Company registration number: 08480724

Charity registration number: 1154784

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as

Statewatch

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
SE3 0RB

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

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The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Marie-Laure Basilien-Gainche Laure Baudrihaye-Gérard Jonathan Bloch Victoria Canning Nadine Finch
Charity Registration Number:	1154784
Company Registration Number	08480724
Country of Incorporation	England and Wales
Registered Office	88 Fleet Street London EC4Y 1DH
Independent Examiner	Field Sullivan Limited 9 Hare & Billet Road Blackheath SE3 0RB

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Introduction

If 2024 made clear that authoritarianism and racism were firmly on the rise, 2025 showed how quickly they are becoming embedded in the institutions, laws and policies of governments across Europe. The erosion of rights and democratic safeguards is no longer confined to the margins of political debate. Increasingly, measures once presented as exceptional responses to particular crises are becoming part of the normal machinery of government.

Our work throughout the year reflected this changing reality. We exposed, reported on and analysed attempts to expand state power, weaken democratic scrutiny and restrict basic rights and freedoms: the growing criminalisation of migration and solidarity; the outsourcing of border control to countries with appalling human rights records; plans to expand Europol's powers and surveillance capabilities; the use of algorithmic systems to profile and predict supposedly criminal behaviour; attacks on data protection and privacy; and continuing restrictions on protest and political expression.

In doing so, we continued to provide information and analysis to activists, advocates, journalists, researchers and others seeking to understand and challenge these developments. Much of what we uncover remains deliberately hidden: buried in internal EU documents, obscure legislative proposals, police databases, funding arrangements and closed-door meetings. Bringing these things into the open remains one of the most important ways in which *Statewatch* can contribute to challenging abuses of power.

But exposing what is happening is only one part of the struggle. Throughout 2025, we also supported campaigns and movements seeking to resist these developments more directly: those defending the rights of refugees and migrants; opposing the criminalisation of people on the move and those who support them; challenging the expansion of police and surveillance powers; demanding accountability for abuses at Europe's borders; defending data protection and privacy; and opposing European governments' complicity in the devastation of Palestine.

These issues are not separate. One of the defining features of the current political moment is the increasing convergence of migration control, policing, surveillance and militarisation. Technologies and powers developed in one context are rapidly transferred into another. Systems designed to identify and monitor migrants can be used for wider policing purposes. Databases created in the name of border security become sources of information for criminal justice agencies. New powers justified by the fight against organised crime are expanded to cover an ever wider range of activities.

At the same time, the language used to justify these developments is becoming increasingly familiar: security, resilience, efficiency, competitiveness, the fight against organised crime, the protection of borders. These words can obscure what is actually happening. Behind them lie decisions about who is watched, who is stopped, who is detained, who is excluded, whose movement is restricted and whose rights are considered expendable.

Migration provides perhaps the clearest example. In 2025, European governments continued to pursue increasingly punitive approaches while presenting them as necessary responses to the so-called migration crisis. Border externalisation intensified, with European institutions and governments seeking closer cooperation with states beyond the EU, regardless of their human rights records. New proposals sought to increase deportations, expand surveillance and criminalise those who facilitate movement or provide assistance. The result is a system in which the consequences of Europe's own policies are increasingly displaced beyond its borders, while democratic scrutiny is reduced at the same time.

The same logic can be seen in the development of surveillance and policing. New technologies are routinely presented as neutral tools for improving security, despite the evidence that they can reproduce and intensify existing forms of racism and discrimination. In 2025 we documented the growing use of data-driven and algorithmic systems to profile people and communities, including systems presented as capable of predicting where crime will occur or who might commit it. Such technologies do not simply observe the world: they help shape decisions about who is treated as suspicious, dangerous or deserving of state attention.

These developments are not inevitable. Nor are they entirely new.

The history of *Statewatch* has always demonstrated that today's supposedly new threats often have long histories. The technologies may change, the institutions may acquire new names and the political rhetoric may shift, but the underlying questions remain remarkably consistent: who has power, who is subject to it, who gets to scrutinise it, and what happens when those exercising power are not held accountable?

This is why the defence of civil liberties cannot be separated from wider struggles against racism, colonialism, inequality and militarism. The European border regime does not exist in isolation from Europe's foreign policy. Surveillance does not exist in isolation from policing. Domestic repression does not exist in isolation from international violence. The boundaries between these areas are increasingly difficult to draw because, in practice, they are increasingly interconnected.

The consequences are not abstract. They can be seen in the violence and deaths at Europe's borders, in the criminalisation of people seeking safety and those who stand in solidarity with them, in the surveillance of racialised and marginalised communities, and in the repression of those protesting against injustice. They can also be seen in the continuing failure of European governments to uphold the international rules and institutions they claim to defend.

And yet, as we wrote last year, there are still reasons for optimism.

They can be found in the people who continue to organise despite repression; in journalists who pursue difficult stories; in lawyers and advocates who challenge unlawful policies; in researchers who uncover what governments would rather keep hidden; and in movements that refuse to accept that the direction of travel is inevitable. They can be found in successful challenges to abuses of power, in the persistence of campaigns for justice, and in the growing recognition that many apparently separate struggles are in fact connected.

For *Statewatch*, this is where our role lies. We cannot determine the political conditions in which we work, but we can help make them better understood. We can expose what is hidden, provide evidence where it is needed, connect developments that are too often treated separately, and support those working to challenge abuses of power.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Trustees' Report

Objective 1

Strengthen civil society's access to information

Key developments and impact

1 training workshop on access to information

5 workshops on data protection, immigration and asylum

1 handbook on data protection law and digital rights and the impact on immigration and asylum

83 news articles and 18 in-depth analyses

158 official documents made public

5 publications in collaboration with other groups and individuals

Visits to the Statewatch Library & Archive from students, lawyers and researchers

1.1 Training and education: Workshops and courses

Objective: Provide individuals and organisations with the skills and knowledge needed to investigate complex powers, policies, procedures and practices.

Access to EU information and documents

In February, we gave a talk on access to EU documents/secrecy at a meeting organised by ***European Digital Rights (EDRi)***, the ***European Centre for Non-Profit Law*** and ***Lighthouse Reports***. The event took place in Berlin.

Data protection, immigration and asylum

Between January and February, we held the remainder in a series of workshops on using data protection law to uphold the rights of migrants and refugees. The workshops formed a key part of our project on data protection, immigration and asylum. There was a total of approximately 215 attendees across the three workshops. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with respondents to a survey saying that a whole new perspective had been given and that the sessions were "highly informative" and "made a complex topic genuinely interesting".

1.2 Providing resources for rights

Objective: Work with national and international groups to support their campaigns and advocacy on EU justice and home affairs policies by making use of our unique level of access to official EU documents

Statewatch continues to be a key source of information to organisations, coalitions and networks working on EU justice and home affairs policies. Over the course of the year, we published a total of 83 news articles, 18 analyses and 5 in-depth reports across all our thematic areas. Alongside these articles we published overall 158 internal EU documents that would not otherwise have been made public. We also published over 100 of internal EU documents as part of our bulletin on border externalisation (discussed further in section 2.3).

Articles produced in cooperation with other organisations are detailed below. Others are detailed under the relevant headings in this report.

These articles and documents provided a vital resource for journalists, researchers and campaigners working on EU justice and home affairs policies, including many of those listed in the next two sections of this report. We cooperated with a range of outlets and organisations to make documents and information public:

- In early 2025, Statewatch supported the *Boat Refugee Foundation*, an organisation working on the Greek islands, with a number of access to documents requests about reception conditions on the islands. Some initial documents were provided and we undertook an analysis of these documents in conjunction with BRF. We have subsequently filed an appeal to challenge the delay on providing the rest of the documents.
- Statewatch co-authored two publications with *The New Arab* on deportations:
  - https://statewatch.org/news/2025/january/deportations-new-role-for-frontex-as-eu-pushes-for-more-voluntary-returns/
  - https://statewatch.org/news/2025/february/1-500-and-a-one-way-ticket-how-cyprus-deports-syrian-refugees-with-eu-support/
- We supported the Return regulation civil society coalition (which was working on new EU deportation laws) through the publication of documents and analysis. Articles and documents we published were subsequently cited by the coalition coordinator in an internal email in early October
- In September 2025, we published an article by the Dutch organisation *Privacy First*on new EU anti-money laundering and terrorist financial rules
- Together with *European Digital Rights*, *European Centre for Not-for-profit Law*, *Hungarian Civil Liberties Union* and *Liberties*, Statewatch supported an appeal against an access to documents request refusal by the European Commission, in relation to Hungary's use of facial recognition at Budapest Pride
- In July 2025, we published an article by *Undercover Research Group* to publicise their new website Spycops Research, an archive of documents published during the Undercover Policing Inquiry
- In addition to collaboration with *Migration-Contro.info* on the externalisation bulletin (see below), Statewatch jointly published an article in the publication *Follow the Money*
- Statewatch also published an article by the *Undercover Research Group* on the launch of a new online archive of material published during the Undercover Policing Inquiry
- In September 2025, we supported groups calling for improvements to the UN cybercrime convention
- In December 2025, we took part in a livestream organised by *La Quadrature du Net*, France's main digital rights organisation, to discuss digital technologies used in asylum and immigration enforcement, alongside a member of LQDN and two human rights observers active in Calais
- In November 2025, we co-authored an analysis with *Info Park Belgrade* and *Border Violence Monitoring Network* on the likely effects of the EU migration pact in Serbia/Balkans states

We have also signed and publicised joint statements/letters on a wide range of issues:

- EU deportation law must be rejected
- Participants in Israeli "counter-terrorism" summit must withdraw
- EU's deregulation agenda will undermine protections against surveillance and snooping
- UK: More than 200 organisations sign open letter in response to anti-refugee protests

- UK: Authorities must clarify whether Online Safety Act will lead to Palestine protest censorship
- Frontex chases human rights activists for thousands of euros in court costs
- Italy's "systematic obstruction" of civilian search and rescue missions must end
- Reclaiming migration: a call for justice, dignity, and an anti-racist Europe
- EU wants more transparency in implementation of new global cybercrime convention
- Swedish parliament urged to reject law that would "greatly undermine security and privacy"
- EU: Business deregulation plans will undermine data protection rights
- Turkey: Political prisoners must be freed as part of drive to end prison overcrowding
- European civil society calls for the protection of the freedom flotilla and an end to the Gaza blockade

Who's using our work?

'"Größte Bedrohung": EU-Ratsspitze will anonyme SIM-Karten EU-weit verbieten', *Heise*

'The silence of Italy's Guardia di Finanza on drones deployed in the Mediterranean', *Investigative Reporting Project Italy*

1.3 Learning from history: 'activating' the Statewatch Library & Archive

Objective: 'Activate' our extensive Library & Archive through targeted events and output related to key themes in our work, in order to inform the present by learning from the past.

Throughout the year we received visits from researchers, lawyers and students interested in exploring material in the Library & Archive, including:

- an article based on a report held in the Statewatch archive;

We also started working with two volunteers who have been working on cataloguing the archive.

We had a number of ad-hoc visits to the archive, as well as two previously organised visits from UCL academics investigating protest policing (March) and from a filmmaker making a non-fiction short film on spycops (May).

1.4 Barriers to implementing our objectives

Taking action against state secrecy

Objective: Ensure compliance with the law and improve access to information for all

The aim of this objective was to take complaints to the European Ombudsman in order to improve access to information and documents, following on from our previous work on Europol and Frontex. With no dedicated funding for this work, it has been impossible to take it forward. Furthermore, the European Commission changed its rules on access to documents making it much more restrictive. At a time of increasing EU institutional secrecy, opacity and obfuscation, including outright attacks on transparency rules and delays in providing information, we will continue to seek funds for this important line of work.

Training on access to EU information and documents

Objective: Provide individuals and organisations with the skills and knowledge needed to investigate complex powers, policies, procedures and practices.

In 2024, we were able to develop the best part of a 'curriculum' for a training course on access to EU information and documents. However, a lack of dedicated funding as well as capacity limitations has prevented the full development of a training course, which needs more time to finalise the curriculum, plan and organise the structure of the course, and promote and manage it. We continue to seek funding for this activity.

'Activating' the Statewatch Library & Archive

Objective: 'Activate' our extensive Library & Archive through targeted events and output related to key themes in our work, in order to inform the present by learning from the past.

The Library & Archive remains an under-utilised resource, due to a lack of dedicated funding to organise, promote and 'activate' the collection. We are exploring funding opportunities.

Objective 2

Expose and challenge new means of surveillance, coercion and control

Key developments and impact

1 in-depth report

1 public event

1 evidence submission to the UN

At least 30 references in the press

At least 5 public citations by other civil society organisations

1 event bringing together migrant and refugee rights organisations facing state repression

2 events bringing together researchers, campaigners, activists, elected officials and others working on border externalisation

2 sets of parliamentary questions

Working with and supporting 10+ other organisations

2.1 Challenging international police data-sharing

Objective: Challenge the development of a network of police facial recognition databases linking EU and UK authorities

We were largely unable to undertake any further substantive work on this issue due to a lack of dedicated funding.

Objective: Prevent schemes for the automated police surveillance of travel and profiling of passengers being extended from air to rail and sea transport

Through the introduction of Passenger Name Record (PNR) and Advance Passenger Information (API) schemes, states and international organisations are implementing an integrated, networked global system for the surveillance of travel and the police profiling of passengers. These schemes are currently largely reserved to air travel, but there have been longstanding plans to extend them to rail, boat and coach journeys. There is a clear need to ensure, at the very least, strict controls and limitations on the introduction of such systems.

Throughout 2025 we continued to work towards this objective through a research project with the **Funders Initiative for Civil Society**.

Following a series of delays, the research was finally published in September 2025. Our research extensively analysed the global spread of surveillance, data gathering and 'risk analysis' tools and techniques. The work was very positively received by partner organisations working on counter-terrorism and security policies. We continue to explore ways in which we can develop this work though limited funding has been a factor to date.

In October, we participated in a meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights, Ben Saul, organised by the CSO Coalition on Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism, of which we are members.

Who's using our work?

'Cybersecurity Flaws Plagued EU Border Control System, Audit Shows', *Bloomberg*

2.3 Exposing and opposing the externalisation of borders

Objective: Establish an evidence base on the EU's "operational partnerships" with third countries for the externalisation of border controls

We continued to publish our regular bulletin on developments in the EU's border externalisation projects and policies, as part of a project funded by four German organizations: ***Brot für die Welt, Medico International, Miseror*** and ***Pro Asyl***.

The monthly bulletin is produced in cooperation with *Migration-Control* and has gone from strength to strength, gaining wide spread coverage. In 2025, publication of the bulletin shifted to monthly and the format was adjusted to make it shorter and more accessible.

The bulletin uncovers and explains developments in the EU's border externalisation projects and policies and is based on the systematic monitoring of European and international institutions, agencies and bodies, access to documents requests, and access to leaked documents.

In 2025, we published eight editions of the bulletin, alongside which we published nearly over 100 official documents that would not otherwise have been made public.

We also held two meetings that brought together campaigners, researchers, MEPs and parliamentary assistants, lawyers and others, to discuss the content of each bulletin and related issues. These provided a useful forum to share information, ideas and to jointly plan and strategies.

A dedicated mailing list for the bulletin and events had almost 200 subscribers at the end of 2025, including researchers, campaigners, parliamentarians and their assistants, journalists and academics.

In June 2025, Statewatch made a submission to a call for inputs from the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants on 'Externalization of Migration and the Impact on the Human Rights of Migrants'. We also worked with Izabella Majcher, a consultant for the UN Special Rapporteur, providing suggestions as to what should go in the guiding questions for the consultation on border externalization.

Articles and documents published with the bulletin have been used by the media, parliamentarians and civil society organizations, as listed below.

Who's using our work?

'Commissioner calls on European states to refrain from actions in externalised migration policies that may lead to human rights violations', *EU Commissioner for Human Rights*

'Next EU budget seen as funding migration crackdown', *EU Observer*

'EU vil stramme krav til økonomisk støtte', *POV International*

'EU expands Migration Control Partnership with Ivory Coast', *News Ghana*

Interview with Frey Lindsay on the EU's deportation and border externalisation plans, *Radio Student*

'Battered by EU's border bandits', *The Nation*

'Why Europe Is Quietly Deporting Nigerians', *The Insight News*

'Internal Affairs Commissioner seeks new migration deals in Libya', *EUalive*

'The EU and the externalisation of migration and asylum: An analysis of potential human rights violations and legal responsibility', *Dr Izabella Majcher*

'They Accused Me of Trying to Go to Europe: Migration Control Abuses and EU Externalization in Mauritania', *Human Rights Watch*

Frontex and externalisation

Frontex expansion

Frontex, the EU's border and coastguard agency, has continued to emerge as a protagonist in the expansion of Fortress Europe, with evidence showing an ever-expanding mandate. Key developments in the plans to strengthen Frontex include a greater role working with third countries along key migratory routes and playing an increased role in deportations. In July 2025, we co-published an in-depth report with TNI on the evolving role of Frontex in West Africa.

EU deportation plans

This issue of deportation and the removal of migrants became a central part of the EU's anti-migrant mandate in 2025. The EU announced plans to scrap the 2008 Returns Directive and replace it with a new, much harsher law. The legislative changes were proposed alongside additional legislation which would establish a new EU list of "safe third countries" to which people could be deported, as well as a "safe countries of origin" list, with people originating from those countries would be subject to accelerated asylum proceedings with fewer safeguards. Unfortunately, both these proposals were subsequently adopted by the European Parliament in early 2026.

Statewatch joined many organisations in the sector to raise awareness of the dangers of the proposed legislation and to expose broader EU plans on externalisation and the establishment of so-called 'return hubs' In September 2025, Statewatch joined more than 300 other organisations calling for the proposed Regulation to be rejected by parliamentarians and governments alike.

In August 2025, Statewatch published an article highlighting the use of violence by Greek coastguard forces in pushbacks. Statewatch also authored two co-publications with *The New Arab* on deportations and the actions of EU member states and institutions in relation to deportations (see section 1.2 above).

Who's using our work?

'IOM's digital tool aims to speed up migrant removals, but at what cost?', *The New Humanitarian*

https://www.facebook.com/proasyl/posts/pfbid0yEoC5mqZtxhkzAsB5zaH2fHPfM9cDxe1oBhPSqhh5tYoWtmmbhVSQnPhpHdeE98Fl

Reference in Solomon/El Pais/Netzpolitik investigation into Europol-Frontex debriefing data https://wearesolomon.com/mag/format/investigation/frontex-unlawfully-shared-thousands-of-peoples-personal-data-with-europol/

'Ordinary people caught in EU migrant crackdown in Senegal', *Follow the Money*

2.4 Identifying and challenging the 'collateral damage' caused by attacks on immigration and asylum

Objective: Contribute to efforts to halt the ongoing criminalization of human rights defenders, obstruction of journalists and undermining of the rule of law as a consequence of immigration control measures

Criminalising solidarity: the EU Facilitation Package

Throughout the year we continued to engage with other civil society organisations on the EU's proposed Facilitation Package. This revises a 2002 law on the facilitation of irregular migration, which provides one of the key legal loopholes that lets member states punish acts of solidarity/humanitarianism – for example providing food, clothes, or information to people crossing borders.

The new law would introduce more severe criminal penalties and introduces extra-territorial jurisdiction for punishing facilitation and related crimes, amongst other things. The new Facilitation Directive was published alongside a proposal to increase the powers of Europol.

In February 2025, the Protect Not Surveil coalition, of which Statewatch is a member, published a position paper on the proposed Europol Regulation. Statewatch contributed to the paper. Former Statewatch researcher, Yasha Maccanico, was interviewed on the podcast The Civil Fleet in February to discuss the Facilitation Package and other related topics.

Who's using our work?

'Reporters' diary: IOM uses UN immunity to avoid scrutiny of Greek returns', *The New Humanitarian*

2.5 A watchdog for EU justice and home affairs policies

Objective: Monitor the activities of EU justice and home affairs institutions and agencies in order to identify projects or plans that go beyond legal remits, or threaten to undermine rights, liberties and democratic standards

Following the roadmap: unmasking the EU's security AI plans

This project ended on 30 April 2026 culminating in an in-depth report on the use of AI in European police and border regimes and a shorter news article.

In Mid-June an event was held with partners from *The Collaborative Research Center for Resilience* to discuss the report and its findings.

Data exchange, exclusion and denial at the borders

The project on data exchange, exclusion and denial at the borders culminated at the end of October in the publication of a handbook on how data protection law relates to immigration and asylum and can be used by immigration and asylum practitioners. The handbook received publicity from organisations and outlets across the UK and Europe.

In March, we published an in-depth analysis and a follow-up article on data protection in Italy. The analysis was published in Italian by the *Osservatorio repressione*.

The project aimed to improve lawyers' and refugee and migrant rights organisations' ability to challenge the use of secret evidence against an immigration or/and asylum decision in the states that make up the Schengen area. Part of the project involved the workshops discussed in section 1.1 of this report. In June, we published both a news article and an in-depth analysis on this issue.

Who's using our work?

'EU-Staaten uneins über US-Zugriff auf Polizeidaten', *Netzpolitik*

'Extralimitaciones tecnologicas contra las personas migrantes, *Publico*

Migreurop article on Handbook

Free Movement Immigration Weekly Newsletter #94

Europol

Statewatch continues to expose abuses of power and hidden relationships involving the EU's police agency, Europol. In October 2025, we published an extensive report by Giacomo Zandonini, an investigative journalist, supported by a small grant from European Digital Rights59. The report looked at the increasingly cosy and opaque relationship between Europol and a whole range of private companies. Questions were asked at the Europol Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group meeting in December based on the article.

Who's using our work?

Press:

'How Europol is cozying up to Microsoft, Palantir, Clearview & Co.', *Heise*

'Europol, une techopolice de plus en plus insaisissable', *Paperjam*

'Europol strengthens itself sparking concerns over privacy, mass surveillance', *EU Persepectives*

Podcasts:

- Giacomo Zandonini and shady Europol
- Radio Blackout

US attacks on judicial independence, rule of law

Two articles published with documents on this topic:

- US attacks on the international rule of law: will the EU do anything?
- Slovenia demands EU reponse to US attacks on judicial indepencence and the rule of law

Monitoring police

Concerns around the encroachment on privacy and undermining of data rights continued to grow in 2025 as a result of a myriad of policies and procedures that aimed to increase access to data by law enforcement authorities. Statewatch continued to monitor closely developments in this area, co-signing a letter to the European Commission and publishing a document in June 2025 that revealed the Council of the EU's proposed priorities for law enforcement access to data. The document was published in coordination with EDRi to support their campaigning/advocacy efforts on forthcoming proposals on access to data.

US-EU biometric data deal

In 2025, Statewatch revealed plans for a transatlantic data partnership between the EU and US. The rather covert agreement outlined a deal to grant the US' Department of Homeland Security and other agencies access to European databases in order to facilitate the identification of people posing a "threat to US security". Since plans for the agreement emerged, Statewatch has been closely monitoring developments in what has been coined by US agencies as an "Enhanced Border Security Partnership". In November 2025, we published an article that revealed that whilst some member states highlighted concerns over the proposals, no fundamental objections were raised. A follow-up article was published in December 2025.

This has become an issue that has garnered considerable interest and Statewatch will continue to work closely with advocacy and campaigning partners on the matter.

Who's using our work?

'EU-Staaten uneins uber US-Zugriff auf Polizeidaten', *Netzpolitik*

2.6 'Global Britain' and civil liberties

Objective: Monitor the activities of the new law enforcement and security institutions set up by the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, as well as other cooperation initiatives between the UK and other states, to identify projects or plans that go beyond legal remits, or threaten to undermine rights, liberties and democratic standards.

We continue to monitor the situation in the UK and the UK's cooperation with the EU and other states and entities. Our ability to produce any outputs on this topic is extremely limited due to a lack of dedicated funding.

Nevertheless, we produced a small number of articles and signed joint statements and open letters throughout 2025, on topics including:

- An article on the UK government's plans to legalise automated police decision-making
- A statement we signed along with 29 other organisations on the Data Use and Access Bill. The Bill was eventually passed with the provisions on automated decision-making intact
- A letter to the European Commission calling for a re-assessment of the UK's data protection "adequacy" status, given the changes introduced by the Data Use and Access Bill
- A letter to the UK broadcast regulator and major social media companies seeking clarification over how online freedom of speech will be protected following the government's proscription of the organisation Palestine Action
- An open letter to party leaders today condemning anti-refugee protests that took place in August 2025
- An article on the targeting of peaceful protesters
- A joint briefing on the "do not introduce digital ID cards" parliamentary petition debate
- A joint call for an inquiry over lack of enforcement against "egregious and repeated data breaches"
- A joint statement calling for the UK government to defend the European Convention on Human Rights
- A joint statement condemning the Franco-British "one in, one out" deal
- Publication of an article written by *Undercover Research Group* to help publicise a report on 'Radio Nick', a private spy hired by the police

Who's using our work?

'Facial recognition cameras too racially biased to use at Notting Hill carnival, say campaigners', *The Guardian*

2.7 Other

Digitalising discrimination and criminalization

Statewatch inherited this project from *Fair Trials* in January 2026. The project came to an end in June with the final report published in April 2025. The report was translated into French, Flemmish and Spanish. As part of the project, Statewatch supported organisations in Belgium, France, Germany and Spain to publish national reports on automated discrimination and digital policing. It was disseminated and published by other in Belgium France, Germany and Spain.

In April 2025, we published a report which revealed that the Ministry of Justice was developing a system that aimed to 'predict' who will commit murder. The report garnered a significant amount of attention in global press (see below). Concomitantly, we also published a news article on the use of artificial intelligence techniques to 'predict' the risk of recidivism for offenders and alleged offenders.

Who's using our work?

The 'murder prediction' story was covered extensively by press around the world.

The Belgian report on predictive policing was launched at a public event in Brussels with over 100 people in attendance.

The UK research was also featured prominently in *Open Rights Group's* campaign on predictive policing.

2.8 Barriers to implementing our objectives

Monitoring the EU

Objective: Establish an evidence base on the EU's "operational partnerships" with third countries for the externalisation of border controls

Objective: Monitor the activities of EU justice and home affairs institutions and agencies in order to identify projects or plans that go beyond legal remits, or threaten to undermine rights, liberties and democratic standards

Whilst we were able to undertake considerable work under these objectives, once again the challenges faced in obtaining relevant documents and information created delays and unforeseen obstacles in ensuring our outputs. The pace of developments in this area also created challenges given our limited organisational capacity, to ensure that we remained abreast of all relevant legal and policy developments.

EU & UK data exchange

Objective: Challenge the development of a network of police facial recognition databases linking EU and UK authorities

Lack of dedicated funding and organisational capacity prevented us from undertaking additional work on this issue.

EU & UK data exchange

Objective: Monitor the activities of the new law enforcement and security institutions set up by the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, as well as other cooperation initiatives between the UK and other states, to identify projects or plans that go beyond legal remits, or threaten to undermine rights, liberties and democratic standards.

Once again, a lack of dedicated funding and organisational capacity prevented us expanding our work on this issue.

Objective 3

Build a more sustainable and more effective organisation

Key developments and impact

Expenditure of £237,475 and income of £323,215

Recruitment of new Director

Development of new website

4 new funding partners

34% increase in website visits

33% increase in website visitors

Ongoing cooperation with our networks

3.1 A more sustainable organisation

Objective: Obtain an increased amount of core funding over the next four years, seeking a diverse range of funding sources for different elements of our strategy; continue to seek project funding for activities that align with our strategy

Funding

In 2025 our total expenditure was £237,475 and our total income was £323,215. While our expenditure was therefore greater than our income, we ended the year with a balance of £246,316.

The overall financial picture for the year was relatively healthy, but it remains the case that *Statewatch* generally lacks long-term, stable financial support. This support would need to be both underpinned by, and to enable, a shift away from the short-term project-based model upon which we have now been reliant for many years.

In 2025, we secured two long term funds from the Oak Foundation (over 3 years) and AI Collaborative (over 2 years). Whilst these are project funds, the proposals included objectives supporting core costs including the recruitment of a new Executive Director, development of a new website and ongoing employment of our Head of Communications. This contribution towards the organisation's core costs has allowed us to focus on ensuring and prioritising the longer term sustainability of the organisation. We were also able to secure funding from the Robert Bosch Stiftung foundation towards our work on EU justice and home affairs. Due to restrictions from Bosch around the transfer of funds to specific banks, we have not yet received the funds but are working on resolving the issue.

In 2025, our work was supported by:

- Brot für die Welt, Misereor, medico international and Pro Asyl
- European AI & Society Fund
- European Digital Rights
- Oak Foundation
- AI Collaborative
- Bosch Stiftung
- Friends of Statewatch
- Funders Initiative for Civil Society
- Garden Court Chambers

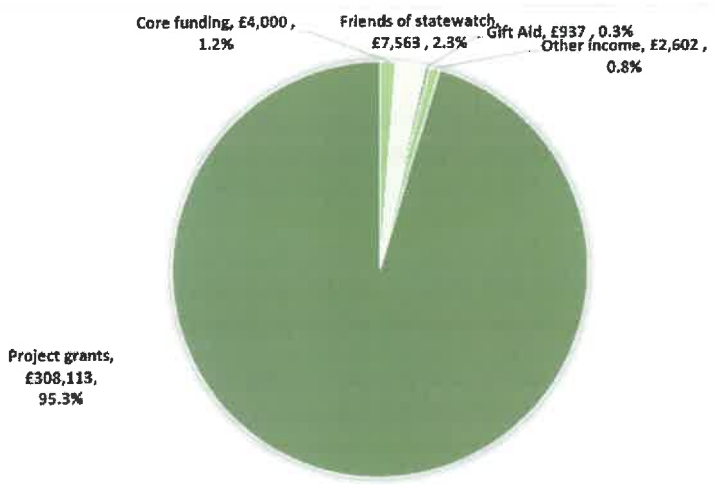
We are grateful for the support of all our funders and supporters and hope to continue working with them into 2026 and beyond. We will continue to seek new funding partners so that we can work towards the objectives set out in our strategic plan that, as highlighted in this report, we were unable to work on in 2025 due to a lack of dedicated resources.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

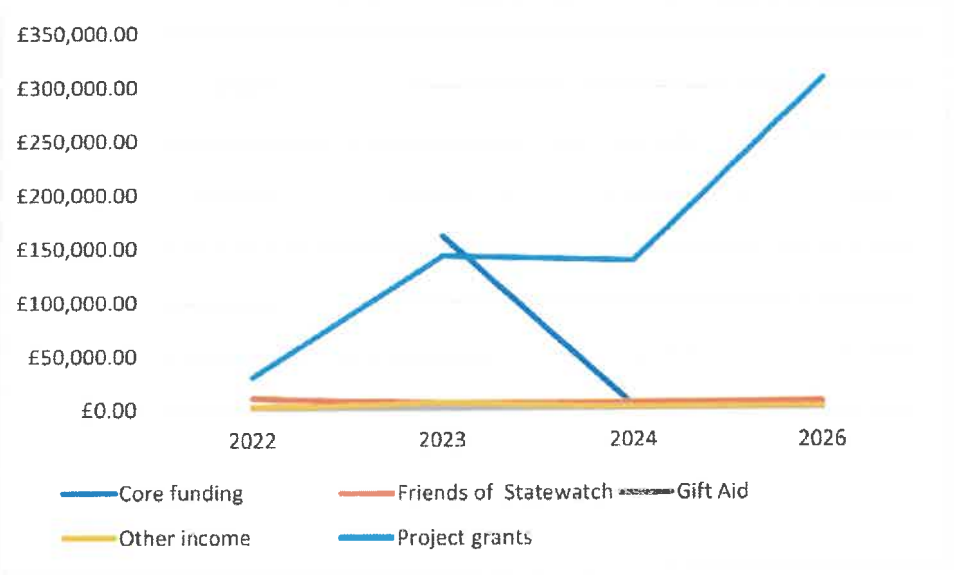
Trustees' Report

Income in 2025

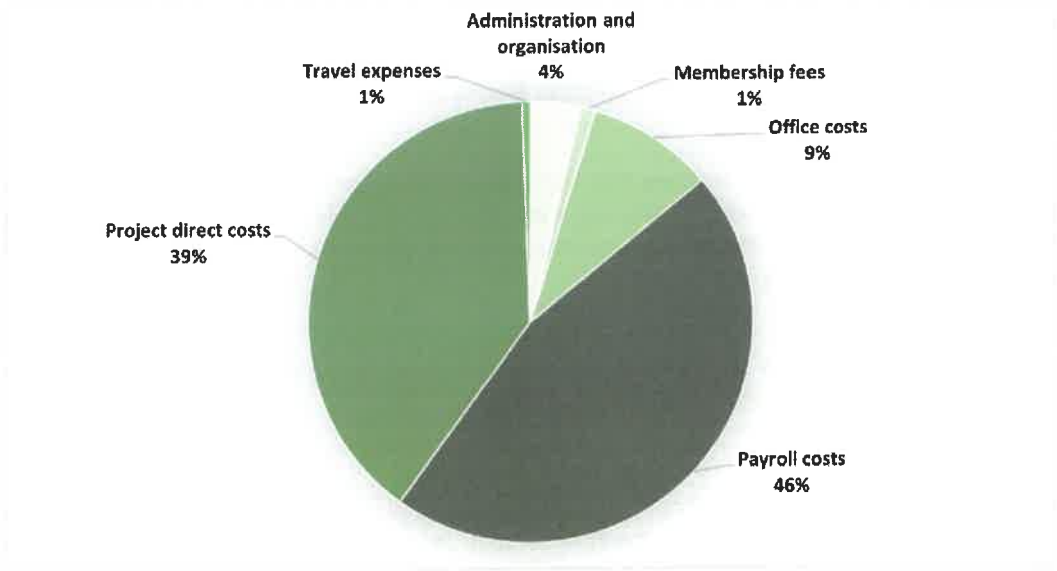


Income 2022-25

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Core funding	£-	£161,596	£4,000	£4,000
Friends of Statewatch	£11,003	£6,765	£6,680	£7,563
Gift Aid	£1,280	£1,200	£1,057	£937
Other income	£2,294	£6,637	£3,032	£2,602
Project grants	£29,756	£142,486	£138,233	£308,113
Total	**£44,333**	**£318,684**	**£153,002**	**£323,215**



Expenditure in 2025



Expenditure 2022-25

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Administration and organisation	£12,729	£7,036	£9,913	£8,589
Membership fees	£1,236	£1,117	£1,893	£2,460
Office costs	£8,969	£8,961	£10,370	£22,121
Payroll costs	£87,791	£91,608	£133,912	£109,136
Project direct costs	£5,210	£5,663	£34,039	£93,720
Travel expenses	£1,803	£2,732	£5,243	£1,449
Total	**£117,738**	**£117,117**	**£195,370**	**£237,475**

Friends of Statewatch

Regular payments from the 60 *Friends of Statewatch* provided £4,402 to the organisation in 2025. This is a decrease compared to 2024, when 64 Friends of Statewatch provided £6,296. In 2025 we also received 8 one-off donations with a total value of £1,894. The overall donations from Friends of Statewatch increased from 2024.

Financial management and administration

N/A

3.2 A more effective organisation

Objective: Ensure that Statewatch has the people, knowledge, skills and contacts needed to achieve its objectives

We seek to meet this objective by ensuring that learning and development is at the centre of our work, that we thoroughly monitor and evaluate the way we work, that we are able to make good use of the voluntary work that people are willing to offer the organisation, and that we play an active and meaningful role in the networks of which we are a part.

Recruitment of new Director

As part of our objective to ensure longer term sustainability and efficiency, a new Director was recruited at the end of 2025 and took up their position in December 2025.

Learning and development

Our strategic plan commits us to adopting a staff learning and development programme and individual learning and development plans for each member of staff. In practice, these goals are met by keeping the question of learning and development as a standing item on our weekly staff meetings and in monthly one-to-one meetings between each member of staff and the director. These took place every month apart from in August due to the summer break.

Monitoring and evaluation

We monitor and evaluate our work regularly, on an overall basis and for individual projects, to measure whether we have achieved intended outcomes and to identify ways to improve future work.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

Maintain and develop the Statewatch contributors group

We stayed in contact with the contributors group throughout the year, primarily via the mailing list but also through individual contact and conversations. We developed a plan to increase engagement with and contributions from the group, but it proved difficult to fully carry this out.

As a first step, a questionnaire was sent to all members of the group to better understand their interests and availability. Unfortunately, it was not possible to make progress beyond this point.

Several articles were written by external contributors over the cous of the yeardddx9n2, either on an ad-hoc basis following a request to the contributors mailing list, or through another form of cooperation, such as the *Outsourcing Borders* bulletin.

A more active and effective role in our networks

Burgerrechte & Polizei (Civil Liberties & Policing, CILIP)

We remain a part of the network though no specific activity.

CSO Coalition on Counter Terrorism and Human Rights

We attended the coalition strategy retreat in Brussels in March and participated in a consultation with the new UNSR on counter-terrorism and human rights (Ben Saul) in October.

We participated in coalition workstreams on the UN, tech and human surveillance.

European Digital Rights

We are regularly in touch with European Digital Rights (EDRi) staff and member organisations. In 2025 we attended the general assembly in Paris. We also participated in a working group to rewrite/reform the internal complaints mechanism, which were approved at the GA. We gave a talk on access to EU documents/secrecy at a meeting organised by EDRi in February 2025 and published a document to support the group's campaigning activities EU's proposed priorities for law enforcement access to data. We co-signed various statements coordinated through the EDRi network and participated in/contributed to discussions and output on borders, policing and surveillance. We co-organised a panel on predictive policing at Privacy Camp in September with the Justice, Equity and Technology Project and Ligue des droits de l'Homme (Belgian group). EDRi are one of the organisers of Privacy Camp.

Migreurop

In 2025 our role as a co-president of Migreurop's *conseil administrative* came to an end although we have continued to play an active part in the network.

#ProtectNotSurveil

We remain up-to-date with the work of the *#ProtectNotSurveil* coalition and participate actively when possible, given time constraints. In 2024, we contributed to the network's position paper on proposals to expand Europol's, ostensibly to deal with migrant smuggling. The paper was published in February 2025.

Resist Europol

We attended the coalition meeting in December 2025.

Safety Not Surveillance

We took part in two meetings of the coalition (one in person, one online) and coordinated bid to JRCT with ORG to support its work.

This Is What Police Tech Looks Like

We presented the Networks of (In)security work at one of the network meetings. We also attended other relevant events related to the network.

Other relevant events

We co-organised a panel on predictive policing at Privacy Camp in September with the Justice, Equity and Technology Project and Ligue des droits de l'Homme (Belgian group). EDRi are one of the organisers of Privacy Camp.

Improving our communication

Rebrand

As part of the communications strategy developed in 2024, we launched a new visual identity for Statewatch in 2025. Before this, Statewatch had little consistency in our visual outputs, aside from our former magnifying glass logo. This limited our communications to either mostly text-based outreach or bespoke visuals for every piece of content.

The rebrand process, started in 2024, drew on input from staff and trustees to develop not only a new logo, but also new visual identity guidelines to ensure all our outputs were more visibly recognisable as 'Statewatch'. The new logo references the redaction we so often face in our work, and our perseverance in the face of it. The guidelines introduced a set of colours connected to the themes of our work, graphic features such as annotation marks and hard shadows on images, and risograph imagery, all working together as a nod to our archives and the long history of printmaking in activism.

Alongside the visual rebrand, we also put more robust editorial guidelines into place. These allowed us to unify Statewatch's voice into one that is accessible to wider audiences. Together, these efforts will help widen our audience, build recognition in new spaces, and, ultimately, instil trust in the reliability of our work.

Website development

We rolled out the rebrand in our publications and social media outreach at the start of 2025, but we didn't begin redesigning the website until near the end of the year. The new site is set to launch in 2026.

We did, however, design and launch a new form of report microsite in our new brand. This was for our Networks of Insecurity project, funded by the Funders Initiative for Civil Society. The site launched in the autumn of 2025 and made it a much more interactive publication. From it, we have collected contact information for a range of groups and individuals interested in learning more and building on the work.

Change in platforms

Due to the changes in ownership and culture on Twitter/X, we joined many organisations in leaving the platform last year. We've retained the account as an archive of our work, but ceased posting there at the start of 2025. The decision was taken collectively, as it meant leaving our largest audience, of over 12,000 at the time. Everyone unanimously felt that supporting the message and showing solidarity with the many organisations leaving together was more important than maintaining an audience.

As an alternative, we increased our efforts on our other platforms and joined Instagram and TikTok. While each has its own downsides, we felt these steps were necessary to keep communicating about our work. We plan to leverage these platforms in 2025 with increased video output, as well.

Effectiveness of communication changes

Overall, the changes have had a net positive effect on our outreach. Compared to 2024, total visits to our website grew by 34% in 2025, to 305,316. The total number of individual visitors also grew substantially: by 33%, from 176,041 in 2024 to 262,311.

While our total social media followers took a major hit when we stopped tracking Twitter/X, we have made steady gains on other platforms and increased the average engagement with our posts.

Finally, we migrated to a new CRM in 2025 to support our email outreach. We now use Brevo, a France-based service that prioritises data protection. Migrating to this platform helped us identify a significant number of inactive addresses subscribed to our mailing list. It meant the total number of subscribers dropped, but we now have a clearer picture of our engaged audience and more data on the effectiveness of our emails.

Policy on reserves

At the end of financial year 2025 the organisation had £246,316 available, but as most of this amount was the restricted funds deferred to 2026, no specific amount of this was dedicated to reserves that would make it possible to meet any unexpected shortfall in income, or meet any necessary expenditure to protect or expand the Trust's work. Trustees will endeavour to increase reserves if income permits. Although we have taken steps towards the adoption of a formal reserves policy, no such policy has yet been finalised or adopted by the board.

Risk analysis

Staff development and retention

Statewatch employees are employed part time and are highly skilled in our specialist field of work. Our priority is to improve the working conditions of current staff whilst acquiring enough funding to recruit additional staff members, in order to better fulfil our mission.

In recent years we have been able to significantly increase staff wages. In 2021 and 2022 we implemented an across-the-board pay increase of 10%. In 2023 there was a 15% and in 2024 a further 10% pay rise for all the staff. Due to some financial uncertainty, the pay rise in 2025 was only 5%. These have made a significant contribution to bringing our salary levels closer to a decent level for our sector.

Review and monitor action to reduce our projected pension deficit

We have an action plan in place with the Pensions' Trust, our pension provider, to reduce our deficit by paying additional annual contributions. The estimate from the Pensions Trust of employer liability on withdrawal is £4,621 (as at September 2024), an increase from £4,209 in September 2023.

Operating environment

One risk for the organisation has continued to be the increasingly hostile operating environment, driven by the growing number of right-far-right governments and movements.

Annex: Projects in 2025

Data exchange, exclusion and denial at the borders

Funder: Privacy International Duration: September 2023 - May 2025

This project aimed to improve lawyers' and refugee and migrant rights organisations' ability to challenge the use of secret evidence against an immigration or/and asylum decision in the states that make up the Schengen area. This was done by:

- investigating the scale and scope of the use of secret evidence, the extent to which target groups make use of data protection law in all stages and types (administrative, pre-judicial, judicial) of proceedings against the use of secret evidence and the extent to which authorities, supervisory bodies and courts are enforcing data protection standards;
- informing the target groups about the possibilities of using data protection law as a means to seek access to an effective remedy for individuals threatened by a migration or asylum decision informed by secret evidence;
- pushing for more rigorous oversight and enforcement of data protection law by EU bodies in relation to existing and forthcoming databases and information exchange mechanisms through advocacy and campaigning with other civil society organisations, and by supporting the work of other organisations addressing related issues.

The project aimed to explore a new avenue to support due process rights in immigration and asylum proceedings, in particular the equality of arms between the applicant and the authority in the context of the use of secret evidence, in accordance with articles 8 and 47 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights (the rights to a fair trial and an effective remedy in this proposal should be understood as reference to general questions of due process, and not freestanding rights in and of themselves).

Outsourcing borders

Funders: Brot für die Welt, Misereor, medico international and Pro Asyl

Duration: February 2025 - April 2026 (Renewed for one year in April 2026)

This project aims to make the EU's border externalisation policies, plans and practices public. In doing so it seeks to highlight their impact on the rights of people on the move, as well as democratic standards, transparency and accountability. It addresses a lack of public information by publishing relevant EU documents, in this phase primarily those produced or discussed by the Council of the EU. It also tackles the overflow of information that results from a variety of EU institutions, working groups and national governments involved in the externalisation agenda by summarising thematic and regional developments, and by analysing key issues in depth.

The "security playbook" and migrants' rights activism

Funder: Fund for Global Human Rights

Duration: October 2023-May 2024 (research), July 2024-January 2025 (convening)

A research project investigating how states are using security discourses and measures to repress migrant and refugee rights activism. In 2024, we also supported the organisation of a convening in Albania, for groups affected by state repression to discuss our research and to consider strategies in response.

Border externalisation and technologies of control

Funder: Bosch Stiftung

Duration: TBC

With this project, we aim to contribute to the ongoing development of an active and effective movement against the EU's border externalisation agenda, by highlighting the role and effects of digital technologies within it. We will produce outputs designed not just to keep people informed, but to support campaigns, advocacy, movements and legal challenges, inside and outside Europe. A solid evidence base will help bring different campaigns closer together by providing a common understanding of key issues and developments. The ultimate intended beneficiaries of this work are those directly affected by border externalisation policies: refugees and migrants in non-EU states, and those who act in solidarity with them, who face violence, abuse and repression. Their voices, views and experiences will be at the heart of our journalistic and advocacy outputs.

AI in EU justice and home affairs

Funder: AI Collaborative

Duration: 1 September 2025 – 21 August 2027

This project will see *Statewatch* strengthen, expand and develop its activities to support and enable a public interest AI ecosystem. This will be done by providing civil society with infrastructure that improves access to information, and capacity building both for policy impact and to shape narratives around AI. These activities will highlight and expose the flaws and discrepancies in policies at the intersection of AI and justice and home affairs (policing, criminal law, immigration and asylum). This will contribute to visions of an AI infrastructure that supports rights, liberties and justice, instead of surveillance and oppression.

This work is designed to support and improve civil society's campaigns, advocacy and investigations regarding the EU's AI policies, projects and expenditure. The ultimate goal is to ensure that human rights, civil liberties and democratic standards are effectively defended and extended in the ongoing 'digital transition', at an extremely challenging time for fundamental rights, and independent organisations that seek to protect them.

A one-off grant from *The AI Collaborative* for *Statewatch* also helped to support *Statewatch* through an important transitional period. At the end of 2025 we recruited a new Director, and in 2026 we will develop a new strategic plan. This will allow us to further increase our reach and impact, building upon 35 years of providing vital research, reporting, news and analysis for civil society across Europe than beyond.

A watchdog for EU justice and home affairs

Funder: Oak Foundation

Duration: 1 July 2025 – 30 April 2028

Through this project, Statewatch will improve its provision of news, information and analysis on EU spending, policies, and practices in the field of justice and home affairs (policing, criminal law, immigration and asylum), and the effects at EU and national level. This will improve civil society's campaigns, advocacy and investigations. Support from Oak Foundation will also support us through an important transition, including for the recruitment of our new director at the end of 2025.

Risky business – EU-Morocco cooperation on surveillance and migration control

Funder: Privacy International

Funder: Privacy International

Duration: 1 November 2025 – 31 December 2026

The project will investigate border externalisation projects supported by the EU in Morocco. In collaboration with the Association Marocaine des Droits Humains (AMDH), it will document the human rights impact of surveillance technologies deployed against human rights defenders and people on the move. The project will also uncover, through access to documents requests filed with EU institutions and agencies, recent and ongoing projects funded by the EU in Morocco.

We will examine and assess projects' human rights due diligence obligations, whilst also examining the limits of the 'human rights impact assessment' framing with regard to questions of justice and equity, including access to redress mechanisms and capacity for civil society and individuals impacted by surveillance measures to report human rights violations. Project outputs should contribute to civil society campaigning, advocacy and the work on scrutiny and oversight of the EU's externalisation agenda in Morocco.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Marie-Laure Basilien-Gainche
	Laure Baudrihaye-Gérard
	Jonathan Bloch
	Victoria Canning
	Nadine Finch
	Lilana Keith (resigned 30 April 2025)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". The report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 28 to 45 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 11 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



.....

Jonathan Bloch
Trustee

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees (who are also Directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the accounts of the The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes on pages 28 to 45.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

Since The Libertarian Research and Education Trust's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of , which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the Company')

4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 accounts to be reached.

.....

Tim Sullivan FCA
Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
SE3 0RB

Date: 15/9/22

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2025
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	12,575	293,374	305,949	11,737	128,211	139,948
Charitable activities	4	2,315	14,739	17,054	12,905	-	12,905
Investment income	5	212	-	212	149	-	149
Total income		15,102	308,113	323,215	24,791	128,211	153,002
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	(1,200)	-	(1,200)	-	-	-
Charitable activities	7	(76,975)	(159,300)	(236,275)	(19,966)	(175,404)	(195,370)
Total expenditure		(78,175)	(159,300)	(237,475)	(19,966)	(175,404)	(195,370)
Net (expenditure)/income		(63,073)	148,813	85,740	4,825	(47,193)	(42,368)
Transfers between funds		(31,422)	31,422	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(94,495)	180,235	85,740	4,825	(47,193)	(42,368)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		160,576	-	160,576	155,751	47,193	202,944
Total funds carried forward	18	66,081	180,235	246,316	160,576	-	160,576

The notes on pages 32 to 45 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2025
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 18.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

(Registration number: 08480724)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	592	1,088
Current assets			
Debtors	13	2,927	38,728
Cash at bank and in hand	14	277,872	132,178
		280,799	170,906
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(31,940)	(6,797)
Net current assets		248,859	164,109
Total assets less current liabilities		249,451	165,197
Provisions	17	(3,135)	(4,621)
Net assets		246,316	160,576
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		180,235	-
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		66,081	160,576
Total funds	18	246,316	160,576

For the financial year ending 31 December 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

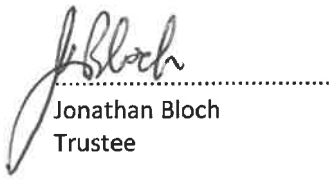
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

(Registration number: 08480724)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

The financial statements on pages 28 to 45 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 11 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



.....

Jonathan Bloch
Trustee

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:
88 Fleet Street
London
EC4Y 1DH

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 11 September 2026.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

In common with many similar organisations who receive the majority of their income from public funding, the viability of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust is dependent on finding continuing sources of funding. As set out in the trustee's report, the company's financial situation remains challenging, but the trustees are working to address these issues. Accordingly, the trustees believe it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the directos are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the periods in which the estimate is revised where revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revisions affects both current and future periods.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company 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 to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the charity will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date.

The results of overseas operations are translated at the average rates of exchange during the period and their balance sheets at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising on translation of the opening net assets and results of overseas operations are reported in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity (attributed to non-controlling interests as appropriate).

Other exchange differences are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they arise except for:

1) exchange differences on transactions entered into to hedge certain foreign currency risks (see above);

2) exchange differences arising on gains or losses on non-monetary items which are recognised in other comprehensive income; and

3) in the case of the consolidated financial statements, exchange differences on monetary items receivable from or payable to a foreign operation for which settlement is neither planned nor likely to occur (therefore forming part of the net investment in the foreign operation), which are recognised in other comprehensive income and reported under equity.

Fund structure

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

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted General £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and legacies;				
Committed giving	7,563	-	7,563	6,680
Donations from individuals	75	-	75	-
Gift aid reclaimed	937	-	937	1,057
Grants, including capital grants;				
European Digital Rights	-	8,354	8,354	5,929
Oak Foundation	-	75,925	75,925	-
Garden Court	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Privacy International	-	-	-	34,505
Fund for Global Human rights	-	-	-	40,148
Network of European Foundations	-	39,027	39,027	47,629
CAF America	-	170,068	170,068	-
	12,575	293,374	305,949	139,948

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted General £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fees and supplies	481	-	481	484
Other income	1,834	-	1,834	2,399
Partnership income	-	14,739	14,739	10,022
	2,315	14,739	17,054	12,905

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	212	212	149

6 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

	Total 2025 £
Audit-related assurance services	1,200
	1,200

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	9	109,136	85,829
Computer software and maintenance		4,506	7,545
Printing, postage and stationery		454	134
Trade subscriptions		1,887	1,214
Sundries		1,379	312
Project costs		29,770	34,039
Travel and subsistence		4,057	5,243
Support costs	8	85,086	61,054
		236,275	195,370

8 Analysis of support costs

Support costs

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Rent	7,500	7,500
Insurance	994	972
Advertising and marketing	25,000	-
Independent examination	2,580	2,484
Consultancy	48,148	48,083
Legal and professional	1,588	13
Bank charges	50	276
Foreign currency (gains)/losses	(1,270)	1,230
Depreciation of office equipment	496	496
	85,086	61,054

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	90,793	80,206
Social security costs	2,357	1,407
Pension costs	4,838	4,151
Compensation payments	10,173	-
Other staff costs	975	65
	109,136	85,829

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Charitable activities	4	4
	4	4

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £4,838 (2024 - £4,151).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2025	1,984	1,984
At 31 December 2025	1,984	1,984
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2025	896	896
Charge for the year	496	496
At 31 December 2025	1,392	1,392
Net book value		
At 31 December 2025	592	592
At 31 December 2024	1,088	1,088

13 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments	1,990	981
Accrued income	-	36,691
Other debtors	937	1,056
	2,927	38,728

14 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank	277,872	132,178

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	213	-
Other taxation and social security	-	3,063
Accruals	14,841	3,734
Deferred income	16,886	-
	31,940	6,797

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income at 1 January 2025	-	17,839
Resources deferred in the period	16,886	-
Amounts released from previous periods	-	(17,839)
Deferred income at year end	16,886	-

16 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

Operating lease commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025 £
Land and buildings	
Within one year	7,500
Between one and five years	15,000
	22,500

17 Provisions

	Pension contributions provision £	Total £
At 1 January 2025	(4,621)	(4,621)

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Unrestricted					
General					
General Funds	160,576	15,102	(78,175)	(31,422)	66,081
Restricted					
PI Project	-	-	(3,061)	-	(3,061)
Monitoring the EU Border Externalisation	-	14,739	(8,426)	-	6,313
European Digital Rights	-	8,354	(8,949)	595	-
Network of European Foundations	-	39,027	(69,854)	30,827	-
Oak Foundation	-	75,925	(34,432)	-	41,493
CAF America	-	170,068	(34,578)	-	135,490
	-	308,113	(159,300)	31,422	180,235
Total funds	160,576	323,215	(237,475)	-	246,316

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted				
General				
General Funds	155,751	24,791	(19,966)	160,576
Restricted				
PI Project	5,462	34,505	(39,967)	-
The Fund for Global Human Rights	-	40,148	(40,148)	-
Funders' Initiative for Civil Society	41,731	-	(41,731)	-
European Digital Rights	-	5,929	(5,929)	-
Network of European Foundations	-	47,629	(47,629)	-
	47,193	128,211	(175,404)	-
Total funds	202,944	153,002	(195,370)	160,576

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Privacy International - funds to cover "Risky business: EU-Morocco cooperation on surveillance and migration control" project - increase the scrutiny on human rights monitoring of EU's externalisation of surveillance technologies in Morocco.

Monitoring the EU Border Externalisation - partnership with four german organisation to undertake the 'Monitoring the EU Border Externalisation' project.

European Digital Rights - funding to cover 32 working days for Director's fundraising.

Network of European Foundations - funds to cover 'Following the roadmap: unmasking the EU security's AI plans' and 'Digitalising discrimination and crimimnalisation: AI, policing and criminal justice' projects.

Oak Foundation - funding for "Increasing Access to Information on EU Justice and Home Affairs" project.

CAF America - funding project in collaboration with AI Collective.

PI Project in deficit - delay in getting fist payment from funder. Also funder will realease paymen only after receiving requested reports of expenditure. Project has started and salaries paid for, with payment from funder received in January 2026.

Transfers from general fund to cover the small overspending from European Digital Rights fund and the spending on "digitalising discrimination" project.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	592	-	592
Current assets	100,564	180,235	280,799
Current liabilities	(31,940)	-	(31,940)
Provisions	(3,135)	-	(3,135)
Total net assets	66,081	180,235	246,316

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 December 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,088	1,088
Current assets	170,906	170,906
Current liabilities	(6,797)	(6,797)
Provisions	(4,621)	(4,621)
Total net assets	160,576	160,576

20 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year