

Company Registration Number - 5567478

The Charity Registration Number is :- 1119977

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Report and Accounts

31 December 2023



Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023, which also comprises the Directors' Report required by the Companies Act 2006.

Reference and administrative details

The charity name.

The legal name of the charity is:- Muslim Research and Development Foundation.

The charity is also known by its operating name, MRDF.

The charity's areas operation and UK charitable registration.

The charity is registered in England & Wales with the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) with charity number 1119977.

The charity does not operate in any overseas jurisdictions. However it has partners, which it supports in Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden, & The Netherlands.

Legal structure of the charity

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Acts. The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association establishing the company under company legislation.

The governing document is dated 03 June 2007

There are no restrictions in the governing documents on the operation of the Charity or on its investment powers other than those imposed by Charity Law.

By operation of law all, trustees are directors under the Companies Act 2006 and all directors are trustees under Charities legislation and have responsibilities, as such, under both company and charity legislation.

The trustees are all individuals.

The principal operating address, telephone number, email and web addresses of the charity

56 Greenfield Road

London

E1 1EJ

Telephone 0203 246 0072

Email Address enquiries@mrdf.co.uk Web address www.mrdf.co.uk

The registered office of the charity for Companies Act purposes is the same as the operating address shown above.

The Trustees in office on the date the report was approved were:-

M Khalid

F Haibatan

Y Patel

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The following persons served as Trustees during the year ended 31 December 2023 :-

The trustees who served as a trustee in the reporting period were as shown above, and there were no changes during the year, or in the period between the year end and the approval of the accounts.

At the Annual General Meeting all the Trustees retire as trustees, but are eligible for reappointment.

All the trustees are also members of the charity.

Objects and activities of the charity

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document.

The Charity's objectives and principal activities as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association continue to be that of:

- 1) To facilitate the development of leadership skills within the Muslim community.
- 2) The advancement of research into Islamic solutions to challenges faced by Muslims communities, as well as the general population in the UK.
- 3) To facilitate Muslims furthering their knowledge.
- 4) To produce Islamic media.
- 5) To undertake any charitable activity in the pursuit of the above objectives.

The main activities undertaken in relation to those purposes during the year.

- 1) The provision of over 23 Sabeel Retreats in the period.
- 2) To provision of 6 Sihaab weekend retreats in the period.
- 3) The provision of 7 Sabeel & Sihaab in-person and online seminars.
- 4) The publication of 2 new books and reprinting of another.

2023 - Continuing the cycle of growth and stability

By the grace and mercy of Allah, 2023 emerged as a milestone year for the Muslim Research & Development Foundation. Reflecting on the past months, it is clear that our efforts were not only widespread but also deeply impactful, serving as a beacon of hope and guidance for the Muslim community.

Our efforts were marked by a wide array of impactful programmes, with the Sabeel and Sihaab retreats standing out as significant milestones. These retreats, which attracted participants from diverse backgrounds, provided enriching opportunities for individuals to deepen their knowledge of Islamic principles and cultivate a more profound spiritual connection. By addressing vital topics such as the principles & etiquettes of disagreement and the foundations of understanding, the retreats created a dynamic space for both learning and personal reflection.

The Sabeel and Sihaab programmes are designed not only as cultivation (tarbiyyah) programmes but as immersive experiences where participants engage in meaningful discussions and develop a holistic approach to their faith. This comprehensive blend of intellectual engagement and spiritual growth equipped attendees with the tools to apply Islamic teachings in their everyday lives, making these retreats a vital part of MRDF's mission to foster understanding and practice of the faith.

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In addition to these retreats, MRDF's broader educational initiatives continued to thrive, reaching thousands of individuals through lectures and talks delivered by renowned scholars. These sessions, particularly those held during Ramadan and the Hajj season, were not only well-attended but provided participants with invaluable insights on how to navigate the complexities of modern life while maintaining a strong connection to their religious beliefs. Whether exploring the nuances of daily worship or the deeper meanings of spiritual practices, these talks served as guiding beacons for those seeking to live by Islamic values in a contemporary context.

This multifaceted approach to education and personal growth exemplifies MRDF's commitment to being a leading force in both Islamic scholarship and community development, ensuring that its work resonates deeply with the needs and aspirations of the Muslim community. Additionally, our Fatwa Line Service responded to over 1,700 queries, providing personalised religious guidance and supporting individuals in making informed decisions grounded in Islamic teachings. This service has become an essential resource for both Muslims and non-Muslims seeking clarity on religious matters.

Moreover, MRDF's contribution to personal faith learning flourished with the publication of significant works, including The Friday Reminder Book and The Heart of the Qur'an. These publications have been instrumental in nurturing the spiritual development of the community, making Islamic knowledge and more importantly the concept of self reflection and growth accessible to all.

Financially, despite facing a modest deficit, MRDF remains resilient, with an income of £876,316. This funding supported our mission, allowing us to run impactful programmes and continue our work, thanks in no small part to the contributions of over 30 dedicated volunteers who ensured our activities ran smoothly.

In 2023, we made a significant commitment to expanding our outreach by investing in a deeper more agile marketing strategy. This investment amounted to over £55,000, a substantial increase from the £28,000 we allocated in 2022. The additional funding was aimed at enhancing our digital presence, increasing awareness of our programmes, and ensuring that our services reached a wider audience. By boosting our marketing efforts, we aimed to strengthen our engagement with the community, attract more participants to our initiatives, and ultimately support the growth and sustainability of MRDF's mission.

Looking ahead, MRDF is well-positioned to further expand its services and continue to serve as a guiding light for the Muslim community, ensuring that all our work remains in line with our mission to promote compassion, justice, and mercy.

Sabeel & Sihaab Cultivation Retreats: Nurturing Knowledge and Spirituality

A significant achievement in recent years has been the success and expansion of our Sabeel and Sihaab cultivation retreats. These retreats were developed in response to the growing demand for spaces that combine religious education with spiritual nourishment, offering participants a unique experience that fosters both intellectual growth and personal rejuvenation.

In 2023 alone, MRDF organised multiple retreats, each focusing on different aspects of Islamic principles, cultivation and spiritual growth. These events drew participants from all walks of life, providing them with a blend of study, spiritual discourse, and reflection. The retreats, such as those held for the Sabeel and Sihaab cohorts, became platforms where individuals could engage in deep learning and spiritual connection, fostering both personal growth and a strong sense of community.

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On the 20th and 21st of January, Sihaab Cohort 2 gathered to explore the concept of 'Usul Al-Fahm', focusing on the principles of understanding Islamic thought. This was followed by a retreat in February, where Sabeel Cohort 8 delved into the area of 'Maslaha & Maqasid' on the 17th and 18th, uncovering the objectives of Islamic law and its application to modern-day issues. Similarly, July 2023 saw the same cohort engage with the critical topic of 'Usul Al-Khilaf', providing participants with invaluable insights into the principles of disagreement within the Islamic tradition. In November, the focus shifted to 'Usul Al-Bidah', as participants from Sabeel Cohort 8 explored the principles surrounding religious interpretation and innovation over two days. Meanwhile, Sihaab Cohort 6, meeting on the 24th and 25th of February, immersed themselves in the groundbreaking 'Usul Al-Tafsir' topic, gaining a deeper understanding of the Qur'anic exegesis something that MRDF has come to specialise since its inception.

As the year progressed, Sabeel Cohort 9, on the 17th and 18th of March, tackled the foundational field of 'Ulum Al-Quran', delving into the sciences of the Qur'an. By mid-summer, on the 21st and 22nd of July, the cohort revisited the theme of 'Usul Al-Bidah', enriching their comprehension of religious innovation and understanding. To close the year, Sabeel Cohort 10 reconvened on the 15th and 16th of December for another session focused on 'Usul Al-Bidah'.

These retreats were not merely academic and time to bring about brotherhood and sisterhood but were also designed as sanctuaries for personal reflection and spiritual rejuvenation. Participants were able to temporarily step away from the demands of their daily lives, immersing themselves in tranquil settings where they could reconnect with their Creator. The carefully curated environments fostered a sense of unity, where bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood were formed as participants shared in their collective learning and spiritual experiences.

The success of these retreats in 2023 underscores MRDF's commitment to providing transformative educational experiences that address both the intellectual and spiritual needs of the community. With hundreds of participants across various cohorts, MRDF continues to establish itself as a key institution in promoting Islamic learning, spiritual growth, and community cohesion.

Guidance and Support: Learning and growing to support the Muslim Community

In 2023, MRDF continued to play a pivotal role in providing essential guidance and support to the Muslim community in the UK, addressing the diverse and complex challenges that individuals and families face. From mental health concerns to navigating identity in a rapidly evolving society, we recognized the multifaceted nature of these struggles and worked diligently to offer support that was both spiritually enriching and practically relevant.

To meet these needs, MRDF expanded its efforts by continuing to offer a wide range of tailored initiatives through seminars, workshops, and one-on-one support sessions. These initiatives were carefully designed to address modern challenges while remaining firmly rooted in Islamic teachings. Whether through providing counseling to individuals facing personal crises, organizing workshops on navigating the challenges of parenting in the digital age, or hosting seminars on financial literacy from an Islamic perspective, MRDF ensured that our community had access to resources that could make a tangible difference in their lives.

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In addition, 2023 saw significant growth in our online presence as we embraced the digital space to reach a wider audience. Recognizing the importance of the virtual world in delivering support and education, we enhanced our offerings through webinars, online courses, and interactive sessions. This shift ensured that geographical distance was no longer a barrier for those seeking knowledge, guidance, or support from MRDF. The expanded online platform allowed us to engage with a broader segment of the community, providing flexible, accessible options for people across the UK and beyond to connect with our resources.

Through these efforts, MRDF reaffirmed its commitment to being a reliable source of support and guidance, helping to strengthen the fabric of the Muslim community by offering solutions that resonate with the realities of contemporary life while upholding the principles of Islamic teachings.

The main activities undertaken during the year to further the charity's purpose for the public benefit.

In 2023, MRDF set out a series of strategic objectives to further its mission of supporting the Muslim community through education, spiritual development, and personal guidance. These objectives were shaped by the evolving needs of the community, particularly as the organisation adapted to post-pandemic realities, with an emphasis on sustainability, accessibility, and community impact. The main objectives for the year included:

a) **Expanding and Enhancing Online and In-Person Services:**

Following the success of transitioning services to online platforms during the pandemic, MRDF aimed to enhance its hybrid model in 2023. This included improving the quality and reach of online educational content, webinars, and interactive sessions, while also reintroducing in-person events and retreats, such as the widely attended Sabeel and Sihaab programmes. These events allowed MRDF to engage a broader audience both locally and internationally, catering to those who sought in-person interaction as well as those who preferred or required virtual access.

b) **Optimising Fundraising Strategies for Key Campaigns:**

Building on the successful fundraising campaigns of previous years, MRDF continued to employ a range of strategies to support its programmes, particularly during Ramadan 2023. The fundraising efforts were aligned with the charity's broader goal of financial sustainability, utilising both online platforms and community engagement to maximise donations. By engaging user groups and donors through online appeals, events, and social media, MRDF was able to meet its fundraising targets and support its key initiatives.

c) **Maintaining Financial Stability and Minimising Deficits:**

A key financial objective for 2023 was to prioritise a stable financial footing while maintaining a focus on debt reduction. MRDF aimed to ensure an adequate working balance throughout the year, particularly during the first quarter of 2023, to prevent any end of year deficits. While a small deficit was recorded, the charity remained committed to achieving financial health through prudent fiscal management, allowing it to continue delivering high-quality services without financial strain.

d) **Strengthening Collaboration with Patrons and Stakeholders:**

In 2023, MRDF placed a renewed focus on engaging with its donors, service users and stakeholders to understand their evolving needs. This collaborative approach was crucial in tailoring educational programmes and guidance to address contemporary challenges faced by the Muslim community, from financial literacy to mental health and parenting in the digital age. Feedback from these collaborations directly informed the design and delivery of MRDF's services, ensuring they were relevant and impactful.

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e) Refining and Communicating the Charity's Vision and Mission:

A central objective in 2023 was to refine MRDF's vision and mission in alignment with its core values of compassion, justice, and mercy. This process involved clear communication of the charity's strategic direction to its staff, volunteers, and stakeholders. By doing so, MRDF ensured that all members of the organisation were unified in their understanding of the charity's goals and the vital role they played in achieving them. This alignment helped to strengthen internal cohesion and focus, driving the charity's initiatives forward with clarity and purpose.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in managing the activities of the charity.

Public Benefit: Ensuring Inclusivity and Access in 2023

Our efforts in 2023 remained firmly grounded in our charitable objectives, with a primary focus on benefiting the Muslim community while being open and inclusive to the broader public. As an organisation, we are committed to addressing the challenges faced by individuals and families, and we have consistently worked to offer guidance and support through education, spiritual nourishment, and personal development. This mission has become more crucial than ever as we address the evolving needs of the community, particularly in the face of ongoing societal challenges.

In 2023, we built upon the innovative approaches adopted during the pandemic in 2020, continuing to expand our online offerings and hybrid models to ensure that our services remained accessible to all. Our Sabeel and Sihaab retreats, workshops, seminars, and digital content allowed participants from across the UK and even internationally to engage with our programmes. These efforts were bolstered by collaborations with European partners, further extending the reach of MRDF's mission.

Our transparent policies and dedication to accessibility ensure that no one is excluded from benefiting from our services due to financial hardship. We remain steadfast in our commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their economic circumstances, have the opportunity to participate in our programmes. In 2023, this commitment was reflected through several initiatives that prioritised accessibility:

- 1) **Affordable and Transparent Fee Structures:** Our fee policies remained aligned with our charitable mission, offering services at an appropriate entry-level cost. While some services generate income, they do so under a system of proportional discounts. All fees were approved by the trustees to ensure they remain fair and accessible, adhering to our principle of minimising costs wherever possible.
- 2) **Discounts for Students and Low-Income Individuals:** We continued to provide set discounts for students and those on low incomes, ensuring that these groups could fully participate in our programmes without facing financial barriers.
- 3) **Instalment Plans for Financial Flexibility:** For those unable to meet the full cost of an activity or service, we offered flexible instalment plans. These plans were tailored to meet the participant's financial situation, allowing them to pay over time in an agreed upon manner. In cases where participants faced significant financial hardship, additional provisions were made, with approval from the trustees, to waive or defer payments to ensure no one was excluded due to their financial situation.

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Our focus on public welfare and accessibility is underpinned by a belief that financial constraints should never be a barrier to benefiting from our services. We take pride in maintaining rigorous checks to ensure that any benefits, whether material or otherwise, provided to trustees, members, or participants, are incidental and available to the general public on the same terms.

The short term and longer term aims and objectives.

In 2023, MRDF's key short term & longer term objectives focused on:

- 1) Expanding and enhancing both online and in person services. This involved improving the quality and reach of their digital educational offerings, while also reintroducing successful inperson events and retreats, such as the Sabeel and Sihaab programs, which attracted significant participation from local and international communities.
- 2) MRDF, additionally aimed to optimise its fundraising strategies, particularly during key campaigns like Ramadan, to ensure financial sustainability.
- 3) MRDF also aimed to maintain financial stability by minimising deficits and increasing collaboration with donors, stakeholders, and other community members.
- 4) The charity also sought to refine and communicate its mission and vision, ensuring that initiatives resonate deeply with the Muslim community, fostering a strong and united front through compassion, justice, and mercy.

The charity's strategies for achieving its aims and objectives in the future.

In 2023, MRDF employed several key strategies to achieve its objectives, focusing on enhancing digital services, strengthening collaborations, and ensuring financial stability:

a) **Enhancing Digital Platforms:**

MRDF invested in upgrading its online platforms to provide seamless experiences for webinars, virtual workshops, and online courses, making its services accessible to a wider audience.

b) **Strengthening Partnerships:**

Collaborations with UK-based Muslim charities were deepened to expand MRDF's reach and impact, allowing joint initiatives and resource sharing to better serve the community.

c) **Optimising Fundraising Platforms:**

MRDF partnered with leading online fundraising platforms to streamline the donor experience, increasing engagement and donations during key campaigns like Ramadan.

d) **Engaging Volunteers:**

Volunteers were actively involved in addressing the increasing demand for online educational services, helping to support and enhance programme delivery.

e) **Expanding Online Course Offerings:**

Building on previous initiatives, MRDF explored new online courses, transitioning from in-person to digital delivery to meet the community's evolving needs.

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How the activities undertaken during the year contributed to the achievement of the aims and objectives.

In 2023, MRDF's influence within the Muslim community grew even stronger, with its contributions extending far beyond events and programmes to become essential pillars of support, education, and guidance. At the core of this success was MRDF's steadfast commitment to its values of compassion, justice, and education, enabling the charity to address the diverse and complex challenges faced by individuals and families today.

MRDF's holistic approach ensured that its initiatives covered not only spiritual development but also crucial areas such as family life, building an Ummah centric mindset and gaining a clear 'Akirah-centric' focus in life. From the Sabeel and Sihaab retreats to the Fatwa Line service, the charity provided solutions rooted in Islamic teachings and Islamic tradition, while remaining relevant to the modern day issues affecting the community. The engagement of over 1,700 individuals through the Fatwa Line alone demonstrates MRDF's role as a trusted source of guidance and personal support.

A key factor in the success of MRDF's objectives was its focus on collaboration and partnership. Working closely with scholars, community leaders, and like-minded organisations, MRDF created a unified response to the challenges facing the Muslim community.

The partnership enabled the charity to extend its reach and deliver educational programmes that were accessible, impactful, and catered to people from all walks of life and levels of religious understanding.

In 2023, MRDF also made significant progress in utilising technology to enhance its services. By expanding its digital presence through webinars, online courses, and virtual workshops, MRDF ensured that its educational and spiritual support was available to a much wider audience, regardless of location. This hybrid approach allowed the charity to engage thousands of participants in key events throughout the year, such as the Sabeel and Sihaab retreats.

Feedback from individuals, families, and community leaders reinforced MRDF's status as a vital source of support. To many, MRDF was not just a charitable organisation but a beacon of hope, offering guidance and wisdom to navigate the complexities of modern life.

Resources used in the activities undertaken during the year.

The resources used in the year to further the charities objectives are detailed in the income statement and the financial review. The Charity incurred £606,158 on direct cost of charitable activities, along with the invaluable support of the volunteers.

The contribution of volunteers during the year.

In 2023, MRDF's volunteer base played an increasingly vital role in supporting our expanding range of both digital and in-person activities. Volunteers remained the backbone of the organisation, ensuring that our services could reach the wider community. Their unwavering dedication made it possible to deliver the breadth of programmes we offer, from retreats to online educational sessions.

As we embraced a hybrid model of service delivery, the need for volunteers with digital expertise became even more critical. Over 30 volunteers contributed their time and skills throughout the year, working alongside our central team to ensure the seamless execution of events, whether in person or online. Following the surge in volunteer engagement seen in previous years, 2023 saw continued enthusiasm and participation, particularly as we resumed in-person events alongside our ongoing digital initiatives.

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The main achievements and performance of the charity during the year.

A summary of the main activities of the charity and achievements in the year were:

- 1) Maintaining 4 cycles of the Sabeel development programme within the UK.
- 2) Maintaining 3 cycles of the Sihaab retreats programme in the UK
- 3) Offering support and expertise in the delivery of our tarbiyyah (cultivation) services to our associates in Denmark, Holland, and Germany.
- 4) Helping our supported partners in Europe deliver 14 retreats throughout 2023.
- 5) Providing educational services to key endorsed projects:
 - a. Muslim Youth Initiative (MYI): Provided syllabus guidance to equip young Muslims with relevant and impactful knowledge.
 - b. Family Events: Contributed content and direction for retreats, fostering discussions on Islamic values and family growth.
 - c. Islamic Council: Supplied Sharia consultants to offer expert advice and guidance on Islamic matters.
- 6) 'Fatwa line', the only UK national phone-in service for Sharia guidance. Answering over 1,713 calls in 2023.

Factors relevant to the achievement of the charity's objectives

In 2023, MRDF's influence within the Muslim community grew even stronger, with its contributions extending far beyond events and programmes to become essential pillars of support, education, and guidance. At the core of this success was MRDF's steadfast commitment to its values of compassion, justice, and education, enabling the charity to address the diverse and complex challenges faced by individuals and families today.

MRDF's holistic approach ensured that its initiatives covered not only spiritual development but also crucial areas such as family life, building an Ummah centric mindset and gaining a clear 'Akhirah-centric' focus in life. From the Sabeel and Sihaab retreats to the Fatwa Line service, the charity provided solutions rooted in Islamic teachings and Islamic tradition, while remaining relevant to the modern day issues affecting the community. The engagement of over 1,700 individuals through the Fatwa Line alone demonstrates MRDF's role as a trusted source of guidance and personal support.

A key factor in the success of MRDF's objectives was its focus on collaboration and partnership. Working closely with scholars, community leaders, and like-minded organisations, MRDF created a unified response to the challenges facing the Muslim community. These partnerships enabled the charity to extend its reach and deliver educational programmes that were accessible, impactful, and catered to people from all walks of life and levels of religious understanding.

In 2023, MRDF also made significant progress in utilising technology to enhance its services. By expanding its digital presence through webinars, online courses, and virtual workshops, MRDF ensured that its educational and spiritual support was available to a much wider audience, regardless of location. This hybrid approach allowed the charity to engage thousands of participants in key events throughout the year, such as the Sabeel and Sihaab retreats.

Feedback from individuals, families, and community leaders reinforced MRDF's status as a vital source of support. To many, MRDF was not just a charitable organisation but a beacon of hope, offering guidance and wisdom to navigate the complexities of modern life.

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Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

- 1) Sabeel Retreats Programme: Supported 14 retreats across Europe in collaboration with international partners.
- 2) Sabeel Development Programme: Organised over 23 weekend retreats throughout the UK, offering educational and spiritual growth opportunities.
- 3) Enhanced Sihaab Programme: Delivered 6 weekend retreats within the UK, further enriching participants' learning and spiritual experiences.
- 4) Sabeel Development Programme: Engaged a total of 600 students across all cycles, highlighting the programme's extensive reach and impact.
- 5) Guidance to Charities and Organisations: Provided support and guidance to over 35 national charities and organisations based in the UK.
- 6) Fatwa Line Service: Responded to over 1,700 queries from both Muslims and non-Muslims, offering clarity on Islamic matters affecting daily life.
- 7) Sharia Advisors: Supplied 5 Sharia advisors to assist with arbitration for the Islamic Council, ensuring reliable and authentic guidance.
- 8) Live Webinars: Hosted 9 weekend webinars, attracting a total of 800 attendees across Saturday and Sunday sessions.
- 9) Sabeel & Sihaab Weekend Courses: Conducted 7 weekend courses, running from Friday to Sunday, aimed at enriching the cohorts' understanding of core Islamic principles.
- 10) Lectures: Delivered 26 lectures for external organisations during Ramadan and Dhul Hijjah, with most being held in person and 10 delivered online.

Fundraising activities during the year.

MRDF engaged in various fundraising initiatives in 2023, with a key focus on the Ramadan period. This period represented a pivotal time for the organisation's fundraising strategy, as it leveraged both online platforms and community driven campaigns. MRDF capitalised on its enhanced digital infrastructure, a result of a significant £55,000 investment into a more agile marketing strategy. This was a marked increase from the £28,000 spent in 2022.

The purpose of this substantial increase in marketing expenditure was to broaden MRDF's digital presence, increasing the visibility of its programs and services within the Muslim community. The charity utilised social media, email marketing, and digital appeals to engage donors, ensuring a wider reach for their fundraising efforts. This new approach also aimed to improve engagement with younger demographics and individuals who primarily interact online.

MRDF's Ramadan campaigns, one of the key fundraising drives, were designed to align with the spiritual significance of the month, a time when many donors are particularly inclined to contribute to charitable causes. The campaigns were structured to highlight specific initiatives, such as educational programs and community outreach projects, resonating deeply with MRDF's donor base. By optimising their fundraising channels and engaging with their audience through targeted campaigns, MRDF was able to raise substantial funds, despite the challenging economic climate. The organisation's ability to meet its fundraising objectives was evident, as they generated an income of £675,507 from donations. These efforts contributed directly to the continuation and expansion of their educational initiatives, such as the Sabeel and Sihaab retreats and the online Fatwa Line service, which collectively impacted thousands of individuals.

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The degree to which the achievements and performance during the year have benefited wider society.

Our efforts in 2023 remained firmly grounded in our charitable objectives, with a primary focus on benefiting the Muslim community while being open and inclusive to the broader public. As an organisation, we are committed to addressing the challenges faced by individuals and families, and we have consistently worked to offer guidance and support through education, spiritual nourishment, and personal development. This mission has become more crucial than ever as we address the evolving needs of the community, particularly in the face of ongoing societal challenges.

In 2023, we built upon the innovative approaches adopted during the pandemic in 2020, continuing to expand our online offerings and hybrid models to ensure that our services remained accessible to all. Our Sabeel and Sihaab retreats, workshops, seminars, and digital content allowed participants from across the UK and even internationally to engage with our programmes. These efforts were bolstered by collaborations with European partners, further extending the reach of MRDF's mission.

Our transparent policies and dedication to accessibility ensure that no one is excluded from benefiting from our services due to financial hardship. We remain steadfast in our commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their economic circumstances, have the opportunity to participate in our programmes. In 2023, this commitment was reflected through several initiatives that prioritised accessibility:

- 1) **Affordable and Transparent Fee Structures:** Our fee policies remained aligned with our charitable mission, offering services at an appropriate entry-level cost. While some services generate income, they do so under a system of proportional discounts. All fees were approved by the trustees to ensure they remain fair and accessible, adhering to our principle of minimising costs wherever possible.
- 2) **Discounts for Students and Low-Income Individuals:** We continued to provide set discounts for students and those on low incomes, ensuring that these groups could fully participate in our programmes without facing financial barriers.
- 3) **Instalment Plans for Financial Flexibility:** For those unable to meet the full cost of an activity or service, we offered flexible instalment plans. These plans were tailored to meet the participant's financial situation, allowing them to pay over time in an agreed upon manner. In cases where participants faced significant financial hardship, additional provisions were made, with approval from the trustees, to waive or defer payments to ensure no one was excluded due to their financial situation.

How the achievements during the year measure up to the objectives set.

In 2023, MRDF accomplished several significant milestones that aligned closely with the objectives set at the beginning of the year. One of the most notable achievements was the successful delivery of over 23 Sabeel retreats, which are designed to provide participants with deep insights into Islamic teachings while fostering personal and spiritual growth. These retreats were complemented by six Sihaab weekend retreats, which similarly focused on nurturing the intellectual and spiritual development of attendees through immersive experiences. Additionally, MRDF held seven seminars, both in person and online, which catered to a wide audience and addressed key issues relevant to the Muslim community. These educational programmes were pivotal in fulfilling MRDF's goal of enhancing spiritual and intellectual growth within the community.

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MRDF also broadened its impact by supporting 14 retreats in collaboration with international partners. These joint initiatives not only extended the organisation's reach but also strengthened its presence within the global Muslim community, furthering its mission to promote Islamic education and spiritual development beyond the UK. The successful execution of these programmes demonstrated MRDF's ability to maintain high levels of service delivery, even as it expanded its international collaborations.

Despite facing financial challenges, including a net deficit of £3,589 MRDF remained resilient throughout the year. This financial shortfall was primarily due to increased operational costs, including the significant investment in marketing and outreach efforts to engage a wider audience. However, the organisation's ability to continue delivering its services and programmes is a testament to its strong foundation of volunteer support and donor contributions. The dedication of over 30 volunteers played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth running of these events, while the generosity of donors enabled MRDF to remain financially stable and continue fulfilling its objectives.

The performance of material fundraising activities during the year against the fundraising objectives set.

In 2023, MRDF's material fundraising efforts centred around its enhanced marketing strategy and key campaigns, particularly during Ramadan. The charity strategically aimed to increase both engagement and donations to sustain its programmes and expand its outreach within the community. To achieve this, MRDF made a significant investment in digital marketing, recognising the growing importance of online platforms in reaching potential donors. This investment modernised its approach and allowed the charity to engage a broader, more digitally connected audience.

One of the year's most notable campaigns took place during Ramadan, a period traditionally associated with heightened charitable giving within the Muslim community. MRDF capitalised on the spiritual significance of Ramadan by aligning its fundraising efforts with the values of the holy month. Through a range of online channels, including social media, email newsletters, and digital advertisements, MRDF successfully amplified its message and encouraged donations. These campaigns highlighted the importance of donations to fund key initiatives, such as the Sabeel and Sihaab retreats, educational programmes, and the Fatwa Line service. This approach resonated with existing supporters and also helped to attract new donors.

The charity's £55,000 investment in a more agile and targeted marketing strategy represented a substantial increase from the £28,000 spent in 2022. This strategic focus on marketing allowed MRDF to significantly enhance its digital presence, effectively positioning the charity in front of a wider and more diverse audience. By using targeted advertisements, search engine optimisation (SEO), and active engagement on social media, MRDF increased awareness of its initiatives. Additionally, the ability to track and respond to donor engagement in real time enabled the charity to adjust its messaging and strategies as needed, making the fundraising efforts more dynamic and responsive to community needs. As a result of these enhanced fundraising activities, MRDF raised £675,507 from donations. This significant figure underscores the success of its efforts to increase donations and secure funding for its projects. Despite a challenging economic environment, MRDF's ability to reach its fundraising goals demonstrated the effectiveness of its revamped marketing strategy and its strong connection with its donor base.

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

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Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

However, while MRDF succeeded in raising substantial funds, the increased expenditure linked to marketing and operational costs resulted in a net deficit of £3,589 for the year. Total expenditures stood at £879,905 compared to an income of £876,316. While this was a second year of deficit, the charity views the investment in marketing and outreach as essential for future growth and sustainability. Although costly in the short term, the improved digital strategy has laid the foundation for continued donor engagement and future fundraising success.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The methods used to recruit and appoint new charity trustees.

The Charity utilises all avenues of recruitment - using specialist agencies, contacts and word of mouth, to gather a list of potential candidates. The candidates are then short-listed and interviewed. The process is managed by the CEO.

The policies and procedures for the induction and training of trustees.

New Trustees are appointed based on experience in the areas pertinent to the Charity's objectives and selected by the Board of Trustees. Each new trustee undergoes an orientation day to brief them on their legal obligations under the Charities and Companies Acts. They are provided with the Charity Commission's guidance and a copy of the Memorandum of Association.

The charity's organisational structure.

The Charity has a Board of Trustees that are ultimately responsible for the running and management of the Charity. The Board of Trustees is kept informed by an advisory committee on the operational activities of the Charity. The advisory board has been delegated the day-to-day operational activity to a management committee headed by Mr Y Patel, Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO, is also a Trustee and Director of the charitable company. In his role as the CEO he reports to the advisory board. The management committee consists of five individuals, including the CEO.

How the charity makes decisions and how decisions are delegated.

The management committee has been authorised to make decisions that impact the daily activities of the Charity and its smooth running and operations. However any decision that will have a material impact - financial or otherwise - is referred to the Trustees.

The Chief Executive Officer and other senior management personnel to whom day to day management is delegated

During the period and up to the signing of the financial statement the following applied:

Mr Y Patel - Chief Executive Officer
Mr W Maqbool - Head of Finance
Mr A Hussain - Head of operations
Mr F Haibatan - Head of Islamic development
Mr J Rashid - Head of legal and communications

Setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management is set by the Trustees and salaries reflect the nature of the Charity, its field of expertise as well as the financial resources available to the Charity. None of the trustees received any payment. Please refer to note x

Bankers	HSBC Bank plc, 126 High Road Ilford, Essex IG1 1DA
Solicitors	Saracens Solicitors, Sentinel House, 16 Harcourt Street, London
Accountants	Honest Advisory, 1 Tylecroft road, London, SW16 4BL

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Financial review

The charity's financial position at the end of the year ended 31 December 2023

The financial position of the charity at 31 December 2023 and comparatives for the prior period, as more fully detailed in the accounts, can be summarised as follows:-

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net loss	(3,589)	(6,700)
Unrestricted Revenue Funds available for the general purposes of the charity	47,195	50,784
Total Funds	47,195	50,784

Financial review of the position at the reporting date, 31 December 2023 .

MRDF's financial strategy for 2023 focused on maintaining a stable financial footing. Our total income for the year was £876,316 to £914,559 in 2022. Despite this reduction, we continued to fund our charitable activities with expenses totaling £879,905, resulting in a net deficit of £3,589. This compares with a deficit of £6,700 in 2022.

1.Key financial figures for the year include:

2.Total income: £876,316

3.Total expenditure: £879,905

4.Net deficit: £3,589

5.Funds carried forward - reserves: £47,195

6.Income for 2023 primarily came from donations, charitable activities, and investments. The breakdown is as follows:

7.Donations: £675,507

8.Charitable activities: £200,545

Policies on reserves.

The Trustees have reviewed the requirement to maintain a minimum reserve, in light of the main risks faced by the charity and established a reserve policy. It has established a policy that reserves should cover three months of unavoidable costs. This target level is a reserve of £30,000 and it is fully anticipated that this will allow the Charity to meet its fixed and unavoidable costs.

Availability and adequacy of assets of each of the funds

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund.

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Significant events which have affected the financial performance and the financial position.

2023 has been a challenging year for the charity due to the continued pressures faced by our donors and by those we serve, from the cost of living crisis. Despite this the Charity has been able to increase its activities by focusing on continued fund raising campaigns.

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed and reviews and systems to mitigate them.

The Management Committee has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces.

Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which will allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the centre. Exposure to legislative risk and political risk is reviewed as part of the risk register and mitigation are in place.

Factors likely to affect future financial performance .

The Charity is dependent on the generosity of Donors, as 75-80% of its income is derived from Donations. The cost of living crisis in the 2022 and wider challenges of inflation are expected to have a material impact on the Charity. However the Charity is looking at ways to mitigate the

Principal funding sources in the year and how these support the key objectives of the charity.

As detailed in the financial statements the Charity received voluntary donations including Gift Aid of £675,507 (2022 £658,892) and recognised £200,545 (2022 £255,615) from the provision of educational seminars. Fundraising has resulted in increased donations, however the costs of living crisis has reduced our educational income. The income raised in the year allowed the Charity to deliver the services mentioned above, the section "main achievements and performance ."

Plans For the Future

Summary of plans for the future and the trustees' perspective of the future direction of the charity.

The Trustees will be focused on stabilising the financial position of the charity and the creation of a reliable income source. This will then further enable the charity to expand its activities to more areas of the United Kingdom.

Another area of focus is the expansion of educational material, courses and projects.

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Details of The Independent Examiner

M K Sheikh

Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

1 Tylecroft Road

London

SW16 4BL

Statement of the Directors' and Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, the Trustees determined to interpret this responsibility as requiring them to follow current best practice and prepare the accounts according to the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019, (The SORP), .

In particular, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law require the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to :-

- to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. 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 also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the Independent Examiner in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that , on the face of the report, there are no material inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

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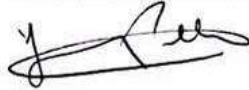
Method of preparation of accounts - Small company provisions

The financial statements are set out on pages 20 to 40.

The financial statements have been prepared implementing the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016)

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006. applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 10 October 2024.



Yunus Patel
Director and Trustee

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the charitable company on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the charitable company on pages 20 to 40 for the year ended 31 December 2023 which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016) as modified by FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), published by the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) , and under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 26.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner and the basis of the report

As described on page 16, you, the charitable company's Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Company for the purposes of Company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and all other applicable law and with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, applicable to smaller entities, and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view.

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that there is no requirement in the memorandum and articles of the charity for the conducting of an audit, and that the accounts do not require an audit in accordance with Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. As a consequence, the Trustees have elected that the financial statements be subject to independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements are not required to be audited under any legal provision, or otherwise, and are eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

- a) examine the financial statements of the charity under Section 145 of the Act;
- b) follow the applicable procedures in the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement and scope of work undertaken

Since the charitable company's gross income exceeded £250,000, the charitable company's examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am an authorised member of Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under s145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act setting out the duties of an independent examiner in relation to the conducting of an independent examination. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable company and of the accounting systems employed by the charitable company and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning such matters. The purpose of the examination is to establish as far as possible that there have been no breaches of charity legislation and that, on a test basis of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures made, the financial statements comply with the SORP.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and information supplied by the Trustees in the course of the examination is not subjected to audit tests or enquiries and does not cover all the matters that an auditor would consider in arriving at an opinion. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide

Consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements, and in particular, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity, and my report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

I planned and performed my examination so as to satisfy myself that the objectives of the independent examination are achieved and before finalising the report I obtained written assurances from the Trustees of all material matters.

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Independent Examiner's Statement, Report and Opinion

Subject to the limitations upon the scope of my work as detailed above, I have completed my examination: and can confirm that:-

The accounts of this charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006;

The gross income of the charitable company in the year ended 31 December 2023 appears to exceed the sum specified in Section 145(3) of the Act, namely £250000, and that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner in accordance with that section by virtue of my being a qualified member of Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales;

This is a report in respect of an examination carried out under 145 of the Act and in accordance with Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act which may be applicable;

and that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:-

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and Section 130 of The Charities Act 2011;

the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination;

have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed:-



M K Sheikh - Independent Examiner

Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

1 Tylecroft Road

London

SW16 4BL

This report was signed on 10 October 2024

**Muslim Research and Development Foundation - Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Statement of Financial Activities (including the Income and Expenditure Account for the
year ended 31 December 2023, as required by the Companies Act 2006)**

	SORP Ref	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Total Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2022 £
Income & Endowments from:					
Donations & Legacies	A1	675,507	-	675,507	658,892
Charitable activities	A2	200,545	-	200,545	255,615
Investments	A4	264	-	264	52
Total income	A	876,316	-	876,316	914,559
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	B1	91,733	-	91,733	80,785
Charitable activities	B2	788,172	-	788,172	840,474
Total expenditure	B	879,905	-	879,905	921,259
Net income for the year		(3,589)	-	(3,589)	(6,700)
Net income after transfers	A-B-C	(3,589)	-	(3,589)	(6,700)
Net movement in funds		(3,589)	-	(3,589)	(6,700)
Reconciliation of funds:-					
	E				
Total funds brought forward		50,784	-	50,784	57,484
Total funds carried forward		47,195	-	47,195	50,784

The 'SORP Ref' indicated above is the classification of income set out in the formal SORP documents. As required by paragraph 4.60 of the SORP, the brought forward and carried forward funds above have been agreed to the Balance Sheet.

A separate Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as this statement includes all recognised gains and losses.

All the prior year transactions were unrestricted items, and no further analysis is required

All activities derive from continuing operations

The notes attached on pages 26 to 40 form an integral part of these accounts.

**Muslim Research and Development Foundation - Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Movements in revenue and capital funds for the year ended 31 December 2023

Revenue accumulated funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Last year Total Funds 2022 £
Accumulated funds brought forward	50,784	-	50,784	57,484
Recognised gains and losses before transfers	(3,589)	-	(3,589)	(6,700)
	47,195	-	47,195	50,784
Closing revenue funds	47,195	-	47,195	50,784

Summary of funds

	Unrestricted and Designated funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Last Year Total Funds 2022 £
Revenue accumulated funds	47,195	-	47,195	50,784

The notes attached on pages 26 to 40 form an integral part of these accounts.

**Muslim Research and Development Foundation - Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2023 as required by the
Companies Act 2006**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income		
Income from operations	798,024	850,087
Refunds from HMRC on gift aided donations	78,028	64,420
Investment income		
Interest receivable	264	52
Gross income in the year before exceptional items	876,316	914,559
Gross income in the year including exceptional items	876,316	914,559
Expenditure		
Charitable expenditure, excluding depreciation and amortisation	788,172	840,474
Fundraising costs	91,733	80,785
Realised losses on disposals of social investments which are programme related	-	-
Total expenditure in the year	879,905	921,259
Net income before tax in the financial year	(3,589)	(6,700)
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	-	-
Net income after tax in the financial year	(3,589)	(6,700)
Retained surplus for the financial year	(3,589)	(6,700)

All activities derive from continuing operations

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, the headings and subheadings used in the Income and Expenditure account have been adapted to reflect the special nature of the charity's activities.

The notes attached on pages 26 to 40 form an integral part of these accounts.

Muslim Research and Development Foundation - Balance Sheet as at 31

	Note	SORP Ref	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets		B		
Debtors	10	B2	50,710	43,057
Cash at bank and in hand		B4	53,534	30,689
Total current assets			<u>104,244</u>	<u>73,746</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	C1	<u>(57,049)</u>	<u>(22,962)</u>
Net current assets			47,195	50,784
The total net assets of the charity			<u>47,195</u>	<u>50,784</u>

The total net assets of the charity are funded by the funds of the charity, as follows:-

Unrestricted Revenue Funds	16	D3	47,195	50,784
			47,195	50,784
Total charity funds			<u>47,195</u>	<u>50,784</u>

The 'SORP Ref' indicated above is the classification of Balance Sheet items as set out in the formal SORP documents. As required by paragraph 4.60 of the SORP, the brought forward and carried forward funds above have been agreed to the SOFA..

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The member has not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

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

The charity is subject to Independent Examination under charity legislation, and the report of the Independent Examiner is on page 19.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006. applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.



Yunus Patel

Trustee

Approved by the board of trustees on 10 October 2024

The notes attached on pages 26 to 40 form an integral part of these accounts.

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023

		2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities as shown below	A	<u>22,581</u>	<u>(49,995)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		264	52
Net cash provided by investing activities	B	<u>264</u>	<u>52</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
		-	-
Net cash provided by financing activities	C	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Overall cash provided by all activities	A+B+C	<u>22,845</u>	<u>(49,943)</u>
Cash movements			
Change in cash and cash equivalents from activities in the year ended 31 December 2023		22,845	(49,943)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2023		30,689	80,632
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements		-	-
Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at 31 December		<u>53,534</u>	<u>30,689</u>

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023 - Continued

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

Net income as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities	(3,589)	(6,700)
Adjustments for :-		
Write downs of investments	-	-
Net unrealised losses on investment assets	-	-
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(264)	(52)
Decrease in debtors	(7,653)	(36,835)
Increase in creditors, excluding loans	34,087	(6,408)
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	
	<u>22,581</u>	<u>(49,995)</u>

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in hand at for the year ended 31 December 2023	53,534	30,689
Notice deposits - (less than 3 months)	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>53,534</u>	<u>30,689</u>

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023 - Continued

Analysis of change in net debt

	<i>At start of year</i>	<i>Cash Flows and</i>	<i>At end of year</i>
Cash	30,689	22,845	53,534
Total	<u>30,689</u>	<u>22,845</u>	<u>22,845</u>

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Policies relating to the production of the accounts.

Basis of preparation and accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis, under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016) and 'FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), published by the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) , and in accordance with all applicable law in the charity's jurisdiction of registration, except that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), in preference to the previous SORP, the SORP 2005, which has been withdrawn, notwithstanding the fact that the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 refer explicitly to the SORP 2005. This has been done to accord with current best practice.

Future Risk

The charity faces multiple risks, from financial and system. The board and trustees mitigated these risk by planning to widen the donation base, creating back-ups and firewalls and latent redundancy.

Risks and future assumptions

The charity is a public benefit entity.

The charity is a public benefit organisation who's key aim is to benefit the public. However as such it is highly dependent on donations and the general public attending educational seminars and outreach programmes it hosts. The Trustees are aware of the financial and economic risks faced by the uncertainty of the UK economy. However the Trustees are confident that the charity will be able to attract the public and raise of its projects and objectives.

Policies relating to categories of income and income recognition.

Nature of income

Gross income represents donations from the general public as well as income from the provision of services as per the objectives of the charity.

Categories of Income

Income is categorised as income from exchange transactions (contract income) and income from non-exchange transactions (gifts), investment income and other income.

Income from exchange transactions is received by the charity for services supplied where entitlement is subject to fulfilling performance related conditions. The income the charity receives is approximately equal in value to the services supplied by the charity.

Income from a non-exchange transaction is where the charity receives value from the donor without providing equal value in exchange, and includes donations of money, goods and services freely given without giving equal value in exchange.

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Income recognition

Income, whether from exchange or non exchange transactions, is recognised in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) on a receivable basis, when a transaction or other event results in an increase in the charity's assets or a reduction in its liabilities and only when the charity has legal entitlement, the income is probable and can be measured reliably.

Income subject to terms and conditions which must be met before the charity is entitled to the resources is not recognised until the conditions have been met.

All income is accounted for gross, before deducting any related fees or costs.

Accounting for deferred income and income received in advance

Where terms and conditions relating to income have not been met or uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet any terms or conditions otherwise within its control, income is not recognised but is deferred as a liability until it is probable that the terms or conditions imposed can be met.

Any grant that is subject to performance-related conditions received in advance of delivering the goods and services required by that condition, or is subject to unmet conditions wholly outside the control of the recipient charity, is accounted for as a liability and shown on the balance sheet as deferred income. Deferred income is released to income in the reporting period in which the performance-related or other conditions that limit recognition are met.

When income from a grant or donation has not been recognised due to the conditions applying to the gift not being wholly within the control of the recipient charity, it is disclosed as a contingent asset if receipt of the grant or donation is probable once those conditions are met.

Where time related conditions are imposed or implied by a funder, then the income is apportioned to the time periods concerned, and, where applicable, is accounted for as a liability and shown on the balance sheet as deferred income. When grants are received in advance of the expenditure on the activity funded by them, but there are no specific time related conditions, then the income is not deferred.

Any condition that allows for the recovery by the donor of any unexpended part of a grant does not prevent recognition of the income concerned, but a liability to any repayment is recognised when repayment becomes probable.

Donated goods, facilities and services

Donated fixed assets are recognised at the current fair value. All such donations are recognised as donation income, and debited to fixed assets.

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Donated goods that are not fixed assets are accounted for at a fair value, unless it is impractical to reliably measure the value of the donated items.

In the absence of any direct evidence of fair value of donated goods, then a value is derived from the cost of the item to the donor or, in the case of goods that are expected to be sold, the estimated resale value after deducting any anticipated costs of sales.

If it is impracticable to measure the fair value of goods donated for resale, or the costs of valuation outweigh the benefits, the donated goods are recognised as income when sold, with an equivalent amount being recognised as an expense.

The costs of goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries is deemed to be the fair value of those goods upon receipt. When the goods are distributed freely or for a nominal consideration, then the carrying amount is adjusted at the time of sale, to the value at the point of distribution and the adjustment is shown as a cost of donations made.

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Donated services and facilities (including seconded staff and use of property) are included in the accounts on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity.

All donated services and facilities are recognised as donation income when received, (provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably) and recognised as an expense with an equivalent value.

Membership subscriptions

The income and any associated Gift Aid or other tax refund from a membership subscription received by the charity in the nature of a gift, is accounted for on the same basis as a donation.

The income from a membership subscription received by the charity where the subscription purchases the right to services or benefits is recognised as income from charitable activities.

Policies relating to expenditure on goods and services provided to the charity.

Recognition of liabilities and expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated..

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Allocating costs to activities

Direct costs that are specifically related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Shared direct costs and support costs are apportioned between activities. The basis for apportionment, which is consistently applied, and proportionate to the circumstances, is :-

Staffing - on the basis of time spent in connection with any particular activity.

Premises related costs - on the proportion of floor area occupied by a particular activity.

Non specific support costs - on the basis of the usage of resources, in terms of time taken, capacity used, request made or other measures

Estimation techniques used in apportioning costs - give details

Volunteers

In accordance with the SORP, and in recognition of the difficulties in placing a monetary value on the contribution from volunteers, the contribution of volunteers is not included within the income of the charity.

However, the trustees value the significant contribution made to the activities of the charity by unpaid volunteers and this is described more fully in Note6.

Policies relating to assets, liabilities and provisions and other matters.

Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amounts at the balance sheet date.

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Creditors and provisions

Creditors are measured at market value and recognised in the period to which the benefit is consumed by the charity. Provisions are recognised if the value incurred or consumed is certain and the liability is probable.

Pensions - defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

There are no Designated funds.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal or as implied by law.

There are no endowment funds.

2 Liability to taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose. Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity, and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

3 Winding up or dissolution of the charity

If upon winding up or dissolution of the charity there remain any assets, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, the assets represented by the accumulated fund shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having similar objects to the charity.

4 Significance of financial instruments to the charity's position

The Charity does not have any significant financial instruments. It only has cash, debtors and creditor. These are all measured at fairvalue, which equates to the book value.

5 Net surplus before tax in the financial year

	2023	2022
	£	£
The net surplus before tax in the financial year is stated after charging:-		
Pension costs	1,349	1,773

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

6 The contribution of volunteers

In 2023, MRDF's volunteer base played an increasingly vital role in supporting our expanding range of both digital and in-person activities. Volunteers remained the backbone of the organisation, ensuring that our services could reach the wider community. Their unwavering dedication made it possible to deliver the breadth of programmes we offer, from retreats to online educational sessions.

As we embraced a hybrid model of service delivery, the need for volunteers with digital expertise became even more critical. Over 30 volunteers contributed their time and skills throughout the year, working alongside our central team to ensure the seamless execution of events, whether in person or online. Following the surge in volunteer engagement seen in previous years, 2023 saw continued enthusiasm and participation, particularly as we resumed in-person events alongside our ongoing digital initiatives

7 Staff costs and emoluments

Salary costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross Salaries excluding trustees and key management personnel	128,185	141,787
Employer's National Insurance for all staff	1,666	3,682
Employer's operating costs of defined contribution pension schemes	1,349	1,773
Total salaries, wages and related costs	131,200	147,242

The average number of full time staff employed in the year was	9	10
The estimated full time equivalent number of all staff employed in the year was	5.5	6.0

The estimated equivalent number of full time staff deployed in different activities in the year was:-

Engaged on charitable activities	3.0	4.5
Engaged on publicity activities	0.5	0.5
Engaged on fundraising activities	-	-
Engaged on management and administration	2.0	1.0

The estimated full time equivalent number of all staff employed as above	5.5	6.0
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Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them have received any remuneration from the charity or any related entity, either in the current or prior year, for services as Trustees. Mr Y Patel was paid for his operation work as the general manager and CEO.

No employees received emoluments (excluding pension costs) in excess of £60,000 per annum.

Chief Executive Officer.

The remuneration in the year year was	10,200	10,200
Total remuneration package included in total salaries above	10,200	10,200

8 Defined contribution pension schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme, the costs of which are shown above.

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

9 Remuneration and payments to Trustees and persons connected with them

Mr Y Patel received a salary of £10,200 (2022 £10,200) for his role as a CEO and general manager. He did not receive any remuneration for his role as a Trustee.

10 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	47,700	41,000
Other debtors	3,010	2,057
	<u>50,710</u>	<u>43,057</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	20,236
Accruals	1,500	1,500
PAYE, NIC VAT and other taxes	1,023	859
Other creditors	54,526	367
	<u>57,049</u>	<u>22,962</u>

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

12 Contingent liabilities

There are no material contingent liabilities.

13 Income and Expenditure account summary

	2023	2022
	£	£
At 1 January 2023	50,784	57,484
Deficit after tax for the year	(3,589)	(6,700)
At 31 December 2023	47,195	50,784

14 Post balance sheet events

There were no material post balance sheet events.

15 Particulars of how particular funds are represented by assets and liabilities

At 31 December 2023	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds £
Current Assets	104,244	-	-	104,244
Current Liabilities	(57,049)	-	-	(57,049)
	47,195	-	-	47,195
At 1 January 2023	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds £
Current Assets	73,746	-	-	73,746
Current Liabilities	(22,962)	-	-	(22,962)
	50,784	-	-	50,784

16 Change in total funds over the year as shown in Note 15 , analysed by individual funds

	Funds brought forward from 2022	Movement in funds in 2023	Transfers between funds in 2023	Funds carried forward to 2024
	£	See Note 17 £	See Note 0 £	£
Unrestricted and designated funds:-				
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	50,784	(3,589)	-	47,195
Total unrestricted and designated funds	50,784	(3,589)	-	47,195
Total charity funds	50,784	(3,589)	-	47,195

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

17 Analysis of movements in funds over the year as shown in Note 16

	Income	Expenditure	Other Gains & Losses	Movement in funds
	2023	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Unrestricted and designated funds:-</i>				
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	876,316	(879,905)	-	(3,589)
	<u>876,316</u>	<u>(879,905)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,589)</u>

18 The purposes for which the funds

Unrestricted and designated funds:-

Unrestricted Revenue Funds These funds are held for the meeting the objectives of the charity, and to provide reserves for future activities, and , subject to charity legislation, are free from all restrictions on their use.

Restricted funds:-

There are no restricted funds

19 Ultimate controlling party

The charity is under the control of its legal members.

Every member of the charity is obliged to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2023 as required by the SORP 2015

This analysis is classified by conventional nominal descriptions and not by activity.

20 Donations, Grants and Legacies

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Total Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2022 £
Donations and gifts from individuals				
Small donations individually less than £1000	517,049	-	517,049	513,078
Refunds from HMRC on gift aided donations	78,028	-	78,028	64,420
Other donations	80,430	-	80,430	80,430
Total donations and gifts from individuals	675,507	-	675,507	657,928
Revenue grants and donations from non public bodies				
Other Grants	-	-	-	964
Total private sector revenue grants	-	-	-	964
Total Donations, Grants and Legacies				
Total Donations, Grants and Legacies A1	675,507	-	675,507	658,892

21 Income from charitable activities - Trading Activities

<i>Current year</i>	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Total Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total funds 2022 £
Primary purpose and ancillary trading				
Education Income	200,545	-	200,545	255,615
Total Primary purpose and ancillary trading	200,545	-	200,545	255,615

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2023 as required by the SORP 2015

22 Total Income from charitable activities

<i>Current year</i>	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Total income from charitable trading	200,545	-	200,545	255,615
Total from charitable activities A2	200,545	-	200,545	255,615

23 Investment income

	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest Receivable	264	-	264	52
Total investment income A4	264	-	264	52

24 Expenditure on charitable activities - Direct spending

<i>Current Year</i>	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Gross wages and salaries - charitable activities	89,991	-	89,991	107,949
Employers' NI - Charitable activities	1,666	-	1,666	2,452
Defined contribution pension costs - charitable activities	-	-	-	1,456
Total direct spending B2a	91,657	-	91,657	111,857

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2023 as required by the SORP 2015

25 Expenditure on charitable activities - Charitable trading

<i>Current Year</i>	Current year	Current year	Current year	Prior Year
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds		
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Cost of goods for primary purpose trading - Including movement in stock	606,158	-	606,158	620,692
Total charitable trading costs B2b	606,158	-	606,158	620,692

26 Support costs for charitable activities

<i>Current Year</i>	Current year	Current year	Current year	Prior Year
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds		
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
<i>Employee costs not included in direct costs</i>				
Salaries - Administrative staff	38,194	-	38,194	33,838
Defined contribution pension cost - administrative staff	1,349	-	1,349	317
Employers' NI - Administrative staff	-	-	-	1,230
Training and welfare - staff	-	-	-	-
<i>Premises Expenses</i>				
Licence fees payable	30,000	-	30,000	28,500
Rates and water charges	1,090	-	1,090	1,025
Light heat and power	4,263	-	4,263	4,474
Cleaning and waste management	-	-	-	3,366
Premises repairs, renewals and maintenance	-	-	-	3,100
Storage	2,433	-	2,433	16,989
<i>Administrative overheads</i>				
Telephone, fax and internet	1,562	-	1,562	1,001
Stationery and printing	59	-	59	95
Sundry expenses	5,820	-	5,820	1,715
Canteen and staff canteens	4,087	-	4,087	3,068
<i>Professional fees paid to advisors other than the auditor or examiner</i>				
Accountancy fees other than examination or audit fees	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Other legal and professional	-	-	-	7,707
Support costs before reallocation	90,357	-	90,357	107,925
Total support costs - Current Year	90,357	-	90,357	107,925

The basis of allocation of costs between activities is described under accounting policies
All the expenditure in the prior year was unrestricted.

Administrative overheads

The basis of allocation of costs between activities is described under accounting policies

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2023 as required by the SORP 2015

27 Total Charitable expenditure

<i>Current Year</i>		Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
		2023	2023	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
Total direct spending	B2a	91,657	-	91,657	111,857
Total charitable trading costs	B2b	606,158	-	606,158	620,692
Total support costs	B2d	90,357	-	90,357	107,925
Total charitable expenditure	B2	788,172	-	788,172	840,474

All the expenditure in the prior year was unrestricted.

<i>Prior Year</i>		Prior Year Unrestricted Funds	Prior Year Restricted Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
		2022	2022	2022
		£	£	£
Total direct spending	B2a	111,857	-	111,857
Total charitable trading costs	B2b	620,692	-	620,692
Total support costs	B2d	107,925	-	107,925
Total charitable expenditure	B2	840,474	-	840,474

28 Expenditure on raising funds and costs of investment management

<i>Current Year</i>		Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
		2023	2023	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
Fundraising publicity & marketing		55,063	-	55,063	28,149
Cost of fundraising activities		36,670	-	36,670	52,636
Total fundraising costs	B1	91,733	-	91,733	80,785

All the expenditure in the prior year was unrestricted.

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Activity analysis of Income and expenditure for the for the year ended 31 December 2023

This analysis is classified by activity and not by conventional nominal descriptions.

29 Analysis of income by activity	SOFA ref	2023	2022
Activity		£	£
Income from charitable activities			
Primary purpose activity		200,545	255,615
Summary of Total Income, including the items above			
Charitable activities	A2	200,545	255,615
Donations & Legacies	A1	675,507	658,892
Investment income	A4	264	52
Total income as shown in the SOFA	A	876,316	914,559
Categories of income			
Income from exchange transactions		876,316	914,559

30 Analysis of charitable expenditure by activity	Direct costs	Support costs	Grant funding of activities	Total	Total
Activity	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activity					
Direct costs	91,657	-	-	91,657	111,857
Charitable trading costs	606,158	-	-	606,158	620,692
Employee costs not included in direct cos	-	39,542	-	39,542	35,385
Premises expenses	-	37,786	-	37,786	57,454
Administrative overheads	-	11,528	-	11,528	5,879
Professional fees	-	1,500	-	1,500	9,207
Total Charitable activity	697,815	90,356	-	788,171	840,474

Summary of charitable costs by activity

	Direct costs	Support costs	Grant funding of activities	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Total Charitable activity	697,815	90,356	-	788,171	840,474
Total charitable expenditure	697,815	90,356	-	788,171	840,474

The basis of allocation of costs between activities is described under accounting policies

The breakdown of this expenditure by type of spending (ie nominal classification) is detailed in note 27

Muslim Research and Development Foundation

Activity analysis of Income and expenditure for the for the year ended 31 December 2023

Analysis of support and governance costs by charitable activities

Activity	Governance	Finance	Human Resources	Other Overheads	Total
Charitable activity	-	-	39,542	50,814	90,356

31 Analysis of non charitable expenditure by activity

Activity

<i>Fundraising activities</i>	Fundraising activities 2023 £	Fundraising activities 2022 £
Direct fundraising costs	91,733	80,785
Indirect fundraising costs:-	-	-
<i>Total non charitable expenditure</i>	2023 £	2022 £
Total costs of Fundraising activities	91,733	80,785
Total non charitable expenditure	91,733	80,785

The breakdown of this expenditure by type of spending (ie by nominal classification and by fund) is detailed in note 0