CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name
Chichester Area Talking News

On accounts for the year ended

30th June 2026

Charity no (if any)

1184267

Set out on pages

1-2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/06/2026 DD/MM/YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and 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.

Independent examiner's statement

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]~~. ~~*Delete [ ] if not applicable.*~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination ~~(other than that disclosed below *)~~ which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: J Hoult **Date:** 23/07/2026

Name: Jennifer Hoult

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body FMAAT

(if any):	
Address:	Evans Weir, 25 St Pancras, The Victoria, Chichester, PO19 7LT

Section B	**Disclosure**
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	

Annual Report of the Trustees of Chichester area Talking News for the period from 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026

The Trustees of Chichester area Talking News (CIO) present their annual report and audited accounts for the year ended 30th June 2026 and confirm that they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity's Constitution.

Charity Name: Chichester Area Talking News (CIO)

Charity Address: Chichester Area Talking News, St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 6SE

Charity Number: 1184267

Purpose and overview of the Trustees' Annual Report: The primary purpose of the Trustees' Annual Report is to ensure that the charity is publicly accountable to its stakeholders for the stewardship and management of the funds it holds.

This report contains information about the:

governing document of the charity
objects of the charity

organisation, structure, membership and operation of the charity

core activities of the charity

main activities and achievements of the charity for 2025/2026

public benefit

review of the charity's financial position at 30th June 2026

principal sources of funds

appointment of trustees and volunteers

Trust details

Governing document: The charity's governing document is its Constitution, dated 22 June 2019 and approved at the AGM held on 24th October 2019. The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Objects: The Objects of the CIO, as set out in its Constitution, are to relieve visually impaired and other disabled persons by the provision of a recorded news and magazine service.

Organisation, structure, membership and operation of the service: Chichester area Talking News (CaTN) is part of a nation-wide network known as the Talking News Federation (TNF). Whilst taking advice from the Federation, when necessary, CaTN operates as an independent organisation both managerially and financially. Our members comprise our listeners and volunteers, including trustees.

CaTN is led and managed by the Board of Trustees (the Committee) which meets four times a year. During the year covered by this report, CaTN had 304 members which include volunteers, friends and listeners. There are 74 active volunteers and 15 Friends. Friends are often former volunteers or their families, or the families of former listeners, who wish to remain in touch with CaTN. On average there was a total of 230 visually impaired listeners although this number can vary throughout the year. Thirty two listeners receive our programmes on the Alexa smart speaker and at least 12 do so on line via our website. There is more work to do with the Talking News Federation nationally on the number of listeners accessing the programmes by smart speaker or the website to ensure that all those who listen in these ways are known to us and can be invited to social events such as the AGM and lunches.

We have no paid staff and our volunteers and trustees do not receive any remuneration. They do not normally claim travel expenses but are reimbursed if they are asked to represent the charity at the Talking News Federation Annual Conference; and for purchases of equipment for the charity which are bought with the agreement of the Board of Trustees. The Board delegates the approval of payment for small value items to the Treasurer in combination with one of three Trustees registered at the charity's bank – The Charities Aid Foundation Bank (CAF Bank).

There are no conflicts of interest and there is no relationship with any related parties. All policies required by the Charity Commission have been approved by the Trustees and can be found on the CaTN website: https://www.catn.org.uk . Trustees and volunteers who visit listeners in their homes are DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked and Standard DBS checks have been obtained for all eligible roles. These checks are reviewed in accordance with advice from the Disclosure and Barring Service. There have been no incidents, including serious, reportable incidents, of any kind during this period.

CaTN carries out an annual review and analysis of its work, including the assessment of risks to CaTN's functioning. Where necessary, mitigation action is taken to reduce or eliminate risk.

The CaTN production team regularly reviews the quality of news and magazine programmes, taking note of the views of listeners. This enables the charity to understand better the impact and value of our programmes to our core clients. This information is evaluated and used to improve our programme offer.

Core Activities of the Charity

Every fortnight, local news, taken mainly from the three editions of the *'Chichester Observer'* local newspaper and some publicly available parish and community magazines, is recorded and sent out to our blind and visually impaired listeners on memory sticks. The programmes are also available to listeners, and others, online on our website; via Alexa; and on smartphones through the Alexa smartphone app. Listeners are also provided with memory stick playback devices suitable for use by severely visually impaired and blind people at no charge, so that they can listen to programmes at their leisure. Area helpers, all DBS checked, are available to support listeners who may have operating, or technical problems with their devices from time to time. A selection of our programmes and the *Insight* magazine are broadcast daily on the local Hospital Radio.

CaTN also broadcasts, and distributes, a quarterly audio magazine, *'Insight'*, which features a wide variety of articles of interest to our listeners. Both the news and magazine programmes always seek to include items which provide examples, and

role models, of visually impaired, elderly, or disabled people who have undertaken activities which have greatly enriched their lives.

In addition, CaTN issues a Newsletter called *'Team Talk'* to all volunteers four times during the year. This contains important information about the charity, including organisational developments, and features about the lives, work, and achievements of CaTN's volunteers and listeners.

The charity also organizes a small number of social events during the year to help reduce the feelings of social isolation that some listeners experience. Last year marked the 50th Anniversary of the first recordings produced by CaTN in December 1975. Celebrations included a Golden Jubilee lunch attended and enjoyed by 93 people and two guide dogs which took place just before Christmas 2025. The programme included seasonal music, poetry and readings provided by professional performers and a Celebration Cake which was cut by Chichester's Lady Mayoress with a ceremonial sword. Transport for listeners who needed it was provided by volunteers. Such events as these go a long way to help meet the needs of visually impaired listeners many of whom are elderly, have mobility problems and may also experience social isolation.

The Main Activities and Achievements of the Charity for 2025/2026:

The Annual General Meeting held on 23rd October 2025 and was attended by 65 people with apologies received from a further 26.

The keynote speaker at the AGM was Phil Hewitt, a senior journalist with the group of newspapers local to Chichester, who had overcome a life threatening attack whilst abroad. Phil described the way in which he had overcome the trauma of the attack to lead a productive and happy life, linking his experience to all those who had experienced potentially life limiting trauma, including those who had lost their sight.

A light lunch was followed by musical entertainment provided by a young soprano, Katie Brown who is making her way in the world of musical theatre. She sang a selection of popular songs and those from musical shows, including the audience in a final singalong! It was a very enjoyable occasion and another good opportunity

for our listeners to meet one another and our volunteers, to chat, and to enable them to feel a valued part of their community.

Once again, volunteers provided transport to and from these events for those listeners who might not otherwise be able to attend. Many listeners who attend the AGM, and similar events, comment on what enjoyable and uplifting social occasions they are for them.

The Trustees have an agreed timetable to review and, where necessary, amend our suite of policies, which are drawn up in accordance with advice from the Charity Commission, Talking News Federation, and other government websites.

The Vice Chairman, Bob Money, who is the Trustee responsible for the website, publicity and links with the media, has developed our website further, updated our information leaflets, given talks to local organisations, and arranged “pop-up” stalls in local libraries and community centres. These activities are vitally important for making CaTN better known in the communities it serves. This increased local awareness of CaTN’s contribution to its communities is evidenced in a number of ways, including featured articles in the local newspaper and local parish magazines. These activities aid significantly the recruitment of new listeners and volunteers.

Building on our proactive attitude to continuous improvement we have developed our service further in a number of ways. An analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats enables Trustees to look ahead and plan to ensure that CaTN continues to flourish in the future. This process identified a number of desirable areas of development which have all been acted on. For example, we secured greater confidence in business continuity by improving succession planning. We have reviewed policies and administrative procedures to ensure compliance with all that charities are required to do.

Many listeners, and volunteers, have led inspiring lives and developed creative ways to manage the practical problems they face. Enabling them to have “air time” to relate their achievements in our news and magazine programmes gives enormous encouragement to other listeners to live life to the full. Consultation with listeners and volunteers through our broadcasts, *Team Talk*, our quarterly

newsletter for volunteers, and informal Listener Surveys organized by David Bathurst, CaTN's Head of Production, through Area Helpers have led to a number of constructive suggestions for improving our programmes and magazine further including more examples of elderly and disabled people undertaking enjoyable and challenging activities, and a simple yet clearer identification of the content of each news track. In addition, through a younger-sounding voice, we seek to give our listeners a window on the wider world whilst maintaining that all-important local connection. One example of this was an interview with a young American student studying in Chichester who compared life in his home town of Seattle, USA, with life in Chichester. Therefore, CaTN can say that it has evidence of substantial support for our programmes and that volunteers and listeners enjoy contributing to that sense of doing important work.

The Trustees express their sincere thanks to everyone in CaTN - volunteers, listeners and friends - for all the help and support we receive throughout the year.

Public Benefit

CaTN's entire operation has the sole purpose of benefiting blind, visually impaired and other disabled people and enabling them to lead safer, more independent and more enriched lives. The Trustees confirm that, when reviewing the charity's activities and in devising future plans, they have had regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and have complied with their duties under Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

Listeners continue to tell us how much they value our service and welcome the receipt of broadcasts to hear familiar voices delivering their local news. This provides them with material they can discuss with relatives, friends and carers in the society around them, and which is not always available elsewhere. They say it helps to keep them in touch with local news and events, provides comfort and reassurance to them, reduces feelings of loneliness and isolation, and enables them to feel more a part of their local community. We regularly receive cards and letters of thanks from listeners and their families which are much appreciated and also serve to confirm that we are contributing to public benefit as a charity. These

letters and cards sometimes include donations to the charity and every donation is acknowledged by a letter of thanks from the Chairman.

Our news programmes also include information on how to access services from national and local organisations which could enrich listeners' lives, for example, West Sussex County Council's Rehabilitation Officers for the Visually Impaired (ROVIs), The Macular Society, RNIB, 4Sight, and free downloads of *Talking Books* from the County Library.

Listeners say how much they appreciate the social events specifically organised for them by volunteers such as the Listeners' Lunch, and the lunch and entertainment following the Annual General Meetings. These opportunities to meet and mix with each other, and volunteers, together with occasional "days out" on visits help to dispel feelings of loneliness or social isolation. Listeners who attend these events comment on the friendliness and support they encounter.

In the recent past, CaTN received a Community Award from Chichester City Council recognising the social benefit it provides locally.

Future plans for the charity are to continue to develop our service, raising its profile through enhanced publicity, our website, information leaflets, and "popup" stalls, and encouraging more disabled people to benefit from the free service our volunteers provide.

Review of the charity's financial position at 30th June 2026

Detailed financial statements are reported to the Trustees at each of their meetings. Full financial statements of annual accounts are provided to the Independent Examiner for the preparation of her report. The Trustees have reviewed the financial position and consider it to be satisfactory. The reserves held are sufficient to manage any change in CaTN's financial situation which might include very substantial expenditure on finding, funding, and equipping a new recording studio and office if there was a need to move from St Richard's Hospital at some stage in the future. None of the charity's work or finance takes place outside the United Kingdom. The charity has no trading subsidiaries. Trustees have

not identified any significant risks facing the charity; and they consider there are no uncertainties about it continuing as a ‘going concern’.

Principal sources of funds

The charity is funded by legacies and donations from individual members, from grant-making trusts, and also from fund raising. These income sources vary in size from as much as £1,000 to as little as £5. All donations are acknowledged by a letter of thanks from the Chairman, pointing out how valuable they are in continuing to support our work. No income is received from outside the United Kingdom nor does the charity deliver any charitable activities outside of the UK.

Appointment of trustees and volunteers

Trustees, who form the Committee, are appointed by the Board of Trustees having regard to the range of skills and experience that will meet the needs of the charity, and the personal attributes of the individuals. The Board includes two visually impaired trustees who are also listeners, and one carer of a visually impaired listener. Appropriate training and induction arrangements are in place and all trustees, and those volunteers who visit the homes of visually impaired listeners, are subject to DBS checks.

At the AGM of 23rd October 2025, Ken Pritchard continued as Chairman of CaTN, Bob Money continued as Vice Chairman, and John Goodman continued as Treasurer.

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, David Bathurst, Kenneth Pritchard, Michael Bevis, and John Goodman were eligible to retire by rotation and were re-elected for a further term at the Trustees’ meeting of September 14th, 2026. This decision was endorsed by the AGM on Thursday, October 29th, 2026.

As part of the charity’s planned sustainability of management and leadership, Bob Money will become Chairman at the AGM to be held on October 29th 2026 and Ken Pritchard will step down from that role. At the same AGM David Bathurst will take over the role of Vice Chairman from Bob Money. John Goodman will remain as Treasurer. Also at the 2026 AGM, Tiffin Jones will take over the role of Secretary

from Libbie Bush who will be retiring as secretary and as a Trustee. Tiffin Jones will become a Trustee.

Trust Details:

Principal Office:

Chichester Area Talking News, The Studio, St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 6SE

Tel: 01243 775050 Email: studio@catn.org.uk Website: www.catn.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1184267

Trustees:

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Mr K J Pritchard	Chairman	
2	Mr R I Money	Vice Chairman	
3	Mr J V P Goodman	Treasurer	
4	Mrs E Bush	Secretary	
5	Mrs H Pinn		
6	Mrs A Brearley-Smith		
7	Mr D Bathurst		
8	Mr C Jenner		
9	Mr M Bevis		
10	Mr C Mustchin		
11	Mrs C Mustchin		
12	Mr Philip Adams		

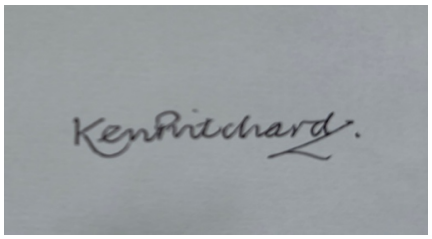
Bankers:
Charities Aid Foundation,
Registered office - 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.

Independent Examiner of Accounts:

Evans Weir, The Victoria, 25 St Pancras, Chichester West Sussex PO19 7LT

The Trustees' Report was approved by the Board of Trustees

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Ken Pritchard OBE
(Chairman) Date…29th October 2026……..

Registered Office: The Studio, St Richard's Hospital, Chichester PO19 6SE