Registered Charity Number 1186680

Dorset Hedgehog Rescue

Caring for Our Native Wild Hedgehogs



Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements for the Financial Year 2025

Tel: 01929 290112

Email: info@dorsethedgehogrescue.org

Website: dorsethedgehogrescue.org

Dorset Hedgehog Rescue

Ashley Barn,

Briantspuddle,

Dorchester,

Dorset, DT2 7HL

Dorset Hedgehog Rescue

CONTENTS

Reference & Administration Details 3
Charity Details 3
Structure, Governance & Management 3
Type of Governing Document: 3
Governance 4
Risk Management 4
Organisation 4
Trustees 4
Objects 4
Statutory Declaration 5
New Rescue Centre Opened 6
Funding the Future 8
Official Opening Day 8
Hedgehog Care and Rehabilitation 9
Other Activities 10
Future Plans 11
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 13
Principal Sources of Funding and Outgoings 13
Statement of the Charity's Policy on Reserves 13
Details of Any Funds Materially in Deficit 13
State of the Charity's Finances 13
Particulars of Any Outstanding Guarantee Given by the Charity 13
Particulars of Any Outstanding Debt 13
Statutory Statements on Liabilities 13
Remuneration of Trustees 14
Declaration 14
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY 15
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 18
Disposition of Funds 18
Notes to the Accounts 18
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT 20
Auditor's Report 20

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity Details

Dorset Hedgehog Rescue

Previously Hamworthy Hedgehog Rescue, the charity adopted the name Dorset Hedgehog Rescue in January 2025 in preparation of moving to a new location.

The rescue is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registration no: 1186680, registered with the Charity Commission on 29th Nov 2019.

Prior to registration as a CIO, Hamworthy Hedgehog Rescue was an unregistered (below the £5000pa threshold) small charity of the same name.

Charity's Address and Contact Details

Address:	Ashley Barn, Briantspuddle, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 7HL
Telephone:	01929 290112
Email:	info@dorsethedgehogrescue.org
Website:	dorsethedgehogrescue.org
Facebook:	facebook.com/DorsetHedgehogRescue/
Twitter:	twitter.com/RescueHedgehog

Names of the Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity

James Matthew Dunne	Chair
Tracy Elizabeth Dunne	
Kay Piper	
Sally Louise Dark	Stepped down 25th June 2025
Joanna Mary Morland	Stepped down 28th September 2025
Elaine Louise Willcox	Appointed 28th September 2025
Julia Bradley	Appointed 28th September 2025

Names & Addresses of Advisors

None

Bank

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.

United Trust Bank, 1 Ropemaker St, London EC2Y 9AW

Independent Examiner

Sara King ACA (ICAEW)

Structure, Governance & Management

Type of Governing Document:

Constitution – based on the Charity Commission's model governing document for Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisations, i.e.: where the Trustees are the only Members of the charity.

Governance

The charity is governed by the Trustees and meetings are held quarterly, or more frequently if it is deemed necessary. Additional Trustees can be appointed by way of an annual general meeting. All newly appointed and existing Trustees are reminded regularly of their responsibilities.

Risk Management

The Trustees have identified the major risks which face the charity and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the effect of those risks. Those risks are kept under regular review.

Organisation

The Trustees meet monthly to discuss the financial affairs and management of the charity. The trustees are happy to leave the day to day running of the rescue centre to the rescue centre manager, Cheryl Hill. In the event of any need to acquire capital items, this is presented to the trustees for their decision.

Trustees

There must be at least three charity trustees. In accordance with the Constitution, Trustees are appointed or re-appointed for a term of four years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or benefit.

In appointing Trustees due consideration is given to ensuring that the Trustees have, between them, the skills and experience necessary to manage the charity effectively and in accordance with charity law.

All newly appointed and existing trustees are reminded regularly of their responsibilities.

Objects

Statutory Declaration on Public Benefit

The object of the CIO is for the benefit of the public: -

To provide a rescue, care and rehabilitation service for sick, injured, or orphaned hedgehogs, to further the conservation and preservation of the hedgehog species, to educate the public to further the public's understanding of hedgehogs and the problems they face, to provide training in hedgehog care and for green space managers and gardeners on how they can help hedgehogs.

The charity carries out these objects by: -

- Operating a rescue centre for the treatment and rehabilitation of hedgehogs at Ashley Barn in Briantspuddle.
- We ensure that the hedgehogs in our care receive the best care available using veterinary guidance and best practice.
- Responding to requests for assistance in helping sick, injured or orphaned hedgehogs from the public, vets and other services.
- Seeking to treat, rehabilitate and release any hedgehog casualty assessed as having a chance of survival equal to that of its wild peers.
- Providing information and guidance relating to hedgehogs to members of the public
- Increase public awareness about the decline in hedgehogs, the hazards they face, and to encourage children to respect hedgehogs and take an interest in hedgehogs.
- Assist in scientific and behavioural research as we are able.
- Offering work experience placements to those involved in the study or rehabilitation of wildlife.

- Providing training to rescue centre staff, volunteers and others in the care and rehabilitation of hedgehogs.
- Offering volunteering opportunities to members of the public.
- Providing educational talks about hedgehogs to members of the public.

Statutory Declaration

The Trustees of Dorset Hedgehog Rescue confirm that they have paid due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

ACTIVITIES & PERFORMANCE

New Rescue Centre Opened



Ashley Barn

A substantial legacy from Mr Derek Cook enabled the charity to move from operating as a home-based rescue to establishing a dedicated rescue centre, equipped to a very high standard.

After an extensive search and a number of disappointments, appropriate premises were identified and terms agreed with the landlord. The keys were received in late March 2025, marking the beginning of an intensive period of preparation.

Thanks to five weeks of dedicated work by our volunteers and supporters, the new rescue centre was ready to open on 28 April 2025.



Treatment and Admin Area

The centre is over two floors, with the 'hospital' on the ground floor and offices, meeting area and training facilities on the first floor.



Main Hedgehog Ward – 112 cages



ICU – 20 incubators

The new centre has 106 veterinary cages for hedgehogs, and our dedicated ICU has 20 incubators. Our maternity unit has 6 mother & baby units which are much larger than our standard cages to

accommodate hedgehog mothers and litters of hoglets. We have overspill capacity if needed, however this has not been required yet.



First floor Offices and training area

While the new rescue centre has greatly enhanced our ability to care for Dorset's hedgehogs, operating from dedicated premises brings significantly higher costs than when the rescue was run from a domestic setting. The charity now faces ongoing expenditure including rent, utilities, insurance, staff wages, veterinary treatment, medicines, specialist equipment, food, bedding, cleaning supplies and essential administration costs.

These regular expenses are vital to maintaining the high standards of care provided at the rescue centre and mean that securing a reliable income through donations, fundraising activities, grants and legacies is more important than ever.

Without the continued support of our donors and supporters, we would be unable to sustain the level of care that hundreds of hedgehogs receive each year.

Official Opening Day

On 28th June, we held an official opening day for our supporters, members of the public and others to visit the rescue centre and view our facilities and the inner workings of the centre. Various stalls with hot and cold food, drinks, crafts, charity stalls and others were available for our visitors to browse while they waited to get into the rescue centre. Over 1,000 people attended, with a wait of between 30 – 45 minutes to view the rescue centre during the peak time.

The open day was a spectacular success and raised over £7,000 for the charity.

Thank you to Cllr Andy Canning, Mayor of Dorchester, Mel Lane, Mayoress, and Chloe Colvin for cutting the ribbon to officially open the rescue centre.



"The open day was a spectacular success and raised over £7,000 for the charity"

Hedgehog Care and Rehabilitation

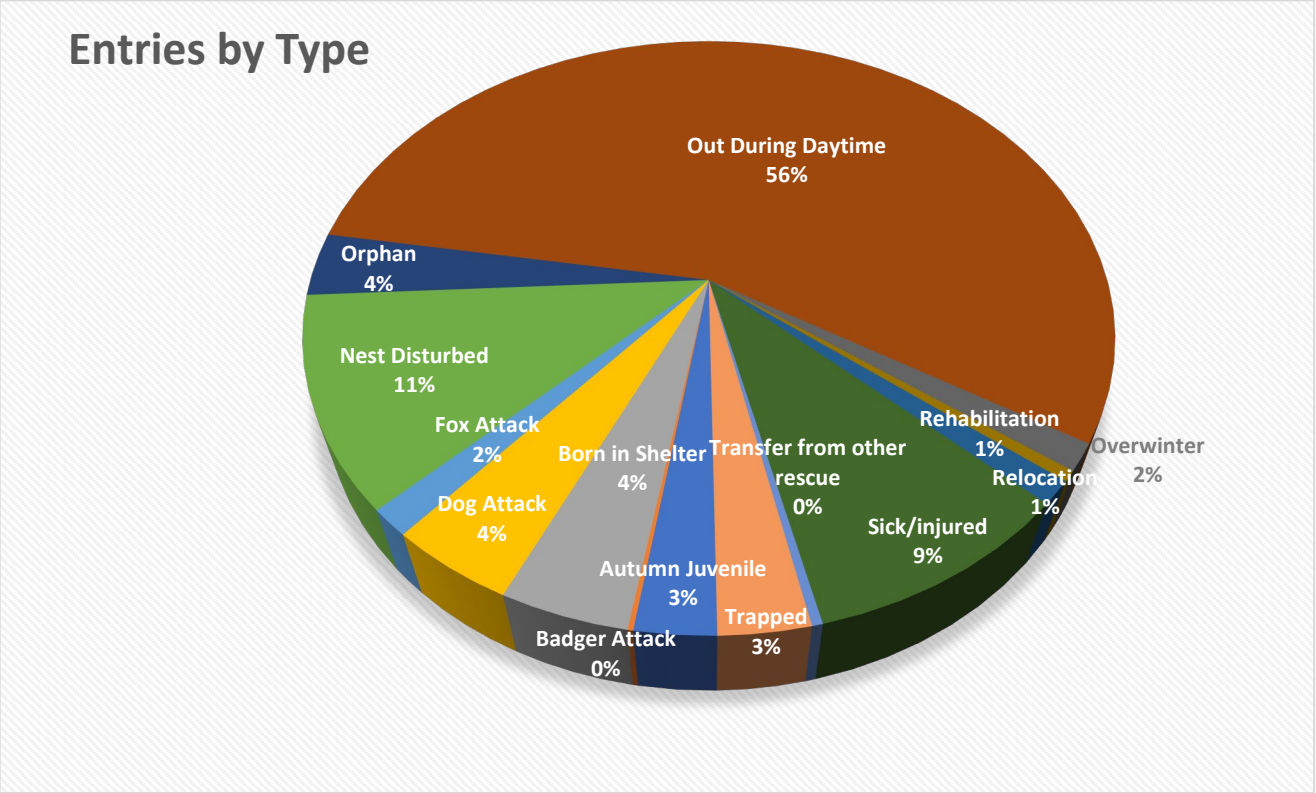
In the 247 days that our new rescue centre was opened, we took in 593 hedgehogs of which 474 were released back to the wild, a 'save rate' of 79%. Averaging this out over 365 days, we would have been in the region of 900 hedgehogs for the year. We fully expect to care for more than 1,000 hedgehogs next year.

The new rescue centre opened in time for the spring rush of hoglets with large numbers coming into the rescue. The hot, dry summer led to large numbers of hoglets and juveniles being abandoned to fend for themselves by their mums as food and water was in short supply.

11% of our total intake was due to nest disturbance.

Special thanks go to our surrogate mums, Kay, Cheryl and Tracy who between them fed over 70 hoglets around the clock over the spring and summer.

309 hedgehogs were brought in due to being out during the daytime, 56% of our total intake.



Other Activities



We hosted Vale Wildlife Hospital's 'First Aid, Care & Rehabilitation of Hedgehogs' course at our rescue centre in October, with 27 of our volunteers attending the course.

Throughout the year we gave talks on hedgehogs and how we can all help them to various groups to raise awareness of hedgehogs and their plight.

We currently have 85 active volunteers, with a further 22 volunteer drivers.

Our staff and volunteers are our biggest asset, the skills and dedication of our hardworking people, regardless of their role, are the backbone and lifeblood of the rescue. Every one of them plays a vital role in the day-to day operation of the whole organisation.

The trustees would like to express their thanks to all the Charity's volunteers, donors, and supporters - we are humbled by your support, kindness, and dedication to Dorset's hedgehogs.

The trustees would also like to express their thanks to Jo Moorland, who joined us as a trustee for one year to help with the setting up of the new rescue centre, assisting with policy writing and job descriptions.

Future Plans

Dorset Hedgehog Rescue will: -

- continue to operate the rescue centre at its current location.
- continue to treat and where possible rehabilitate and release any hedgehog brought to the rescue.
- maintain and seek to improve facilities for the care and rehabilitation of hedgehogs at each stage of their care.
- continue to offer educational talks to all interested parties in hedgehog related subjects.
- provide training to volunteers, staff and other interested parties in hedgehog related subjects.
- Continue to offer volunteering opportunities to members of the public
- Continue to offer work experience placements to those involved in the study or rehabilitation of wildlife.
- Assist in scientific and behavioural research as we are able.

Running Costs

For a wildlife rescue charity such as Dorset Hedgehog Rescue, the main running costs of a standalone rescue centre include:

Premises Costs

- Rent or lease payments
- Building insurance
- Contents insurance
- Repairs and maintenance
- Security systems and monitoring

Utilities

- Electricity (particularly high due to heating, incubators, washing machines and dryers)
- Water and sewerage – we are not on mains sewerage and the septic tank needs emptying every month
- Heating costs
- Telephone and internet services

Staff Costs

- Salaries and wages
- National Insurance contributions
- Pension contributions
- Training and professional development

Animal Care Costs

- Veterinary treatment and surgery
- Medicines and medical supplies
- Consumables such as syringes, dressings, gloves and disinfectants
- Specialist feeds, supplements and milk formula for hoglets
- Bedding materials, newspapers and cleaning products

Equipment Costs

- Purchase and replacement of incubators
- Medical equipment maintenance
- Washing machines, dryers and refrigeration
- Computer and office equipment

Transport

- Fuel costs
- Vehicle maintenance and insurance
- Volunteer driver expenses

Administration and Governance

- Accounting and payroll services
- Charity Commission compliance costs
- Professional fees
- Software subscriptions
- Printing, postage and stationery

Fundraising and Public Engagement

- Open days and fundraising events
- Educational materials
- Website hosting and maintenance
- Marketing and promotional materials

Funding the Future

The opening of our new rescue centre was only made possible through the generosity of a substantial legacy gift left to the charity. This remarkable contribution enabled us to secure and equip a dedicated facility capable of providing a far higher standard of care for Dorset's hedgehogs than was previously possible.

While the new centre has transformed our ability to treat and rehabilitate wildlife, it has also significantly increased our ongoing operating costs. Unlike working from a home-based facility, we now face substantial monthly expenses including rent, utilities, insurance, maintenance, equipment, veterinary supplies and staff wages. These costs are essential to ensuring that every hedgehog receives the care it needs, but they also mean that the charity must generate a reliable and sustainable income throughout the year.

Our current funding level is £50,000 less than our costs.

For this reason, donations, fundraising activities, grants and community support are more important than ever. Every contribution, no matter how large or small, helps us to keep the rescue centre operating and ensures that we can continue providing life-saving care for hundreds of hedgehogs each year. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports Dorset Hedgehog Rescue and helps secure the future of our work.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Principal Sources of Funding and Outgoings

Dorset Hedgehog Rescue's principal source of funds is private donations. It has not engaged in any specific applications for grants in the current year to 31st December 2025.

Dorset Hedgehog Rescue are registered as a charity with HMRC so that Gift Aid may be reclaimed on donations where the donor indicates that is their wish.

Statement of the Charity's Policy on Reserves

The Charity's policy on reserves is to generate and maintain a balance which is sufficient:

a) to preserve the financial viability of the Charity in the event that unforeseen and/or unavoidable circumstance precipitate a short-term fall in its income.

b) to enable the Charity, in the interests of meeting its objectives, to fund short-term deficits in a cash budget, e.g., money may need to be spent before donations are received and to cover the risk of unforeseen emergency or other unexpected need for funds, e.g., an unexpected large vets bill.

For these purposes the Charity will endeavour to generate and maintain reserves which are at least 20% of its annual turnover.

Details of Any Funds Materially in Deficit

The Trustees declare that the charity had no funds which were materially in deficit at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

State of the Charity's Finances

Dorset Hedgehog Rescue's current resources from unrestricted funds are sufficient to meet its outgoings for at least twelve months.

Particulars of Any Outstanding Guarantee Given by the Charity

The Trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of Any Outstanding Debt

The Trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Statutory Statements on Liabilities

The Trustees declare that:

- The charity has given no guarantees where potential liability under the guarantee is outstanding at the date of this statement (e.g.: any outstanding/ongoing contract or legal undertaking to buy or provide specific services);
- The charity has no debt outstanding at the date of this statement which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any assets of the CIO (e.g.: a mortgage on property owned by the charity).

Remuneration of Trustees

All Trustees act in a voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration or other material benefits from their services to the Charity.

Out-of-pocket expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred by Trustees in promoting the purposes of the Charity are reimbursed at cost.

Declaration

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,



J M Dunne, Principal Trustee. Date:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

	2025		2024	
RECEIPTS				
Donations	42,879.93		404.29	
Legacy	439,712.17		190,000.00	
Fund Generation – online Shop	512.76			
Fund Generation - Fundraising	734.02			
Interest on Accounts	4,406.76		385.06	
		488,299.64		**190,789.35**
PAYMENTS				
Cost of Charitable Activities	24,089.69		10,761.71	
		24,089.69		**10,761.71**
Direct Expenses				
Charitable Expenditure – stock for charity shop	7,015.97		185.50	
Cost of Fund Generation – fund raising	267.30			
		7,283.27		**185.50**
Gross Profit/(Loss):		**456,926.68**		**179,842.14**
OVERHEADS				
Support Costs – Rent and Rates	24,838.78			
Support Costs – Heat, Light & Power	2,682.04			
Support Costs – Printing and Stationary	2,640.12			
Support Costs – Telephone and Computer	4,501.05		461.00	
Support Costs – Maintenance	986.25			
Support Costs – One-off Setup Costs	30,977.00			
Support Costs – General Expenses	3,081.66		406.73	
Management & Admin – Bank Charges and Interest	89.21			
Management & Admin – Gross Wages	27,536.10			

Management & Admin – Professional Fees	2,484.00			
Depreciation	627.11		60.00	
		100,443.32		**927.73**
Net Profit/(Loss):		**356,483.36**		**178,914.41**
FIXED ASSETS				
Furniture and Fixtures	21,389.78			
		21,389.78		
CURRENT ASSETS				
Deposits and Cash	272,082.47			
Bank Account	265,311.10			
		537,393.57		**199,368.64**
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors: Short Term	0.00			
Payroll Taxation	3,460.38			
Wages	228.09			
		3,688.47		**-**
Current Assets less Current Liabilities:		**555,094.88**		**198,368.64**
Total Assets less Current Liabilities:		**555,094.88**		**198,368.64**
Long Term Liabilities:				
		-		**-**
Total Assets less Total Liabilities:		**555,094.88**		**198,368.64**
Capital Reserves				
P & L Account	335,572.02		178,914.41	
Previous Year Adjustment	198,368.64		19,454.23	
		533,943.66		**198,368.64**

Commentary

The 2025 financial year was a period of significant transition and growth for the charity, marked most notably by the opening of our new rescue centre in April. This milestone required substantial investment in equipment, infrastructure and setup costs, and the financial statements reflect both the scale of this undertaking and the strength of the support we received.

Our overall financial position at year end is exceptionally strong, due in large part to a generous legacy of £439,712.17. While this one-off gift understandably creates a skewed picture of annual income, it provides the charity with a secure reserve base from which we can plan confidently for the future. Excluding the legacy, our core income streams — particularly donations, which totalled £42,879.93 — performed in line with expectations and demonstrate continued public trust in our work.
Expenditure increased this year, as anticipated, due to the opening of the new centre. We incurred £66,000 in one-off equipment purchases, £35,000 of which has been capitalised in accordance with our accounting policy. Charitable activity costs reflect an eight-month operational period and include essential veterinary care, food, consumables, and equipment needed to ensure high standards of welfare for the animals in our care. These costs were carefully managed and remained within budget.

We also invested in our volunteers, subsidising training for 27 individuals who completed the Vale Wildlife Hospital's hedgehog care and rehabilitation course. This training strengthens our capacity and ensures that our rescue work is delivered safely, consistently and to a high professional standard.

Support and administrative costs increased as expected with the establishment of the new centre, including rent, utilities, IT, and wages. These overheads represent the infrastructure required to operate a modern rescue facility and support our growing volunteer team.

The charity ended the year with a net surplus of £356,483.36 and total reserves of £533,943.66. This strong financial position allows us not only to sustain our current operations but also to plan for future development, resilience, and long-term impact.

Overall, 2025 was a transformative year. The legacy gift, the opening of the rescue centre, and the continued generosity of our supporters have positioned the charity for a stable and ambitious future. We remain committed to using these resources responsibly, transparently, and in direct service of our mission to protect, rehabilitate and care for hedgehogs in need.

As mentioned earlier in this report, donations, fundraising activities, grants and community support are more important than ever to enable us to cover running expenses, and to ensure the long term survival of the rescue.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Disposition of Funds

The Charity has no designated or restricted funds.

Notes to the Accounts

a) Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 Section 133, using the Receipts and Payments basis available to small charities.

b) Reimbursement of Out-of-Pocket Expenses

No Trustees received any reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses in the financial year.

c) Salaries & Professional Fees

Dorset Hedgehog Rescue does not charge any professional fees for the services that it provides.

No trustee receives any payments for the services they provide to the charity.

In the current financial year, the charity employed one full-time member of staff.

d) Fixed Assets

The charity has not disposed of any fixed assets in the current financial year.

e) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets of over £500 at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

- Plant & Machinery 5 years
- Computer Equipment 3 years

f) Creditors

Cheques issued prior to the end of the financial year but not appearing in the end of financial year bank statement are only reported as outstanding creditors if they remain unpresented at the time of producing the financial statements.

g) Rounding Discrepancies

All amounts are recorded to the penny, but in these accounts are shown as digitally rounded to the nearest pound. This can occasionally result in a total apparently not being the sum of its constituent amounts. All individual amounts, and their totals, are nevertheless correct.

Approval of the Board of Trustees

The Trustees declare that they have approved the above Annual Report & Statement of Financial Activity.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees.



J M Dunne, Principal Trustee. Date:

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Dorset Hedgehog Rescue		
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1186680
Set out on pages	13-18		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

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

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:	Sara King	**Date:**	19/8/26
Name:	Sara King		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	ACA (ICAEW)		
Address:	Two Tias, Greenacres Close, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 2AP		

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.	N/A