FREEWHEELERS
EMERGENCY VOLUNTARY
BLOOD BIKE SERVICE



Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements

April 2025 – March 2026



Freewheelers Emergency Voluntary Blood Bike Service

Charity No: 1204920

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Charity Excellence FRAMEWORK QUALITY MARK

Post HEALTH & CARE AWARDS 2016 WINNER

Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes

Founding Member

SECTION A. FOREWORD FROM THE TRUSTEES

I am delighted to present the Annual Report and Financial Statements for our Blood Bike Charity, Freewheelers EVS.

As we look back upon another extraordinary year, our dedicated network of unpaid volunteers has continued to provide valuable support directly to our healthcare partners, and we have once again seen further growth in demand for our voluntary courier services. By providing a free of charge service we ensure that both hospital budgets, and funds donated to the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity and the Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance Charity remain focused where they matter most.

Freewheelers EVS receives no NHS or government funding. Our Charity's operations are entirely dependent on the collective generosity of our community and I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the volunteers who are the heartbeat of our Charity. Riders who often battle through cold and wet weather conditions, the coordinators managing late night and weekend calls, and the fundraisers working tirelessly at multiple events out in the public eye.

I'd also like to thank our corporate & public donors, every business large or small, the local clubs and organisations, and the many private individuals whose generous financial contributions support our fleet and help ensure it is safe and up to date. Our charity is fuelled entirely by the goodwill of the communities we serve.

Their generosity enabled volunteer riders and controllers to successfully complete over 8,000 service delivery tasks this year, maintaining seamless out-of-hours coverage from 19:00 to 07:00 on weekdays, alongside full 24-hour coverage on weekends and bank holidays.

Operationally, the adoption and successful rollout of Platelet App, a digital job-recording and delivery application improved efficiency and ensured the important audit trail recording of dispatch, pick-up and delivery was made easier for both healthcare staff and volunteers.

2026 saw the launch of new collaborative working arrangements agreed in partnership with Yeovil Freewheelers. The aim of the new patient-focused collaboration trial is to enhance the shared service provided to our health care partner, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton.

Despite a highly challenging economic climate for both corporate and public donors, our community fundraising events and corporate contacts continue to secure our financial reserves and enable progress towards achieving the Trustees medium-term objective to purchase a suitable property to house its workshop and administration space.

Maintaining the highest standards of governance and strong financial discipline remain a cornerstone of the Trustees' long-term strategy. All Trustees and members continue to serve the Charity on a completely unpaid basis enabling donations to go directly toward service delivery, and maintenance of our specialised motorcycle fleet.

Please share our mission with your friends and family and help us spread the word. Together, we are not just moving medical supplies; we are saving lives.



David Neale

Chair

SECTION B. TRUSTEES' REPORT DEFINITION

The following sections C to H represent the Trustees Annual Report reviewing the year 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

SECTION C. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity Name	Freewheelers Emergency Voluntary Blood Bike Service
Registered Charity Number	1204920
Charity Principal Address	Unit 10, The 306 Estate, 242-244 Broomhill Rd, Bristol, BS5 4RG

Patron

Alex Lovell	ITV Local News TV presenter

Trustees

Name		Dates Acted	Appointed By
Simon Levington		Sep 2025 to Jan 2026	Membership
Geoff Naldrett		Sep 2023 to Sep 2025	Membership
David Neale	Chair	Sep 2025 to present	Membership
Christopher Nourse		Feb 2026 to present	Membership
David Sheen		Sep 2024 to Feb 2026	Membership
John Thompson		Oct 2023 to Sep 2025	Membership
Joe Tooker		Sep 2023 to Mar 2026	Membership
James Watts		Sep 2022 to present	Membership

SECTION D. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Charity's areas of operation and UK charitable registration

The Charity is registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales (the Charity Commission) with charity number 1204920. The Charity does not operate in any overseas jurisdictions.

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Legal structure of the Charity

Freewheelers Emergency Voluntary Blood Bike Service, referred to as the 'Charity', is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The governing document of the Charity is the written constitution as approved by the Membership and endorsed by the Charity Commission. Under the constitution, the Charity is governed by the elected Trustees, supported by an appointed Committee. Any changes to the constitution require approval by the Membership at a General Meeting of the Charity.

The Charity is funded from public donations and charitable grants. There are no restrictions governing the operation of the Charity.

SECTION E. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the Charity is set out in the Constitution:

> *"To relieve sickness and protect health by the provision of transport for urgently needed, drugs, human tissues and other medical requirements between hospitals, blood transfusion banks and other medical facilities."*

The main activities undertaken in relation to those purposes during the year

The Charity's service is provided primarily to NHS hospitals and hospices in its operating area which covers the hospitals in Bristol, Bath, Taunton and outlying areas. Occasional trips are also made to more distant hospitals when needed. Service users also include GWAAC (Great Western Air Ambulance charity), WBAA (Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance charity) and NHSBT (NHS Blood & Transplant).

For locations outside of the usual operating area, the Charity liaises with neighbouring blood bike groups to relay items both into and out of our area.

The Charity's fleet of motorcycles is regularly maintained and monitored to ensure longevity and reliability. Five motorcycles are 'on duty' when the Charity is operational comprising three geographically based motorcycles (one based in West Somerset, one based in Bristol and the third based in East Somerset and West Wiltshire), one dedicated to the deliveries to both GWAAC and WBAA bases and one 'relief bike'. The relief bike helps to manage jobs across the operating area when the other riders are busy, balancing a heavy workload, and ensuring that riders are able to take appropriate breaks during the duty period.

The fleet size means 'off duty' bikes can be serviced, unexpected breakdowns can be managed and planning of bike handovers is easier to facilitate by implementing an alternating week and weekend bike for each shift. There are also specific bikes used to support fundraising activities.

The Charity aims to provide a service to the NHS and other service users 365 days a year outside normal working hours; that is from 19:00 to 07:00 Monday to Friday, and 24 hours a day at weekends from 19:00 on Friday to 07:00 on Monday. On bank holidays the service is extended to cover the holiday period.

The main activities undertaken during the year to further the Charity's purpose for the public benefit

The Charity's free service has continued in the same way as previous years. The duty bikes transport any medical item that fits safely on a motorcycle and often provides a service which really makes a difference to the patient's wellbeing and in some cases can save a life. The Charity continues to serve requests from the NHS hospitals, minor injury units, birthing centres, district nurses, nursing homes and hospices in the area who have requested help to transport a wide range of items (blood, medication, medical records, samples for analysis, equipment).

This year saw tasks of over 8,000 as in previous years. This reflects the continued strong partnership that the Charity has with the NHS trusts it supports.

The Charity's strategies for achieving its aims and objectives in the future

- Expand the board of Trustees ensuring the right mix of skills, knowledge and experience to serve the Charity's purposes
- Enhance the existing fundraising strategy to translate the high-profile, life-saving nature the Charity's work into consistent, diverse revenue streams
- Secure capital funding to maintain a safe, modern fleet of motorcycles
- Maintain the highest standards of charity governance and fiscal discipline

SECTION F. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Charity increased its level of service to healthcare partners and maintained its daily delivery commitment to the GWAAC and WBAA charities.

The Trustees, with the able support of the Operations Committee and wider membership, continued to ensure Government and NHS regulations compliance were maintained as part of the Charity's day-to-day operations.

Membership

Membership remained healthy with a total of approximately 180 volunteers across the various roles available. Availability of volunteers in some geographic areas was challenging at times, but service was maintained. The situation eased following proactive recruitment activities and the adoption of a modified rider induction programme.

Contribution of volunteers

All operational roles were undertaken by volunteers during the last 12 months, including Riders, Coordinators, Incident Managers, Bike Maintenance Team, Operations Committee and fundraising activities. This was a contribution of over 43,000 hours of unpaid voluntary work from the Membership; an incredible commitment which does not include the hours contributed to fundraising and committee roles.

Face to face and online member meetings, led by the Committee Chair, helped maintain effective communication across the Charity. The use of multiple social media platforms continued to be an important tool to raise awareness of the Charity, with the small team of contributors posting items that engaged both existing and potential supporters, sponsors and volunteers.

Fundraising

The Charity's fundraising activities generated a lower level of donations that the previous year as the current challenging economic climate for both corporate and public donors took its toll. The commitment of volunteers and a generous public ensured income for the year exceeded expenditure.

Technology: The successful rollout of a new digital job-recording application, Platelet App, reduced paperwork, improved efficiency and response dispatch times.

Collaborative Working

To enhance the service provided to our healthcare partner, Musgrove Park Hospital (MPH) in Taunton, the Charity is participating in a trial of a collaborative working arrangement with Yeovil Freewheelers (YFW). MPH will benefit from a single point of contact, with YFW and Freewheelers EVS coordinators jointly allocating tasks to riders from both groups guided by the destination for the delivery and the availability of riders.

SECTION G. STATISTICS

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, the Charity completed 8,007 jobs across the operating area; an average of 22 calls handled by the coordinators every day and successfully delivered to those in need of our service. Summarised below:

What did we Deliver (Apr 2025 to Mar 2026)

Medical Equipment
59

Samples
4227

Medication
924

Blood Products
3



Miscellaneous
37



Air Ambulance
2625



Breast Milk
73

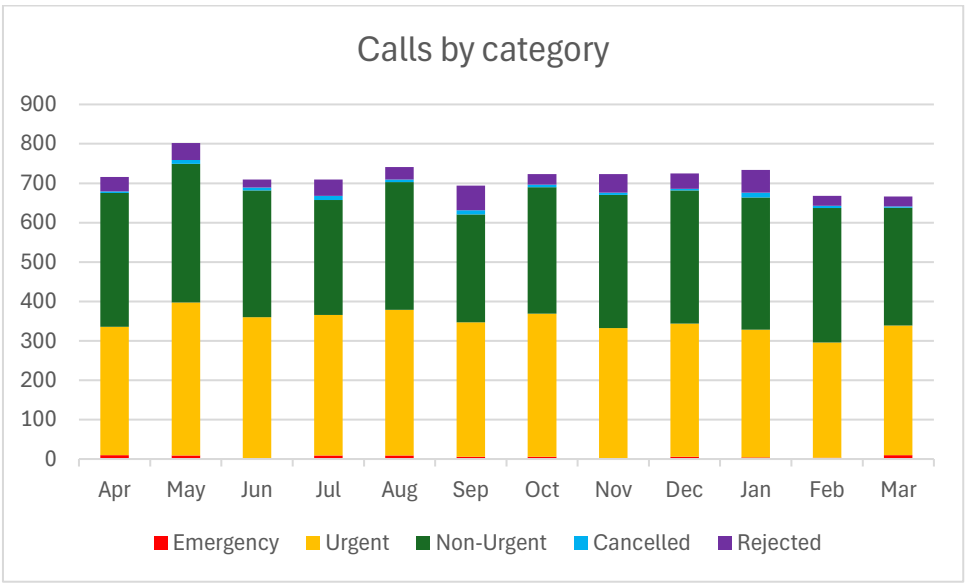


Samples - Covid 19
2



Medical Records
57

8007 Jobs (from 365 days recorded) = 22calls per day



SECTION H. FINANCIAL REVIEW

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- prepare the Financial Statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statements;

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' Report, and the statutory responsibility of the Independent Examiner in relation to the Trustees' Report is limited to examining the Report and ensuring that, the Report is consistent with the figures disclosed in the Financial Statements.

This Report was approved by the Charity Trustees on 12 August 2026.

SECTION I. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Charity

I report on the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Financial Activities and the notes to the accounts (together the Financial Statements) for the year ended 31 March 2026, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The Trustees of the Charity are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements and consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the Financial Statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the Financial Statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Financial Statements and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare Financial Statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.



M P Bailey
Rafters
Heathlands Road
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 3AR

Dated: 17 August 2026

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2026

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Income				
Donations	77,310	-	**77,310**	152,134
Other trading activities	1,733	-	**1,733**	7,127
Interest & investment income	1,603	-	**1,603**	1,755
Other income	4,878	-	**4,878**	1,155
Gain on disposal of motorcycles	6,715	-	**6,715**	-
Total	**92,239**	**-**	**92,239**	**162,171**
Expenditure (note 2)				
Raising funds	3,624	-	**3,624**	8,681
Charitable activities	120,538	3,835	**124,373**	132,496
Total	**124,162**	**3,835**	**127,997**	**141,177**
Net gains/(losses) on investments	37,373	-	**37,373**	9,521
Net income/(expenditure)	**5,450**	**(3,835)**	**1,615**	**30,515**
Net movement in funds	**5,450**	**(3,835)**	**1,615**	**30,515**
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	505,996	40,034	**546,030**	515,515
Transfer between funds	25,000	(25,000)	**-**	-
Net movement in funds	5,450	(3,835)	**1,615**	30,515
Total funds carried forward	**536,446**	**11,199**	**547,645**	**546,030**

Transfer between funds

During the year, restricted funds were used to purchase two motorcycles in accordance with the requirements of a specific donation. Once purchased, the requirements of the donation were met and the motorcycles are not considered restricted assets. Therefore the value has been transferred to the unrestricted funds of the Charity.

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 March 2026	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets (note 3)	76,722	-	**76,722**	77,809
Intangible assets	1,849	-	**1,849**	2,365
Total fixed assets	**78,571**	**-**	**78,571**	**80,174**
Current assets				
Debtors and prepayments (note 4)	19,641	-	**19,641**	20,727
Cash at bank	67,897	11,199	**79,096**	112,940
Investments	370,064	-	**370,064**	332,690
Fundraising stock items	1,620	-	**1,620**	3,240
Total current assets	**459,222**	**11,199**	**470,421**	**469,597**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (note 5)	**1,347**	**-**	**1,347**	**3,741**
Net current assets/(liabilities)	**457,875**	**11,199**	**469,074**	**465,856**
Total assets less current liabilities	**536,446**	**11,199**	**547,645**	**546,030**
Funds of the Charity				
Restricted funds		11,199	**11,199**	40,034
Unrestricted funds	536,446		**536,446**	505,996
Total funds	**536,446**	**11,199**	**547,645**	**546,030**

Policy on Reserves

The Trustees have examined the Charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not designated, committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the Charity (it's Reserves) should be sufficient to cover six months operating costs and the replacement of two motorcycles unexpectedly rendered unusable or uneconomic to repair.

The Trustees have designated £370,000 for the medium-term objective of purchasing the freehold interest in a workshop from which to base its operations. Designated funds are held as investments and cash at bank.

The Charity's Reserves at the end of the year totalled £87,875 (2024/25: £75,822).

Approval

Approved by the Trustees on 12 August 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



David Neale

Chair

Note:1 Accounting policies

Note:1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Charities SORP 2016 (October 2019), FRS 102 (September 2024) and the Charities Act 2011.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note. Freewheelers Emergency Voluntary Blood Bike Service meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Note:1.2 Going concern

The charitable activities are entirely dependent on continuing voluntary donations, fundraising activities as well as trading revenues. As a consequence, the going concern basis is dependent on the future flow of these uncertain funding streams.

Accordingly, the Trustees have considered the anticipated future income and costs of the Charity and, together with the current reserves, the Trustees are satisfied that, at the time of approving the Financial Statements, it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the Financial Statements. Other than these matters, the Trustees are not aware of any material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Note:1.3 Recognition of income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the Charity becomes entitled to the income;
- it is more likely than not that the Charity will receive the income; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the Accounting Regulations.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (as defined in the Accounting Regulations).

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Gift aid on small cash donations (GASDS) is included in income and considered to be unrestricted.

Donated goods and services are included in the SoFA when received at the value of the gift to the Charity provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably. Donated goods and services that are used immediately are recognised as income with an equivalent amount recognised as an expense under the appropriate heading in the SoFA.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the Financial Statements but is described in the Trustees' Report.

Income from interest, royalties and dividends is included in the Financial Statements when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Insurance claims are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (SORP 5.10 to 5.12) and are included as an item of other income in the SoFA.

Note:1.4 Recognition of expenditure and liabilities

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Support costs have been allocated between raising funds and charitable activities, the latter comprises of costs for running the fleet and associated depreciation, property leases plus general administration and governance to ensure public accountability of the Charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

The Charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Note:1.5 Intangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000.

Intangible fixed assets are measured at their original cost value, or subsequent revaluation. Cost value includes all costs expended in bringing the asset into its intended working condition.

Depreciation is provided on all intangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off cost, less estimated residual value, over their estimated useful lives as follows;

Software	20% straight line

Note:1.6 Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000.

Tangible fixed assets are measured at their original cost value, or subsequent revaluation. Cost value includes all costs expended in bringing the asset into its intended working condition.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off cost, less estimated residual value, over their estimated useful lives as follows;

Motorcycles	30% reducing balance
IT hardware	33% straight line
Equipment	20% straight line
Fixtures & Fittings	20% straight line

Investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value on the balance sheet date. The same treatment is applied to unlisted investments where a reliable valuation exists such as the quarterly valuation statements provided by the external investment manager.

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the Charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Note:2 Analysis of expenditure

Note:2.1 Charitable activities

	This year			Prior year		
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**Total funds £**	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**Total funds £**
Fleet running costs	66,552	3,835	**70,387**	63,132	5,563	**68,695**
Property costs	19,381	-	**19,381**	19,360	-	**19,360**
Administration and governance	5,848	-	**5,848**	6,437	-	**6,437**
Depreciation	28,757	-	**28,757**	38,004	-	**38,004**
Total	**120,538**	**3,835**	**124,373**	**126,933**	**5,563**	**132,496**

Note:3 Tangible fixed assets

Note:3.1 Cost or valuation

	Motorcycles £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	**Total £**
At the beginning of the year	263,787	7,623	**271,410**
Additions	30,305	1,675	**31,980**
Disposals	(42,791)	-	**(42,791)**
At end of the year	**251,301**	**9,298**	**260,599**

Note:3.2 Depreciation

	Motorcycles £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	**Total £**
At the beginning of the year	189,835	3,766	**193,601**
Disposals	(37,963)	-	**(37,963)**
Depreciation	27,020	1,219	**28,239**
At end of the year	**178,892**	**4,985**	**183,877**

Note:3.3 Net book value

	Motorcycles £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	**Total £**
Net book value at the beginning of the year	73,952	3,857	**77,809**
Net book value at the end of the year	72,409	4,313	**76,722**

Note:4 Debtors and prepayments

Note:4.1 Analysis of debtors and prepayments

	This year £	Prior year £
Gift aid receivable	215	250
Prepayments	14,840	16,854
VAT	4,586	3,359
Other debtors	-	264
Total	**19,641**	**20,727**

Note:5 Creditors and accruals

Note:5.1 Analysis of creditors and accruals

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Prior year £	This year £	Prior year £
Trade creditors	1,347	3,741	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	-	-	-	-
Total	**1,347**	**3,741**	**-**	**-**

Note:6 Transactions with Trustees and related parties

Note:6.1 Trustee remuneration and benefits

No Trustees or persons connected with them received any remuneration from the Charity, or any related entity. Trustees are reimbursed for out of pocket expenses in accordance with the Charity's Expenses policy.