CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/01/202 Period start date To 31/12/2025 Period end date

Charity name: Association of British Sign Language Teachers and Assessors

Charity registration number: 1202057

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	*The Association of British Sign Language Teachers and Assessors (ABSLTA) was established in 1989 with the purpose of supporting and enhancing the professional development of British Sign Language (BSL) teachers and assessors throughout the UK. ABSLTA aims to improve the quality of BSL education by providing professional development opportunities, networking, and community support for its members, empowering Deaf BSL educators and promoting the growth of BSL education.*
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	*During 2025, ABSLTA delivered its primary public benefit by providing continuous professional development (CPD) and networking opportunities for BSL education professionals.* *Key activities in 2025 included:* • ***CPD Platforms:*** *Operating two monthly platforms: 1)* ***BSL Teacher's Lounge*** *(informal networking) and 2)* ***BSL TeachHub*** *(formal CPD and video recording plans).* • ***Professional Standards:*** *Launching working groups for the* ***"Teach Safe" Seal*** *and the* ***National ABSLTA BSL Badge*** *to elevate teaching standards.* • ***Member Engagement & Events:*** *Conducting the 2025 ABSLTA Membership Survey, facilitating representation at City Lit's Deaf Day in London (April 2025), and engaging in international sector collaboration (e.g. LESICO 5 application).* • ***Mentoring:*** *Conducting Phase 1*

		review and planning the relaunch of the Deaf & Hearing/Tutor (D&HT) Mentoring Pilot.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	*The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit when planning and carrying out the charity's activities. Supporting, regulating, and advancing BSL educators directly promotes BSL education and inclusion for Deaf individuals and BSL learners across the UK.*

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	*ABSLTA does not currently make grants. Governance structures and policies were consolidated throughout 2025 to lay the groundwork for potential future grant-making policies as organisational capacity increases.*
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	ABSLTA does not engage in social investment or programme-related investment activities.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	ABSLTA operates directly through its Board of Trustees. In 2025, the Trustees organised and delivered monthly CPD sessions (BSL Teacher's Lounge and BSL TeachHub), managed member support, represented the charity at events (such as Deaf Day), and led key working groups (including BSL Professional Standards, EDI, and the newly established Fellow Advisory Group). Trustee travel expenses are reimbursed in line with the Trustee Expenses Policy approved in 2025
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main	Para 1.20	*BSLTA strengthened its organisational impact during 2025 across several key operational areas:*

achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.		• ***Membership Growth & Retention:*** *Reached **121 active members** (104 Full Members, 9 Associates, 4 Fellows, 2 Life, 1 Honorary) as of mid-2025, up from prior periods through targeted outreach and administrative support.* • ***Strategic Vision & Alignment:*** *Updated the official core Vision (Empowering Deaf BSL educators and advancing BSL education across the UK) and Mission, adding **Professionalism** to core values alongside Inclusivity, Education, and Collaboration.* • ***Professional Standards & Quality:*** *Activated the **BSL Professional Standards Working Group** to oversee quality assurance, the "Teach Safe" Seal, and the National ABSLTA BSL Badge.* • ***Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:*** *Activated the **EDI Working Group** to ensure accessibility and inclusion across governance, membership, and teaching practices.* • ***Fellowship Advisory Group:*** *Appointed and held initial strategic convenings with **4 ABSLTA Fellows** to provide non-governance academic and thought-leadership guidance.*

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	*In 2025, ABSLTA successfully expanded its core active membership past 120 members. The BSL Teachers' Lounge and BSL TeachHub continued running regular monthly CPD sessions based on direct member feedback. The charity completed Phase 1 review of its mentoring pilot to align with core organisational values and progressed strategic rebranding discussions (transitioning toward ABSLEP / professional education framing).*
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	*The charity relies primarily on membership subscriptions and operational income. No formal central government grants or corporate sponsorships were held in 2025. Digital payment gateways were prioritised to streamline membership renewals.*
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	*ABSLTA holds no speculative investments; funds are held in liquid bank accounts to cover operational activities.*

Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	*At the end of the 2025 financial period (31/12/2025), ABSLTA's gross income received was **£5,289.02** (primarily comprising £4,830.00 in membership subscriptions and £459.00 in other operational inflows). Total gross expenditure incurred was **£2,131.47**, leaving a net operational surplus for the year of **£3,157.55**.*
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	*The Board formally reviewed and updated its **Financial Reserves Policy** during 2025. A comprehensive Reserves Report tracking liquid asset locations and interest yields was completed to protect liquidity positions against potential operational gaps.*
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	*As of 31 December 2025, ABSLTA holds **£3,157.55** in unrestricted general reserves.*
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable. ABSLTA holds reserves to ensure operational continuity and protect against financial uncertainties.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	*The charity holds no restricted funds, and no funds were in deficit at year-end.*
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	*There are no material uncertainties regarding ABSLTA's ability to continue as a going concern.*

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	*ABSLTA's principal sources of funds remain annual membership subscriptions, supplemented by event tickets and public donations.*
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	*ABSLTA maintains cash balances in standard bank accounts to cover operational expenses and does not currently hold formal market investments.*
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	*Principal risks include financial sustainability, bank account migration management, and administrative succession planning. The trustees actively manage these risks through updated internal financial control policies, ongoing banking reviews, and working group delegations.*
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	*ABSLTA operates under its Constitution (adopted 22 February 2023), which outlines the purpose, structure, and governance guidelines of the charity.*
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	*ABSLTA is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) / Unincorporated Association governed by its Board of Trustees.*
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	*Trustees are nominated and elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or co-opted standing by the Board during the year, subject to constitutional limits.*

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	*New trustees receive an induction covering the charity's mission, governance cycle, and statutory duties under Charity Commission guidance. In 2025, trustee roles and governance frameworks were further integrated via updated Trustee Code of Conduct policies and attendance tracking.*
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	*ABSLTA is managed by an active Board of Trustees alongside dedicated subcommittees (Development & Strategy, Professional Development, Governance) and working groups (BSL Professional Standards, EDI, Fellow Advisory Group). ABSLTA collaborates with broader UK Deaf and BSL sector bodies and international networks (e.g. LESICO).*
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	*Related party interests are formally declared at every trustee meeting. Trustees serve on an unremunerated, voluntary basis.*
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Association of British Sign Language Teachers and Assessors
Other name the charity uses	ABSLTA
Registered charity number	1202057

Charity's principal address	Union House, 111 New Union Street, Coventry, CV1 2NT

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Matt Jenkins	Chair	08/07/2023 - Present	Elected as a Standing Trustee (Secretary) by Members (2023) Elected as Standing Trustee (Chair) by Member (March 2024)
2	Stuart Parkinson	Secretary	2018 - Present	Elected as a Standing Trustee by Members
3	Angela Barringer	Treasurer	08/07/2023 - Present	Elected as a Standing Trustee by Members
4	Hamza Shaikh	Trustee	08/07/2023 - Present	Elected as a Standing Trustee by Members
5	Dolapo Akande	Trustee	06/07/2024 - Present	Elected as an Ad-hoc Trustee by Trustees Elected Standing Trustee (11 May 2025); corrected from ad-hoc
6	Agnes Dyab	Trustee	1/05/2025 - Present	Elected Standing Trustee
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	The charity does not hold any funds or assets as custodian trustees on behalf of other charities or organisations.
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	Not applicable.
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	Not applicable.

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

We do not disclose specific personal details about our key personnel, including trustees, to protect their privacy. However, we ensure that any potential conflicts of interest are managed in accordance with our governance policies, especially when trustees hold positions in other organisations.

Other optional information

We do not disclose specific personal details about our key personnel, including trustees, to protect their privacy. However, we ensure that any potential conflicts of interest are managed in accordance with our governance policies, especially when trustees hold positions in other organisations.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Matt Jenkins	Stuart Parkinson
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	13/10/2026	

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Association British Sign Language Teachers & Assessors	1202057

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	1/1/2025	To	31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership Fees	4,830	-	-	4,830	3,998
Donation	49	-	-	49	503
Sponsors	-	-	-	-	875
Refunds	10	-	-	10	120
Tickets (Workshop and Conference)	-	-	-	-	1,706
Sales	-	-	-	-	51
Other	400	-	-	400	62
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	5,289	-	-	5,289	7,315
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	5,289	-	-	5,289	7,315
A3 Payments					
Operating Expense	125	-	-	125	72
Subscriptions	1,128	-	-	1,128	1,040
Technology	7	-	-	7	950

Travel and Transport	135	-	-	135	388
Insurance	123	-	-	123	-
Gifts	-	-	-	-	34
Utilities	64	-	-	64	66
Other	550	-	-	550	951
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,131	-	-	2,131	3,501

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,131	-	-	2,131	3,501
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,158	-	-	3,158	3,814
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	4	-	-	4	-
Cash funds this year end	3,161	-	-	3,161	3,814

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account		-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	-	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Angela Barringer	30/01/2026
	Matt Jenkins	30/01/2026