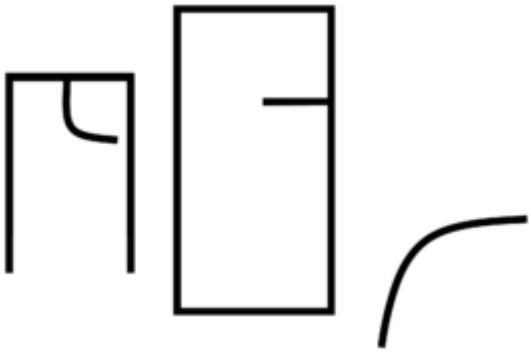
The Museum of Brexit

Charity number 1193259



Report and Financial Statements

for the reporting year

to 31 March 2025

The Museum of Brexit

Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements

for the Financial Period of the Reporting Year to 31 March 2025

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Details

Name: The Museum of Brexit

Number: 1193259

Address: 9, Jameson House, Glasshouse Walk, London SE11 5EX

Structure and governance

Names of the Trustees of the Charity (ie the listed trustees)

Dr Lee Rotherham	Appointed: 2021 as a first trustee, Chairman
Mr Alex Deane	Appointed: 2021 as a first trustee
Helen Mayer	Appointed: trustee, 9 February 2023
William Norton	Appointed: trustee and Treasurer, 9 February 2023

It was with immense sadness that we saw the passing of one of our founding trustees, Jim Reynolds. Jim was a grassroots stalwart, hard working, inspirational, and with a ready sense of humour. We will miss him greatly.

Names and Addresses of Advisors

We hold a Charity Deposit Account at Virgin Money.
Address: Virgin Money, Jubilee House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL

We additionally hold an account at CAF Bank
Address: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of Governing Document: Constitution, current dated 20 JAN 21

How the Charity is Constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods:

Trustees of the Charity are recruited from subject matter experts with a known capacity for fairness and balance, on a recommendation by a Trustee of the Charity approved by an absolute majority of Trustees of the Charity. Trustees for the Charity are first subject to formal or informal interview by whichever trustees are available at the time but including the Chairman.

Until such time as the number of such Trustees is increased beyond five, appointment to posts is by the process of consent and common accord. The priority is functionality for a campaign at the current stage of the cycle. Once a site is obtained and long-term management, engagement and outreach become planning concerns, then different skill sets and personal backgrounds will become additionally relevant.

All new Trustees are provided with a copy of the Governing Document (Constitution) and the most recent Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements, accompanied by an oral briefing by the Chairman on recent developments and strategy.

Decision-making

Strategic-level decision making is taken by Trustees collectively. This may be done informally and remotely, provided that all Trustees consent to the arrangement. To simplify and accelerate decision-making Trustees have the authority to delegate oversight of particular activities to named Trustees, in particular over fundraising and media activities. The overseeing Trustee should refer to fellow Trustees on a matter that affects strategic policy. This process is to be formalised at the time of the establishment of a regularly paid staff; the charity does not currently employ any staff.

Volunteers

Policy on volunteers is to be developed and codified in due course. Over this reporting period, volunteering has taken two forms. Firstly, certain individuals have supported the collection plan by providing a West Midlands drop off point (dop). Secondly, Mr Gawain Towler has been operating as the voluntary press officer. His unpaid status will be reviewed by Trustees based on future fundraising and the emerging demands of the post.

Committees and working groups

There were no committees and working groups. This is an area to be developed with respect to an academic advisory council once a site is secured.

Affiliation

There was no affiliation to any external group. There has been previous contact with the Museums Association and, as previously noted, membership will be considered in due course. Focus remains on establishing the museum.

Risk management

An informal assessment was taken on establishment of the major risks to which the charity is transitionally exposed. At this stage these remain predominantly reputational, in the absence of property. Foremost among these is the intent to be fair and balanced in our delivery, which remains our determined policy and a continuing part of messaging.

Funds are safeguarded by requiring two signatures on all payments and the separation of roles of Chairman and Treasurer. With elevated fundraising and property acquisition new risks emerge, and these will be considered accordingly in due course.

There were no “untoward incidents” or “serious incidents” occurring (as required by the Charity Commission to report).

Objectives and activities

Objects

The objects of the CIO are

The advancement of education and heritage for the public benefit by:

(a) establishing and operating a museum and associated library and archives; and

(b) public educational programmes in the topics of Sovereignty, Democracy, Good Governance, Trade, European Cooperation and the history of the UK’s membership of the European Union.

Activities

The Museum of Brexit delivers the above through the following core mechanisms

- The establishment of a museum
- The establishment of an associated academic library
- The establishment of associated historic archives
- A future planned outreach programme, to be developed on the creation first of the above

Our approach has not changed. Thematically, areas of key interest involve British and European History, with particular reference to post-war European integration; the history of British Euroscepticism, and its continental counterparts; and the topics raised during the 2016 referendum including models of free trade, sovereignty, territoriality, and the distinct traditions behind Common Law and Parliamentary governance. Selection and presentation of material will be fair and balanced.

As our plans mature, we have begun to place additional emphasis on developing a distinct Special Relationship Gallery. This is an important feature of the Global Britain concept, while also being of

strategic national interest in its own right, but at present there is woeful provision of publicly-accessible collections devoted to this topic. Whether there is a room dedicated to this theme is dependent on available space in the museum.

The period of reporting for this document covered a shift from the necessary initial priority of assembling artefacts and records. There is enough material held or pledged to form a collection, though considerably more work is required to ensure that it is of appropriate range, scale and quality across the subjects under discussion, so that work is ongoing. We have also begun to move into wider fundraising.

Statutory Declaration on Public Benefit

The trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Achievements and performance

Executive Summary

This year has seen a shift of focus from the planning and collect phases into also conducting key fundraising.

Activity Report

This year has seen the start of a transition, from planning and costing, through item rescue and acquisition, and into the next phase of fundraising. This was hampered by the illness of the chairman over a significant portion of this reporting period, but which has now passed.

(i) Drop off points (dops)

From the high point of 50 county drop off points we now operate two, in Central London and in the West Midlands. We have additionally arranged ad hoc locations where site owners were happy to accept individual donations. Item donations have ranged from a handful of items to boxes.



(iii) Design and concept

Continued extensive research into museum designs and formats has reassured us that our model as designed is robust, effective and attractive to visitors.

We continue to examine first-hand how museums, collections, research sites and archives operate in order to draw lessons. Case studies continue to be flagged on our social media, especially where they cover topics akin to our own theme(s), to demonstrate how abstract issues around constitutional or legal matters can be tremendously important but also presented in a way that is interesting enough to attract visitors, or small museums that succeed with limited resources and localised horizons. Examples cited have included Bolivia's Casa de la Libertad in Sucre; Province House in Charlottetown which tells the story of Canadian Confederation; Koenig Museum in Bonn; the Casa de la Independencia Museum and the story of Paraguay's independence; Vlore's National Museum of Independence in Santa Fe, Argentina, and the museum commemorating the country's 1853 Constitution; how Italy has around two dozen museums dedicated to the nation's unification; the Bank of England museum; Bradford Peace Museum; or many community museums such as the small local museum in Littlehampton.

(iv) Fundraising

A very considerable amount of work was undertaken by the Chairman to identify potential donors to the museum, using open source records of City and business figures who had become involved in campaigns around the EU over a 15 year period. This generated a list of around 1200 names, each of which was individually reviewed. Consequently an approach letter was sent out, signed by Edward Fox OBE, the Rt Hon Lord Frost CMG, the Baroness Hoey, the Most Hon the Marquess of Salisbury KG KCVO PC DL, the Rt Hon the Lord Lamont of Lerwick, the Rt Hon the Lord Lilley, the Lord Moynihan of Chelsea OBE, the Rt Hon the Lord Owen CH, Professor Gwythian Prins, Graham Stringer MP, Professor Robert Tombs, and Major General Julian Thompson CB OBE. A separate US list was also created of around fifty names of individuals reportedly interested in the topic and known to donate to charities. A letter was addressed to these signed by the Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan-Smith MP, Rt Hon Sir Liam Fox, Greg Swenson (Chair, Republicans Overseas UK), and Lady Elliott of Mickle Fell (Chair, The Hamilton Society). The impetus is being carried across into the next reporting year with a narrower focus and developing contacts now made.

We also expanded the range of mechanisms to make it easier for donations to be made. New tools added include Crowdfunder, Easyfundraising, Total Giving, Wonderful and Give as You Live. These became possible as we have been able to set up a new CAF account. Our Virgin Charity account served and serves a useful purpose but is occasionally problematic when people try to donate to it because of the communal funnelling system where all the charities holding similar accounts have to pass through a single point of reference before being redistributed, a system which some electronic payment mechanisms even amongst banks cannot handle. This problem has however now been remedied, making UK and foreign donations considerably easier.

(v) Outreach

The email bulletin has continued to go out over the course of the year at a reduced tempo.

(vi) Media Messaging

Our social media accounts continue to showcase items held in our collection, which is by far the most common question we are asked.

Amongst other unique items we showcased, we introduced an unpublished essay by the late Sir Patrick Moore explaining why and how he became a Eurosceptic; a possible unique surviving document from the launch of an alliance of campaign groups in the 1990s; a rare 2008 DVD from a local referendum; trades unions material; literature from the European Movement; possibly the last surviving agenda from the Cardiff countersummit in 1998; a T shirt associated with a local campaign run at Dover; and material from a now-forgotten ballot held by William Hague asking what his party's policy should be on the Euro. Material ranges across bulletins, leaflets, magazines, brochures and other similar thinner print copy, but also correspondence relating to EU campaigns and issues.

To understand the depth of the democratic history on particular themes, we have run some twitter threads to provide occasional tasters, for instance by providing snippets on 'named' parliaments like the Merciless Parliament, the Bad Parliament, the Model Parliament, and the Parliament of Devils. We also run a rolling thread on museums dedicated to the Founding Fathers - and Mothers - of the EU.

We have also experimented with visuals, for instance by working out that the EU butter mountain at its height was about the same volume as 27 Louvre Pyramids, and the intervention wine lake would have filled 45 Serpentines.

Our Chairman also appeared in an interview on GB News

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Financial Accounts

The Museum of Brexit

Year Ended 31st March 2025

Trading and Profit and Loss Account

	This Year		Last Year
	£	£	£
Donations Received		34,570	3,000
Sundry Income			
Interest Received	566		365
Gift Aid Reclaimed	-		512
		566	877
Administrative Overheads			
Accountancy	250		250
Bank Charges	30		-
Postage	165		-
Haulage and Distribution	-		53
Rent	4,656		5,394
Travelling	100		67
		5,201	5,764
Marketing Expenditure			
Raising Funds and Profile	3,004		2,098
		3,004	2,098
Surplus of Income over Expenditure		**26,931**	**-4,497**

The Museum of Brexit

Year Ended 31st March 2025

Balance Sheet

	This Year		Last Year
	£	£	£
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank	65,130		39,322
Petty Cash	-		-
	65,130		39,322
Current Liabilities			
Trade Creditors	-		1,123
Working Capital		65,130	38,199
Capital Employed		**65,130**	**38,199**
Capital and Reserves			
Retained Profit			
Retained surplus brought forward	38,199		42,184
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	26,931		-3,985
		65,130	38,199
		65,130	**38,199**
		-	-

Financial review

As at the close of the reporting period, the charity held only cash reserves. Beyond this there were no investments and no dedicated reserves. It does have uncatalogued holdings of museum, library and archival items, though none have been flagged as financially significant and for which a minimum obligatory token insurance cover has been assigned at the London storage site.

Outgoings fell into the following categories

- Website
- Central storage costs
- Costs for item delivery to storage
- Donor approaches

Incomings over this period consist of donations, and some bank interest (listed under "investments").

One unlisted charge for this year arises from an independent examination of accounts after the year's end, which will be included under accountancy in the 2024-25 costings. An amount owed to CGG relating to charges for fundraising activity will be rolled into the next reporting year. Beyond this, the museum has had no other potential outstanding liabilities, or outstanding charges for services, or creditors. Storage charges remain an implied liability for which sufficient funds exist.

No funds or assets are held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

A policy in relation to long term loans of items for the museum will be generated when that becomes relevant with the procurement of a site and display capacity. A formal reserves policy will be developed as funding commitments develop further. We have committed to following best practice in fundraising and data protection.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	(signed electronically)
Full name(s)	Dr Lee Stuart Rotherham
Position	Chairman
Date	24 September 2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Museum of Brexit

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Museum of Brexit Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31st March 2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3. the accounts do 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.

Signed: (signed electronically)

Name: John Harrison

Fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants

Address: 78 Carlton Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 1PH

Date: 19 August 2025