years with £10,253 allocated to the 2025 financial year and £7,323 accrued into the 2025/26 financial year. Financial year 2024/2025 was the first year of the gift aid scheme. This scheme, including the HMRC tax rebate, generated £8,773 of additional income.

Grant funding and prudent financial management has significantly improved POLCA's financial position.

The results are set out in detail on pages 6 to 18. The charity returned net incoming resources for the year of £10,689 (2024 net outgoing resources - £7,577), unrestricted funds of £3,293 (2024 - (£5,721)) and restricted funds of £2,483 (2024 - £808). The unrestricted funds are required to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfill legal obligations of the charity in the event that current levels of income are not maintained.

During the year the charity repaid part of the loans to related parties as detailed in note 16.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity to maintain sufficient unrestricted reserves as are consistent with the ongoing financial requirements of the charity.

Plans for future periods

POLCA now has seven Members, which include the Directors, Mrs Marlena Sekula, former school Principal Malgorzata Frasiak, and Agnieszka Liburska. We hope to further expand the membership to include parents before the end of 2026.

We expect in the future that our pupil numbers will remain above 150 participants. We would like to develop our Youth Club and continue to cooperate with other Polish organisations including the Polish Consulate in Belfast. With the generous financial support of the National Lottery, the Halifax Foundation, the Institute of Development of Polish Language and John Moore's Foundation, we look forward to being able to continue to operate and develop the school over the coming years.

Structure, governance and management

Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs (POLCA) is a constituted organisation created by Polish emigrants. POLCA is a registered Charity (NIC107785) and a company limited by guarantee registered at Companies House no. NI645874.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr A Paprocki

Mr J Cieslik

Reverend S D Armstrong

Dr M Gawlik

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025**

The following re-appointments were made in the year:

Chairman – Reverend David Samuel Armstrong
Reappointed for further term at the Annual General Meeting on 08/02/2025.

Secretary – Mr Aleksander Paprocki
Reappointed for further term at the AGM on 08/02/2025.

Trustee - Mr Mateusz Gawlik
Reappointed for further term at the Annual General Meeting on 08/02/2025.

Treasurer – Mr John Cieslik
Reappointed for further term at the AGM on 08/02/2025.

As agreed under the special resolution passed on 21/07/2025, Directors are also Members of the charity.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.


.....

Mr A Paprocki
Trustee

Date: 28/4/26.....

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

We report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2025, which are set out on pages 8 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied ourselves that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, it is our responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008; and
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

We have examined your charity financial statements as required under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and our 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. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe that:

1. Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
2. The financial statements do not accord with those accounting records; or
3. The financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); or
4. There is further information needed for a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

Independent examiner's statement

We have completed our examination and I 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, We have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

GMcG Lisburn

GMcG Lisburn
Century House
40 Crescent Business Park
Lisburn
BT28 2GN

Date: *28/4/26*

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	39,147	10,000	49,147	17,336	1,000	18,336
Charitable activities	3	50,102	-	50,102	59,962	-	59,962
Total income		<u>89,249</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>99,249</u>	<u>77,298</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>78,298</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	80,235	8,325	88,560	85,683	192	85,875
Total expenditure		<u>80,235</u>	<u>8,325</u>	<u>88,560</u>	<u>85,683</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>85,875</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		9,014	1,675	10,689	(8,385)	808	(7,577)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 August 2024		(5,721)	808	(4,913)	2,664	-	2,664
Fund balances at 31 July 2025		<u>3,293</u>	<u>2,483</u>	<u>5,776</u>	<u>(5,721)</u>	<u>808</u>	<u>(4,913)</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 JULY 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		1,661		1,545
Current assets					
Debtors	10	1,226		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		32,303		2,421	
		<u>33,529</u>		<u>2,421</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(29,414)</u>		<u>(8,879)</u>	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			<u>4,115</u>		<u>(6,458)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>5,776</u>		<u>(4,913)</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	13		2,483		808
Unrestricted funds	14		3,293		(5,721)
			<u>5,776</u>		<u>(4,913)</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 July 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 28/4/25 and signed on their behalf by:

John Cieslik
John Cieslik / 04/28/2025 20:59:40 GMT+1
Mr J Cieslik
Trustee

M Gawlik
M Gawlik / 04/28/2025 20:59:40 GMT+1
Dr M Gawlik
Trustee

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Polish Language, Culture and Affairs is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 11 Knockwood Crescent, Belfast, BT5 6GD.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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 (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Computers	20% reducing balance
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	9,343	-	9,343	-	-	-
Grants	29,804	10,000	39,804	17,336	1,000	18,336
	<u>39,147</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>49,147</u>	<u>17,336</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>18,336</u>

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
						(Continued)
Grants						
National Lottery	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Fundacja Pomoc Polakom	14,215	-	14,215	6,903	-	6,903
Education Authority	2,400	-	2,400	3,875	-	3,875
Wolnosc Demokr	2,227	-	2,227	-	-	-
The Halifax Foundation - Community Flex	5,500	-	5,500	-	-	-
Polish Consulate	3,742	-	3,742	4,960	-	4,960
For your freedom and ours	350	-	350	-	-	-
TBUC	1,370	-	1,370	1,440	-	1,440
Belfast City Council	-	-	-	158	-	158
Polish Sisterhood	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
	<u>29,804</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>39,804</u>	<u>17,336</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>18,336</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Charitable activities		
Tuition fees receivable	50,102	59,962
	<u>50,102</u>	<u>59,962</u>

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Direct costs		
Staff costs	54,774	59,668
Depreciation and impairment	415	386
School projects and books	10,697	10,671
Volunteer expenses	1,307	1,843
	<u>67,193</u>	<u>72,568</u>
Share of support and governance costs (see note 5)		
Support	19,067	12,807
Governance	2,300	500
	<u>88,560</u>	<u>85,875</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	80,235	85,683
Restricted funds	8,325	192
	<u>88,560</u>	<u>85,875</u>

5 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cleaning	2,560	2,730
Rent	13,750	4,800
Insurance	667	980
Bank charges	110	123
Subscriptions	319	1,695
Sundry expenses	1,661	2,479
Governance costs	2,300	500
	<u>21,367</u>	<u>13,307</u>
	2025	2024
Governance costs comprise:	£	£
Accountancy fees	2,300	500
	<u>2,300</u>	<u>500</u>

6 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
	27	25

Employment costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	54,774	59,668

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

8 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers £
Cost	
At 1 August 2024	4,896
Additions	531
At 31 July 2025	5,427
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 August 2024	3,351
Depreciation charged in the year	415
At 31 July 2025	3,766
Carrying amount	
At 31 July 2025	1,661
At 31 July 2024	1,545

10 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Prepayments and accrued income	1,226	-

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security		(87)	163
Deferred income	12	20,343	-
Other creditors		6,882	8,716
Accruals		2,276	-
		<u>29,414</u>	<u>8,879</u>

12 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income	20,343	-
	<u>20,343</u>	<u>-</u>

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	20,343	-
	<u>20,343</u>	<u>-</u>
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 August 2024	-	-
Resources deferred in the year	20,343	-
	<u>20,343</u>	<u>-</u>
Deferred income at 31 July 2025	20,343	-
	<u>20,343</u>	<u>-</u>

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

13 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 August 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 July 2025 £
Polish Sisterhood	808	-	(20)	788
National Lottery	-	10,000	(8,305)	1,695
	<u>808</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>(8,325)</u>	<u>2,483</u>
Previous year:	At 1 August 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 July 2024 £
Polish Sisterhood	-	1,000	(192)	808
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>(192)</u>	<u>808</u>

14 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 August 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 July 2025 £
General funds	(5,721)	89,249	(80,235)	3,293
	<u>(5,721)</u>	<u>89,249</u>	<u>(80,235)</u>	<u>3,293</u>
Previous year:	At 1 August 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 July 2024 £
General funds	2,664	77,298	(85,683)	(5,721)
	<u>2,664</u>	<u>77,298</u>	<u>(85,683)</u>	<u>(5,721)</u>

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 31 July 2025:			
Tangible assets	1,661	-	1,661
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,632	2,483	4,115
	<u>3,293</u>	<u>2,483</u>	<u>5,776</u>
	<u><u>3,293</u></u>	<u><u>2,483</u></u>	<u><u>5,776</u></u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 July 2024:			
Tangible assets	1,545	-	1,545
Current assets/(liabilities)	(7,266)	808	(6,458)
	<u>(5,721)</u>	<u>808</u>	<u>(4,913)</u>
	<u><u>(5,721)</u></u>	<u><u>808</u></u>	<u><u>(4,913)</u></u>

16 Related party transactions

At the year end the following amounts were owed to two of the trustees;

- Mr J Cieslik £5,000 (2024 - £7,000)
- Mr A Paprocki £1,882 (2024 - £966)

These loans are at arm's length and there is no interest repayable on the loans.

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107785

Accounts

Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs

Accounts

For The Period Ended 31 July 2024

Smyth McIlhone MacMullan

Accountants

60 Main Street, Saintfield

Co Down BT24 7AB

Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs

Income & Expenditure Account

For The Period Ended 31 July 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Sales - Services	60,962	53,938
Other Income	<u>17,336</u>	<u>14,238</u>
	78,298	68,176
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Employee Wages	59,668	46,143
Volunteer Expenses	1,843	2,181
School Projects and Books	9,953	7,806
Rent	4,800	3,600
Premises Insurance	980	966
Accountancy Fees	500	2,288
Cleaning	2,730	2,240
Bank Charges and Interest	123	161
Depreciation	386	483
General Expenses	3,197	2,448
Subscriptions	<u>1,695</u>	<u>1,564</u>
	<u>85,875</u>	<u>69,880</u>
Surplus/(Loss) For Year	<u><u>-7,577</u></u>	<u><u>-1,704</u></u>

Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs

Balance Sheet

As At 31 July 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
Office Equipment - Cost	4,896	4,896
Office Equipment - Depreciation	<u>-3,351</u>	<u>-2,965</u>
	1,545	1,931
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Bank Account	2,062	3,488
Cash In Hand	<u>359</u>	<u>128</u>
	<u>2,421</u>	<u>3,616</u>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Directors Loan Account	7,966	0
Creditors	<u>913</u>	<u>2,883</u>
	8,879	2,883
Net Current Assets	<u>-6,458</u>	<u>733</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>	<u><u>-4,913</u></u>	<u><u>2,664</u></u>
Represented By		
Reserves Brought Forward	2,664	4,368
Surplus/(Loss) For Year	<u>-7,577</u>	<u>-1,704</u>
	<u><u>-4,913</u></u>	<u><u>2,664</u></u>

I approve the financial statements and confirm that I have made available all the information and explanations required to prepare the accounts for the period ended 31 July 2024.

John Cieslik - Director

Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs

For The Period Ended 31 July 2024

We have prepared the foregoing Accounts without carrying out an audit from the books, vouchers and explanations supplied to us.

60 Main Street
Saintfield
Co Down
BT24 7AB

Smyth McIlhone MacMullan
Accountants

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107785

Accounts

Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs

Accounts

For The Year Ended 31 May 2023

Smyth McIlhone MacMullan

Accountants

60 Main Street, Saintfield

Co Down BT24 7AB

Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs

Income & Expenditure Account

For The Year Ended 31 May 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Sales - Services	53,938	39,683
Other Income	<u>14,238</u>	<u>21,135</u>
	68,176	60,818
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Employee Wages	46,143	38,202
Volunteer Expenses	2,181	0
School Projects and Books	7,806	0
Employers NI	0	5
Rent	3,600	5,580
Premises Insurance	966	871
Accountancy Fees	2,288	4,300
Cleaning	2,240	2,130
Bank Charges and Interest	161	89
Depreciation	483	604
General Expenses	2,448	10,777
Subscriptions	<u>1,564</u>	<u>1,897</u>
	<u>69,880</u>	<u>64,455</u>
Surplus/(Loss) For Year	<u>-1,704</u>	<u>-3,637</u>

Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs

Balance Sheet

As At 31 May 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
Office Equipment - Cost	4,896	4,896
Office Equipment - Depreciation	<u>-2,965</u>	<u>-2,482</u>
	1,931	2,414
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Bank Account	3,488	3,412
Cash In Hand	<u>128</u>	<u>22</u>
	<u>3,616</u>	<u>3,434</u>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Creditors	<u>2,883</u>	<u>1,480</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>733</u>	<u>1,954</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>	<u><u>2,664</u></u>	<u><u>4,368</u></u>
Represented By		
Reserves Brought Forward	4,368	8,005
Surplus/(Loss) For Year	<u>-1,704</u>	<u>-3,637</u>
	<u><u>2,664</u></u>	<u><u>4,368</u></u>

I approve the financial statements and confirm that I have made available all the information and explanations required to prepare the accounts for the year ended 31 May 2023.

John Cieslik - Director



Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs

For The Year Ended 31 May 2023

We have prepared the foregoing Accounts without carrying out an audit from the books, vouchers and explanations supplied to us.

Smyth McIlhone MacMullan

Smyth McIlhone MacMullan
Accountants

60 Main Street
Saintfield
Co Down
BT24 7AB

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107785

Annual report



POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS
TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023

NIC107785

Contents:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Year 2021-2022**
- 3. Year 2022-2023**
- 4. Events and celebrations**
- 5. POLCA Board**
- 6. Supporting Organizations**
- 7. Future plans and projects**
- 8. Finances**

1. Introduction

The Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs is a constituted organisation created by the Polish emigrants. We are registered Charity (NIC107785) and company ltd recognized by Companies House. We do run Polish Saturday school POLCA for children from Polish families or mixed relationships. Our school is to provide an additional Polish education: Polish language, history, geography of Poland, art, and culture. We do have a team of teachers and assistants and several volunteers, including Board members. Polish Saturday school started in 2017 and it is our main project. As an organisation we do support Polish community in Northern Ireland at many different fields. We are also cooperating with the local organisations and bodies, working as a part of multi-cultural Belfast.

2. Year 2021 – 2022

We have started in September 2021 with over 150 pupils. Due covid restrictions and agreement taken between POLCA and our partner Harding Memorial Primary we were obliged to not exceed this number of attending children, to avoid risk of spreading the virus. This unfortunately was the reason why we could not accept more applicants, however, when the restrictions were lifted, we could bring more young people to our organisation. In September 2022, the number of our pupils reached 170 and we can expect that the next season can be even higher, as the Polish emigrant community is one of the largest in Northern Ireland. Even though many Poles are permanently settled in UK and Ireland and coexisting with the local communities, they are strongly interested to cultivate Polish language, culture, and art. The Polish community want our children to be able speak Polish language and gain an acknowledge about our country of origin, also because many of our families are existing in Poland.

Due the number of the children we had to increase a number of teachers and assistant – it was 20-22 people working for Saturday school. We also allocated several young volunteers – mostly teenagers to every class. Some of these young people attended to POLCA school in the past.

During this year we faced several different nature problems, starting with post-brexite reality and financial difficulties of group of our parents. Another significant matter was an unprovoked Russian aggression to Ukraine, Poland's neighbour, and the country whose history and roots are related to Poland. To show our support to the fighting Ukrainians we have organised on 5th of March 2022 collection for Ukraine, in cooperation with **Polish Consulate** and **Harding Memorial Primary**. We have received a great response not only from Polish community but also from many other Belfast people, among them many residents of Cregagh road area.

3. Year 2022-2023

We have started a new school season in September 2022 with 170 pupils and 22 teachers. The number of our young participants was changing during a year, as some of our pupils were leaving school for different reasons-moving area, or leaving UK for Poland, however we still had a number of new

applicants. That allowed us to keep the same number of children, however we are aware, that with so many new applications we need to consider an opening of another unit in the future.

Usual number of activities has been provided during a year, with a few new events. In October 2022 we have restarted POLCA Sport Club Programme, as a promotion of the physical activity is one of our priorities. Again, we had several of the young (mostly teenagers) volunteers, who have been allocated to all classes.

In March 2023 POLCA has been granted a membership by the Education Authority in Northern Ireland, as we have met criteria of Youth Club requested by EA.

In April 2023 POLCA hosted Cross Cultural Polish Academy – a conference dedicated various aspects of education for Polish community abroad. Several workshops and lectures were held and a number of teachers from various Polish Saturday schools and organization participated in this event. Cross Cultural Polish Academy was organised in cooperation with ORPEG- Institute for Development of Polish Education Abroad – a Polish government organization supporting Polish education abroad.

In June 2023 POLCA has been visited by the representants of Armenian Foundation, who provided a several workshops and lectures for our children and teachers, regarding history of this well settled in Poland community, history of the Polish-Soviet war 1920 and...the historical board and card games, created by the young Polish teachers for the children and youth. These games are based on Polish history and acknowledge of some aspects and facts of the history is necessary to participate in that sort of activity.

We have closed the season with the great Children's Day- an event with several activities, workshops and sport competitions for our children and parents. This took place on the ground and in the hall of Malone Rugby Club, who kindly granted as an access to their facilities.

Season 2023-24 has started in September, with the same number of pupils (around 170) and teachers (22) and these numbers have not changed until December 2023.

4. Events and celebrations

Carnival Ball for POLCA children – 11/02/ 2023

A great costume party with several games and competitions organised by the teachers and parents in cooperations with other local organizations.

Cross Cultural Polish Academy – 21/04/2023

A conference for Polish teachers from Polish Saturday Schools in Northern Ireland, hosted by POLCA, organised in cooperation with ORPEG-Institute for Development of Polish Education Abroad, in relation to important aspects of Polish education abroad.

Constitution of the 3rd May Day – 06/05/ 2023

Organised in cooperation of the Polish Consulate, in memory of the first Polish Constitution, also known as Constitution of the 3 May 1791. This is one of the most important national celebrations in Poland. Our children could participate in workshops, games and competitions and learn about Polish history.

Children's Day – 03/06/2023

An event held by POLCA every year in Malone Rugby Club – games and competitions for the children and parents including football tournament and art competitions with over 200 participants. It was organised with support of the Polish Consulate, local Polish businesses and – most important – by the parents of our pupils.

"Put the belt on!" –10/06/2023

An event organised in cooperation with the Armenian Foundation- games, workshops and lectures related to the Polish -Lithuanian Commonwealth history, Polish-Soviet war 1920, and a history of Armenian Community in Poland

End of School Year -24/06/2023

A ceremony of the end of school year – a great meeting of teachers, children, and parents. Children have been awarded for their hard work during this year and the parent could accompany them during the event.

3 Years Old Admission Ceremony - 07/10/2023 *

An official ceremony of "acceptance" dedicated to the youngest group in presence of their parents. This ceremony is usually organised once a year in October, to create a bond between the school and new pupils.

Polish Independence Day 11 November – 12/11/2023 *

A celebration in memory of the Independence of Poland, regained on 11/11/ 1918, after 123 years of Russian, Prussian, and Austrian occupation. This day is one of more important for our community. A variety of different activities were provided, including poetry tournament, history workshops and art competitions. As usual a group of our pupils and teachers have visited Milltown Cemetery to commemorate the Polish Military graves. Groups of eldest pupils visited an Ulster Aviation Association in Lisburn– to have an opportunity to see all gathered planes and other equipment in UAA hall, a part of the exhibition in this place is dedicated to Polish Pilots fighting in UK during the II World War. This trip was organised with significant help of For Your Freedom & Ours- an organisation promoting Polish military men history in UK.

"Dictation competition" – 02/12/2023

A Polish Language exercise competition held by the Polish Saturday School in Newry. A group of our pupils travelled to Newry to participate in the Language competition with the great success, winning some awards.

Christmas in POLCA - 16/12/2023 *

A celebration known also as "Jaselka" – one of the Polish traditions celebrated with Christmas songs and performances created by our pupils, with – of course – Santa's visit! This year an event took place in Willowfield Parish Hall-thanks to generosity of Willowfield Parish Community of Woodstock Road Belfast

*Similar events were organised in the past seasons

5. POLCA current Board

Chairman – rev David Samuel Armstrong

Reappointed for further term at the Annual General Meeting on 13/01/2024.

Secretary – Aleksander Paprocki

Reappointed for further term at the AGM on 13/01/2024.

Trustee - Mateusz Gawlik

Reappointed for further term at the Annual General Meeting on 13/01/2024.

Trustee – John Cieslik

Reappointed for further term at the AGM on 13/01/2024.

Former Trustees:

Trustee – Jacek Kocoń – passed away on 18/08/2022.

Trustee – Przemyslaw Straus – temporary member from 25/08/2022 to 19/08/2022.

6.Supporting Organizations

During financial year 2022-2023, POLCA was supported by:

Aid the Poles in the East Foundation

Polish Foundation supporting Polish community abroad in cooperation with Polish government.

Armenian Foundation

An organisation of Polish Armenians- a community settled in Poland since XVI century-bonded with Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and Republic of Poland

ORPEG- Institute for Development of Polish Education Abroad

A Polish government body supporting Polish Education abroad

Youth Action

This body usually provides access NI checks for POLCA, as our organisation has YA membership

Belfast City Council

Belfast City Council supported POLCA Sport Club in the season 2022-2023- fund received helped us to cover part of expenses for the club activity and enabled us to pay an additional sport equipment.

Education Authority Northern Ireland

POLCA has been granted a membership of EA as a body meeting criteria of EA Youth Club

Polish Consulate in Belfast

Polish Consulate in Belfast supporting various projects dedicated to development of Polish community in Northern Ireland in cooperation with Polish Authorities.

For Your Freedom & Ours

An organisation promoting Polish Military Men, fighting during II World War based in UK.

In the past POLCA was also supported by: Wspolnota Polska Foundation, Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, Volunteer Now, Halifax Foundation and Black Asian Minority Ethnic.

7. Future plans and projects

At the beginning of POLCA our members recognised that to develop the organization POLCA must operate at many different fields. We had many plans- some of them have been implemented, start of the other was delayed due different reasons. Failure of some other programs was caused by the number of unpredictable factors: covid 19, Brexit, war in Ukraine. The other reason, why we could not run planned in the past projects is lack of permanent sources of funding, as we cannot operate depending only on membership fees or grants. As we also have lost some funding sources (Wspolnota Polska Foundation) the Board of POLCA decided to concentrate on the Saturday school as our priority project. However, the growing number of pupils and a need to provide another form of activities for pupils leaving the school (teenagers 11+) means that we will have to consider new plans and opportunities in the future.

8. Finances (01/06/2022 – 31/05/2023)

Total incomes: 68176

Total expenses: 69880

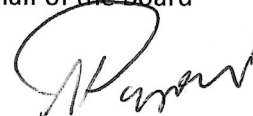
Net profit/loss: - 1704

All other figures can be found in POLCA Micro-entity Accounts for 31/05/2023.

This report was created by the secretary of the Board.

Aleksander Paprocki

On behalf of the Board



POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS

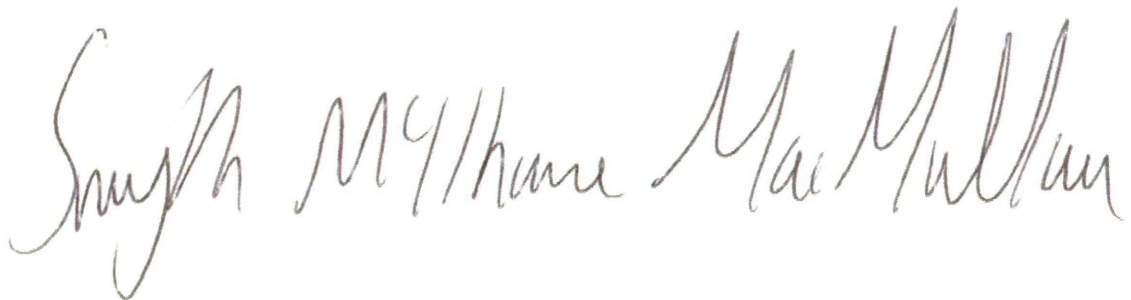
Northern Ireland - Charity number 107785

Annual return

Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs

For The Year Ended 31 May 2023

We have prepared the foregoing Accounts without carrying out an audit from the books, vouchers and explanations supplied to us.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Smyth McIlhone MacMullan".

Smyth McIlhone MacMullan
Accountants

60 Main Street
Saintfield
Co Down
BT24 7AB

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107785

Accounts

Registered Number NI645874

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS

Micro-entity Accounts

31 May 2022

Micro-entity Balance Sheet as at 31 May 2022.

	Notes	2022	2021
Fixed Assets		2,414	3,018
Current Assets		3,434	9,407
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(1,480)	(4,419)
Net current assets (liabilities)		1,954	<u>4,988</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		4,368	8,006
Tolat net assets (liabilities)		4,368	8,006
Reserves		4,368	8,006

- For the year ending 31 May 2022 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.
- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- The directors acknowledged their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board on 21st January 2023

And signed on their behalf by:



Aleksander Paprocki

Director

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS
NI645874

REGISTERED NUMBER:

Notes to the Micro-entity Accounts for the period ended 31 May 2022

1 Employees

Average number of employees during period (2021:11)	22
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POLCA

Profit and Loss Report

01 June, 2021 - 31 May, 2022

Sales		
4010 - Sales - Services	39,682.71	
4900 - Other income	21,135.35	
	Total Sales	£60,818.06

Direct Expenses		
	Total Direct Expenses	£0.00
	GROSS PROFIT / LOSS	£60,818.06

Overheads		
7000 - Employee Wages and Salaries	38,202.04	
7020 - Employers NI	4.96	
7100 - Rent	5,580.00	
7130 - Premises Insurance	870.95	
7610 - Accountancy Fees	4,300.00	
7810 - Cleaning	2,130.00	
7900 - Bank Charges and Interest	88.50	
8030 - Office Equipment and IT Depreciation	603.56	
8200 - General Expenses	10,776.81	
8210 - Subscriptions	1,897.48	
	Total Overheads	£64,454.30
	NET PROFIT / LOSS	-£3,636.24

POLCA

Balance Sheet Report

To: 31 May, 2022

ASSETS

Fixed Assets

0030 - Office equipment and IT - Cost	4,896.73	
0031 - Office equipment and IT - Accumulated Depreciation	-2,482.45	
	Total Fixed Assets	£2,414.28

Current Assets

1200 - Small Business Digit	3,411.73	
1210 - Cash	22.49	
	Total Current Assets	£3,434.22

TOTAL ASSETS £5,848.50

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

2500 - Other Creditors	1,479.59	
	Total Current Liabilities	£1,479.59

Future Liabilities

Total Future Liabilities £0.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES £1,479.59

TOTAL NET ASSETS £4,368.91

EQUITY

Net Profit / Loss 4,368.91

<i>Net Profit / Loss (prior year(s))</i>	8,005.15
<i>Net Profit / Loss (current year)</i>	-3,636.24

TOTAL EQUITY	£4,368.91
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POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107785

Annual report



**POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS
TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022**

NIC107785

Contents:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. During Covid Time**
- 3. Year 2021-2022 activity**
- 4. Events and celebrations**
- 5. POLCA Board**
- 6. Grant providers**
- 7. Other projects and future plans**
- 8. Finances**

1. Introduction

The Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs is a constituted organisation created by the Polish emigrants. We are registered Charity (NIC107785) and company ltd recognized by Companies House. We do run Polish Saturday school POLCA for children from Polish families or mixed relationships. Our school is to provide an additional Polish education: Polish language, history, geography of Poland, art, and culture. We do have a team of teachers and assistants and several volunteers, including Board members. Polish Saturday school started in 2017 and it is our main project. As an organisation we do support Polish community in Northern Ireland at many different fields. We are also cooperating with the local organisations and bodies, working as a part of multi-cultural Belfast.

2. During covid time

Due covid 19 pandemia we were forced to close our services in March 2020. We were able to reopen in October 2020, with significant help of many people and organisations, including Polish Consulate in Northern Ireland, Harding Memorial Primary, Belfast City Council, Black Asian Minority Ethnic and Wspolnota Polska Foundation. We were also supported voluntarily by many members of the Polish community in Northern Ireland. As almost all other Polish Saturday schools had to work with their pupils online, we were able to work more “traditional” way, with some anti covid regulations adopted by POLCA and accepted by the members of our community and our partner Harding Memorial Primary and Education Authority.

Our work was disrupted by another lockdown in January 2021. We could reopen again in April, and we were able to finish the school year in June with a nearly 90 pupils. Due covid 19 we had to cancel or postpone our usual events and project: Bilingual Belfast (postponed to December), Polish day, Sport Day (multi – ethnical) and other usual school and national celebrations. However, our efforts were appreciated by our community, which resulted in an increase in number of pupils in September 2021, when we were able to provide services for over 150 pupils, led by the team of 16 teachers and a several volunteers. Again, we received a strong support from our partners and several organisations and bodies. We did receive funds from Belfast City Council, Wspolnota Polska foundation and Aid the Poles in the East Foundation (through Polish Teachers Association in Dublin). Thanks to the support of the Polish Consulate in Belfast we were also able to hold a “Bilingual Belfast” event (including bilingualism workshops) and Polish Independence Day.

As the pandemic situation has changed, and the restrictions were gradually lifted we could come back to our usual activity.

3. Year 2021 – 2022

We have started in September 2021 with over 150 pupils. Due covid restrictions and agreement taken between POLCA and our partner Harding Memorial Primary we were obliged to not exceed this number of attending children, to avoid risk of spreading the virus. This unfortunately was the reason

why we could not accept more applicants, however, when the restrictions were lifted, we could bring more young people to our organisation. In September 2022, the number of our pupils reached 170 and we can expect that the next season can be even higher, as the Polish emigrant community is one of the largest in Northern Ireland. Even though many Poles are permanently settled in UK and Ireland and coexisting with the local communities, they are strongly interested to cultivate Polish language, culture, and art. The Polish community want our children to be able speak Polish language and gain an acknowledge about our country of origin, also because many of our families are existing in Poland.

Due the number of the children we had to increase a number of teachers and assistant – it was 20-22 people working for Saturday school. We also allocated several young volunteers – mostly teenagers to every class. Some of these young people attended to POLCA school in the past.

During this year we faced several different nature problems, starting with post-brexite reality and financial difficulties of group of our parents. Another significant matter was an unprovoked Russian aggression to Ukraine, Poland's neighbour, and the country whose history and roots are related to Poland. To show our support to the fighting Ukrainians we have organised on 5th of March 2022 collection for Ukraine, in cooperation with **Polish Consulate** and **Harding Memorial Primary**. We have received a great response not only from Polish community but also from many other Belfast people, among them many residents of Cregagh road area.

In August 2022 we have lost one of our most valuable members. **Jacek Kocoń**, member of the board died after a long battle with cancer. He was a great personality and was always supporting Polish community and our organisation and will be never forgotten by our community.

We have started a new school season in September 2022 with nearly 170 pupils and 22 teachers. The number of our young participants is still growing, and it is possible, that due this situation we would have to expand our activity by opening another unit to provide services for everyone who is happy to join POLCA school.

4. Events and celebrations

Carnival Ball for POLCA children – 12/02/ 2022

A great costume party with several games and competitions organised by the teachers and parents.

Collection for Ukraine – 05/03/2022

A community collection to support Ukraine, organised in cooperation with the Polish Consulate and Harding Memorial Primary, with the great response of the local community. All collected items were delivered to the Polish – Ukrainian border and donated to organisations delivering directly delivering goods to Ukraine.

Polish Heritage Day – 03/05/ 2022

Organised in cooperation of the Polish Consulate, in memory of the first Polish Constitution, also known as Constitution of the 3 May 1791. This is one of the most important national celebrations in Poland. Our children could participate in workshops, games and competitions and learn about Polish history. A separate topic was devoted to the history of Polish Army, fighting in North Africa, Italy, and Great Britain during II World War.

A Family Day - 28/5/2023

An event held by POLCA in Malone Rugby Club – games and competitions for the children and parents including football tournament and art competitions with over 200 participants. This is also commonly known in Poland as a “Childrens Day”. It was organised with support of the Polish Consulate, local Polish businesses and – most important – by the parents of our pupils.

End of School Year -19/06/2022

A ceremony of the end of school year – a great meeting of teachers, children, and parents. Children were awarded for their hard work during this year and the parent could accompany them. The audience could also watch performances prepared by our young members of POLCA Theatre.

3 Years Old Admission Ceremony - 21/10/2022 *

An official ceremony of “acceptance” dedicated to the youngest group in presence of their parents. This ceremony is usually organised once a year in October, to create a bond between the school and new pupils.

Polish Independence Day 11 November – 12/11/2022 *

A celebration in memory of the Independence of Poland, regained on 11/11/ 1918, after 123 years of Russian, Prussian, and Austrian occupation. This day was especially celebrated by our community members. A variety of different activities were provided, including poetry tournament, history workshops and art competitions. A group of our pupils and teachers also visited Milltown Cemetery to commemorate the Polish Military graves.

Christmas in POLCA - 17/12/2022 *

A celebration known also as “Jaselka” – one of the Polish traditions celebrated with Christmas songs and performances created by our pupils, with – of course – Santa’s visit!

*Similar events were organised in 2021

5. POLCA current Board

Chairman – rev David Samuel Armstrong

Reappointed for further term at the Annual General Meeting on 19/11/2022.

Secretary – Aleksander Paprocki

Reappointed for further term at the AGM on 19/11/2022.

Trustee - Mateusz Gawlik

Appointed on 17/09/2022.

Reappointed for further term at the AGM on 19/11/2022.

Trustee – John Cieślik

Appointed on 4/03/2023.

Changes within the Board:

Trustee – Jacek Kocoń – passed away on 18/08/2022.

Trustee – Przemyslaw Straus – temporary member from 25/08/2022 to 19/08/2022.

6. Grant Providers

During financial year 2021-2022, POLCA was supported by:

Aid the Poles in the East Foundation

Polish Foundation supporting Polish community abroad in cooperation with Polish government.

“Wspolnota Polska” Association

Polish association supporting Polish community abroad in cooperation with Polish government.

“Wspolnota Polska” Association – Rzeszow city unit

A regional unit of Wspolnota Polska, placed in Rzeszow in Poland, supporting projects related to the history and patriotism.

Belfast City Council

Belfast City Council supported POLCA several times, funding our activities, helping to cover part of our expenses during covid 19 pandemia.

Polish Consulate in Belfast

Polish Consulate in Belfast supporting projects dedicated to development of Polish community in Northern Ireland in cooperation with Polish Authorities.

In the past 5 years POLCA was also supported by: Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, Volunteer Now, Youth Action, Halifax Foundation and Black Asian Minority Ethnic.

7. Other Projects

As our main project was always Saturday school and our priority especially during covid 19 pandemia was to save existence of the school for the last 2 years we were not able to participate in many projects. As we are gradually developing we can see some opportunities to expand our activity.

In December 2022 we have reopened POLCA Sport Club – project supported by Belfast City Council. We do have a dancing group and “Young Theatre” and a small Art Academy. We are also planning to open a Youth Club – project addressed to the Polish teenagers. As the number of participants is still growing, it is possible that we will need to open another school unit to provide services for more children.

In 2022 POLCA supported – among the other minority ethnic groups - Belfast Inequalities Research 2021-2022. This project was coordinated by Belfast City Council, and was to explore inequalities

experienced by minority ethnics and migrant residents in Belfast. POLCA in this program was represented by one of our members – Barbara Snowarska, and some members of our community were involved in several group’s meetings and consultations.

We are certain, that we can do more for our community and our partners in the future, however it depends on our finances and number of people ready to support our organisation.

8.Finances (01/06/2021 – 31/05/2022)

Total incomes: 60818.06

Total expenses: 64454.30

Net profit/loss: -3636.24

All other figures can be found in POLCA Micro-entity Accounts for 31/05/2022.

This report was created by the secretary of the Board.

Aleksander Paprocki

On behalf of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Paprocki', written in a cursive style.

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107785

Annual return

POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS

21 BOTANIC AVENUE

SUITE 111

BELFAST

BT 7 1JG

NI CHARITY NUMBER: 107785

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS

I report on the accounts of the POLISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND AFFAIRS
for the year ended 31 MAY 2022.

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 Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's statement

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. The 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 as required by 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.

Name: Katarzyna Wrona

Relevant professional qualification if any: Accounting Technician

Address: 9 Carrick Meadows, Lurgan, BT66 7WQ

Date: 04/01/2022

Katarzyna Wrona