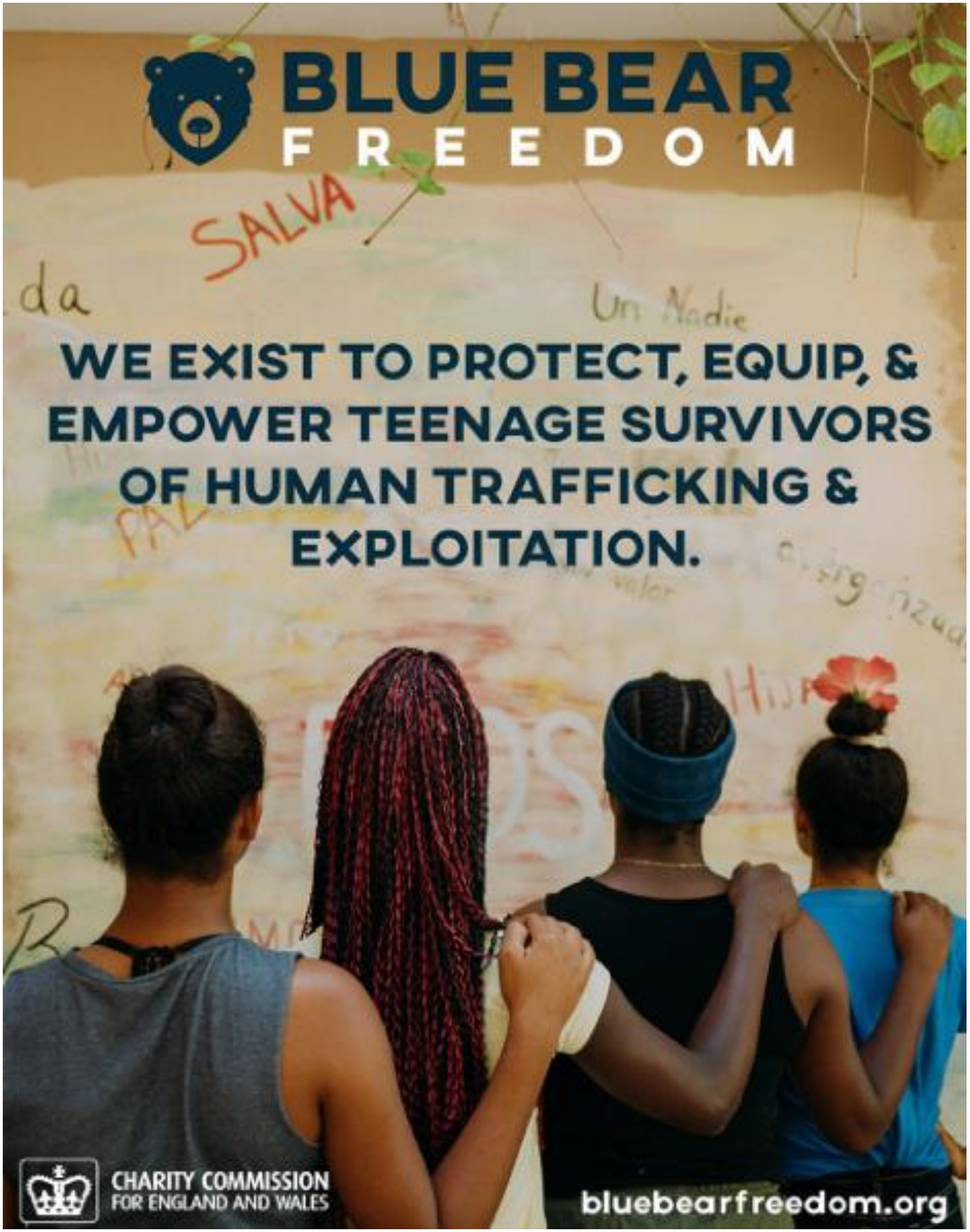

BLUE BEAR
FREEDOM
WE EXIST TO PROTECT, EQUIP, &
EMPOWER TEENAGE SURVIVORS
OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING &
EXPLOITATION.
CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES
bluebearfreedom.org

BLUE BEAR FREEDOM UK

Annual Report 2025

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2025

Blue Bear Freedom UK
Charity number: 1200131
13 Tombland House, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 1HF

Introduction

This is the third annual report for Blue Bear Freedom UK (BBF UK), an anti-trafficking organisation registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales on Friday 19th August 2022.

BBF UK is the principal beneficiary of The Justice Business CIC, a social enterprise which trades as Blue Bear Coffee Co. (BBCC), registered with Companies House in England and Wales on 27th September 2018, company number 11592634.

The work and activities of BBCC and BBF UK can be followed by visiting our website and social media pages:

- Websites: https://bluebearcoffee.com/ and https://www.bluebearfreedom.org/
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/bluebearcoffeeco/
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TheJusticeBusiness/
- Podcast: The Justice and Coffee Podcast, available on YouTube and all major streaming platforms

The annual reports for BBCC are available at https://bluebearcoffee.com/transparency/ and BBCC's annual accounts are available at https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/11592634

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

The purpose of this report is to outline the activities of Blue Bear Freedom UK and how it has exercised its charitable status pursuant to our mission statement:

'We exist to protect, equip and empower children affected by human trafficking, and to raise awareness to the injustice of modern slavery and exploitation.'

2025

Board of trustees

There were no changes to the board of trustees during 2025. Board of trustees in 2025:

- Bryn Frere-Smith (Chairman)
- Andrew Frere-Smith
- Charlotte Pascal
- Kerry Brighouse
- Rossie Gillum
- Anna Dean
- Heather Lewis

Our board of trustees met in February 2025 in London to review the achievements of 2024 and set targets for the coming year. Having set a fundraising target of £15,000 for 2024, the board was pleased to note that the target had been doubled. The board meets quarterly by video conference and once a year in person.

Fundraising and awareness

On Saturday 1st March 2025 we held our second Freeze for Freedom, a communal cold sea dip at Cromer, Norfolk, with supporters also taking part in Winchester. The event raised approximately £1,000 for the Foundation. (Figs 1,2)

In 2025 we relaunched the Justice and Coffee Podcast, hosted by Bryn Frere-Smith, to raise awareness of modern slavery, exploitation and wider issues of justice. Guests during the year included Clive Lewis MP; Sara De Carvalho, CEO of the global anti-trafficking campaign It's a Penalty; film maker and campaigner Barak Laub on orphanage trafficking; Professor Giorgia Dona of the University of East London on forced migration; the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher; and Racheal Mutesi, founder of Ufahari Girls in Uganda, recorded to coincide with the UN's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

Our monthly newsletter continued throughout the year, sharing news of our partners and raising awareness of issues including online child sexual exploitation, the tenth anniversary of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the Crime and Policing Bill's new offences of child criminal exploitation and "cuckooing", Baroness Casey's national audit of group-based child sexual exploitation, and Anti-Slavery Day on 18th October.

In February 2025 Bryn Frere-Smith was invited back to speak at Insight Financial's Vision Day in Norwich, presenting the work of Blue Bear Freedom and our mission to protect, equip and empower children affected by human trafficking to an audience of Insight's staff and guests (Fig 3 and 4) Once again the local Norfolk business chose to support the Foundation, making two donations in December 2025 totalling £27,518, our largest single source of funding in the year.

Blue Bear Coffee Co. (The Justice Business CIC) gave £5,000 from its profits to the Foundation on 30th December 2025, and a further £13,000 of its 2025 giving (£10,000 and

£3,000, received on 19th January 2026), bringing its contribution for the 2025 business year to £18,000. As our accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, the January payments will appear in the 2026 accounts. We also received donations from individuals and businesses including Oakwood Risk and Resilience and grants via the Charities Aid Foundation and Charities Trust.

In December we launched two Christmas appeals. The first was to buy a Christmas gift for every child across our three partner shelters in the Dominican Republic, and in December we sent £1,120 to Lily House, Batey Rehab Project and New Hope Girls for the girls' Christmas presents. (Fig 5) The second was a £1,000 appeal for the Ufahari Girls project in Kaleri, Uganda, which protects girls in poor communities from gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking. Our first support to Ufahari Girls was sent in early 2026 and will be reported in next year's accounts.

Our partners in the Dominican Republic

In February 2025 we sponsored a unique gathering of almost 100 people, including law enforcement, safeguarding and child welfare professionals, in Barahona, Dominican Republic, to learn about trauma-informed care and evidence gathering from child victims of exploitation. We were proud to see our partners Lily House, Batey Rehab Project and New Hope Girls lead this coalition and explore ways of working collaboratively to bring about justice for the children of the Dominican Republic. (Fig 6)

Lily House. In March 2025 we funded the purchase of a plot of land ($7,000) where Lily House could build a home for a young woman graduating from their aftercare programme. With no living relatives, she will live independently yet within reach of the continued support of Lily House staff. By June the home was near completion and had been painted in the turquoise Blue Bear blue which she chose. The young woman arrived at Lily House unable to speak because of the depth of her trauma and is now, after years of love and support, "the life and soul of the party" and works in care.

New Hope Girls. In 2025 we funded the construction of a homework room at New Hope Girls in La Vega, so that the school-age girls in their care have a dedicated space to study when they return from school. (Fig 7)

Batey Rehab Project. In October 2025 we gave a grant of £5,000 to Batey Rehab Project in Barahona to furnish a new bedroom at their aftercare shelter and fund a part-time teacher.

In December 2025 we gave two further grants totalling £10,500: £10,000 towards Casa De Fe, a new home at Batey Rehab Project for girls who need to be triaged when they first arrive at the project (Fig 8), and £500 for the girls' Christmas gifts. The girls at Batey Rehab Project also designed a bracelet for Blue Bear, made with larimar, a stone unique to the Dominican Republic, which we offered to our supporters.

Christmas. At Christmas 2024 our supporters funded a $25 gift for every child and member of staff across our three partner shelters, and we repeated this appeal for Christmas 2025.

Grants made in 2025

In total, BBF UK gave £31,920 in grants during 2025, almost double the £16,450 given in 2024:

Date	Partner	Amount (£)	Purpose
20 Feb 2025	Batey Rehab Project	1,800	Training gathering in Barahona for law enforcement and child welfare professionals
13 Mar 2025	Lily House	5,500	Land for a transitional home for a young woman leaving Lily House ($7,000)
7 May 2025	New Hope Girls	8,500	Homework room at New Hope Girls, La Vega
15 Oct 2025	Batey Rehab Project	5,000	Furnishing a new bedroom and funding a part-time teacher
1 Dec 2025	Batey Rehab Project	5,000	Casa De Fe, a new home at Batey Rehab Project for girls to be triaged on first arrival
17 Dec 2025	Batey Rehab Project	5,500	Casa De Fe (£5,000) and Christmas gifts for the girls (£500)
17 Dec 2025	New Hope Girls	500	Christmas gifts for the girls
17 Dec 2025	Lily House	120	Christmas gifts for the girls
	Total grants	**31,920**	

Financial summary

In total, over the course of the financial year, BBF UK received £48,420 and gave £31,920 in grants, carrying forward £52,539 into 2026.

One hundred percent of the operating costs of BBF UK were paid for by BBCC, allowing the only costs incurred to be £175 in international payment fees and £60 in monthly bank fees. This has allowed us to inform donors that 100% of their donation will be used in direct support of children affected by, or at risk of, human trafficking, sexual exploitation and modern slavery.

The trustees' policy is to hold reserves which will be granted to partners in line with our mission. Monies carried forward into the following financial year will be open for use in continuance of our mission.

We look forward to continuing our work in 2026, raising awareness and support for children whose lives have been impacted by human trafficking.

Please see accompanying accounts.

Sincerest wishes,

Bryn Frere-Smith

Chairman of Blue Bear Freedom UK

Appendices



Fig 1/2. Blue Bear supporters gathering before the cold sea dip, Freeze for Freedom 2025. Cromer, Norfolk.





Fig 3. Presenting Blue Bear Freedom at Insight Financial's Vision Day, Norwich, 2025.



Fig 4. Bryn Frere-Smith speaking at Insight Vision Day 2025.



Fig 5 – Christmas celebrations in the Dominican Republic, Dec 2025



Fig 6, mixed agency collective survivor awareness event, Dominican Republic.

Sponsored by Blue Bear Freedom UK



Fig 7, Homework room being put to good use, New Hope Girls.



Fig 8. Casa de Fé (Faith House) at Batey Rehab Project, Barahona.

Receipts and payments accounts

Blue Bear Freedom (UK), charity no. 1200131. For the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. Section A: receipts and payments (CC16a format).

to the nearest £	Unrestricted funds	Total 2025	Last year (2024)
A1 Receipts			
Stripe donations (online, net payouts)	11,619	11,619	5,107
Other donations (see note 1)	36,740	36,740	32,198
Gift Aid (see note 4)	0	0	1,595
Interest	61	61	28
Total receipts	**48,420**	**48,420**	**38,928**
A3 Payments			
Grants to Batey Rehab Project	17,300	17,300	5,400
Grants to New Hope Girls (see note 2)	9,000	9,000	650
Grants to Lily House	5,620	5,620	10,400
Bank charges and FX payment fees	235	235	393
Total payments	**32,155**	**32,155**	**16,843**
Net of receipts/(payments)	**16,265**	**16,265**	**22,085**
A5 Transfers between funds	–	–	–
A6 Cash funds last year end	36,273	36,273	14,188
Cash funds this year end (note 3)	**52,539**	**52,539**	**36,273**

Note 1: Other donations comprise Insight Financial £27,518; Blue Bear Coffee Co. £5,000; Charities Trust £1,000; B Frere-Smith £1,652; Oakwood Risk and R £500; CAF £750 (two payments); ICS BACS receipts £270; Freeze for Freedom (direct) £50.

Note 2: The £8,500 paid on 7 May 2025 was to “Fundación 1 de Pedro 29”, the same payee as the £650 grant to New Hope Girls in December 2024. Fundación 1 de Pedro 29 is the account used for New Hope Girls. The £500 paid on 17 December 2025 was to Nueva Esperanza – New Hope Girls Inc.

Note 3: Agrees to CAF Bank closing balance of £52,538.60 on 31 December 2025. Rounding difference of £1.

Note 4: Gift Aid on donations received in 2025 has not yet been claimed. It will be recorded as a receipt in the year it is received from HMRC.

Section B: Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2025

B1 Cash funds: cash at bank (CAF Cash Account) £52,539, of which £1000 is designated for the Ufahari Girls project (donations to the December 2025 appeal, paid to Ufahari Girls in January 2026) and the balance is unrestricted.

B2 Other monetary assets: none. B3 Investment assets: none. B4 Assets retained for the charity’s own use: none. B5 Liabilities: none.

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees. Date of approval: 1st October 2026

Bryn Frere-Smith 

Andrew Frere-Smith 

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Blue Bear Freedom (UK)

Charity registration number: 1200131

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Blue Bear Freedom (UK)
I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust")
for the year ended 31 December 2025 as set out on page 10

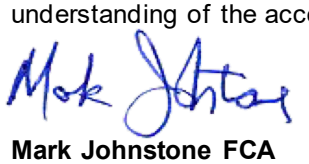
Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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 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 which gives 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 the accounting records; or

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.



Mark Johnstone FCA
Scrutton Bland
15 Palace Street
NORWICH
Norfolk
NR3 1RT

Date: 7 October 2026