



NEUROBLASTOMA UK

Charity Commission reference number
326385

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December, 2023

NEUROBLASTOMA UK

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December, 2023

CONTENTS

Page

Trustees' annual report	2-5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance sheet	8
Notes to the financial statements	9-12

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT for the year to 31 December, 2023

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December, 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January, 2015). As a charity registered in England and Wales, the Charity also reports in accordance with the Charity Commission for England and Wales' guidance on public benefit and the Charities Act 2015.

Section A Reference and administrative details

Charity Name	NEUROBLASTOMA UK
Registered Charity Number	326385
Registered Address	7-14 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4YR

Trustees who manage the Charity:

Zara Aitchison (Co-Chair)
Andy Pearson (Co-Chair)
Tori Eadington (Secretary) – appointed 10 September 2023
Malcolm Dean (Treasurer)
Ruby Dickens
Tony Heddon
Keith Holmes
Stephen Smith
Debbie Tweddle
Faye Watts
Kate Wheeler (Co-Chair)
Tanya Wood - appointed 27 May 2023
Carolyn Jackson - resigned

Independent Examiner	Haines Watts, Statutory Auditor, 3 rd Floor Pacific Chambers, 11-13 Victoria Street, Liverpool, L2 5QQ
----------------------	---

Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC, Newmarket, LE87 2BB
---------	--

Public Benefit Requirement

The trustees of Neuroblastoma UK confirm 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.

Section B Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The Trust is an unincorporated trust, constituted under a Trust Deed dated 20 May, 1983 and by the supplemental Deed of Amendment 9th September 2016 and is a registered Charity number 326385 in England and Wales.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Lay Trustees are appointed by the Trustees following consideration of applications received from individuals. Medical Trustees are appointed by the Trustee on the recommendation of existing Medical Trustees.

Risk Management

Trustees have considered the major risks to which the Charity may be exposed; have reviewed them and established systems and procedures to manage them. Trustees consider the possibility that money placed on investment could be at risk if the organisation holding the deposit should fail. Although current investments are placed with large, well-established financial institutions Trustees identified the need to re-examine investment policy and have concluded that investments should be spread across a number of institutions to minimise the

impact if a single fund-holder should fail. The Trust is essentially a cash based charity, holding no property. The Charity has developed sufficient internal controls to monitor and minimise the risk of misappropriation of funds.

Section C Objectives and activities

Objectives and Aims

The object of the Charity is to improve treatments and outcomes for all children suffering with neuroblastoma, and to achieve this we raise funds for vital medical research. The Charity also raises awareness of the disease, advocates for improved accessibility to treatments and provides information and support to families.

Policy on Grant-Making

Trustees invite applications for grant award by public advertisement, typically on the Charity's website. Normally this is biennially so that sufficient funds are available to commission meaningful research studies, although exceptions are occasionally made when judged appropriate by the Trustees in consultation with the Charity's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). Applications are first considered by the Charity's SAB, which is made up of 5 scientists experienced in Neuroblastoma research and a chairman who is a paediatric oncology clinician. Each application is accompanied by reports from 2 or 3 referees who have specialist knowledge of the research area proposed, and by a response from the applicants to those reports. The SAB then recommends to Trustees applications worthy of grant funding in order of merit. Trustees award grants in the light of the SAB's advice and funds available. Grants are only awarded to the extent that resources have already accrued in the Charity's unrestricted fund or appropriate restricted fund.

Section D Achievements and performance

Charitable Activities

With the residual ongoing challenges from the pandemic and the tougher economic environment, 2023 has been a year to replenish funds to build towards hosting a Neuroblastoma UK Symposium and Major Grant Round in 2024. However we did still fund new research, we cofunded with Solving Kids Cancer for the development and initial start-up costs of the REDMAPP study website led by Helen Pearson and additional funding of a research project being carried out by Prof Suzanne Turner at Cambridge investigating into personalised therapeutics to prevent and treat anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) positive neuroblastoma resistant to ALK inhibitors. Also, Neuroblastoma UK were one of the main sponsors for the International Conference in Amsterdam for the Advances in Neuroblastoma Research bringing together researchers from around the world with introductory educational sessions, presentations on the latest trials and insight into some of the basic science work being undertaken in the neuroblastoma research field. For the first time in the history of the Conference, patient advocates were a part of the main agenda and our Trustee, Stephen Smith joined other patient advocates on the panel to discuss, with questions posed by clinicians, as to how patient advocates can help improve the survival of children with Neuroblastoma.

2023 saw us hold our first advocacy event in Scotland during Children's Cancer Awareness Month, kindly hosted by Rona Mackay SNP in memory of Matthew Innes and calling on MSPs to ensure that childhood cancer is recognised as a critical research priority in Scotland and supported by members of the Scottish paediatric medical community. This was a very special and moving reception highlighting the impact of a childhood cancer diagnosis and the need for more research.

Earlier in the year we marched, with a number of other cancer charities, as 'One Cancer Voice' to hand a petition to 10 Downing Street, London calling on the government to improve outcomes and experiences for people affected with cancer.

We have worked closer with Solving Kids Cancer in 2023 looking at ways that we can work better on behalf of all children with neuroblastoma and their families and to ensure that all areas across the research spectrum receive the awareness and vital funding needed.

2023 showed a stronger financial position to 2022, in part to the £214,000 we received from the UK Government/ Medical Research Fund for charity funded early career researchers.

We are a charity reliant on voluntary income through fundraising. This is the key to our vital research and we are extremely grateful to our supporters who ran marathons, climbed mountains, dusted off their football boots, baked, sang and numerous other activities to raise money for our cause.

We received additional support in 2023 from a number of charity partners including Georgia's Fund, Vitol Foundation and Isabelle Grundy Donations Trust . We also worked with a number of corporate partners including Banks Group, Rightway Electrical, Topling Ltd, Solent Stevedores and Rosebuds & Pearls.

Additional fundraising activities from the Charity came in the launch of our weekly Lottery draw and our first time participation in the Big Give - Christmas Challenge , a match funded charity campaign .

We continued to distribute our free "Parents Guide to Neuroblastoma" and our factsheet "Treatment options for relapsed or refractory high risk neuroblastoma", online and in print, in collaboration with Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group.

The outcomes of the research we fund are published in peer-reviewed journals and where possible referenced on our website and social media platforms. Publications are also shared with other researchers at national and international meetings of researchers. Annual and Final research reports are examined and assessed by our Scientific Advisory Board .

Our sincere thanks for the continued support of fundraisers, families, researchers, expert advisers, volunteers, patrons, staff and trustees of Neuroblastoma UK in 2023.

Section E Financial review

Reserves Policy

The annual income generated by the Charity is to be applied for charitable purposes in accordance with the Trust's objective. Year on year the trustees intend to make a full distribution of available income, subject to making adequate reserves for known and potential liabilities and commitments, where applicable. Any amounts not so distributed are accumulated in the unrestricted fund. Funds committed to supporting approved research, but not immediately required are invested in line with the investment policy described below. The balance held as unrestricted reserves at 31 December, 2023 was £586,048 (2022: £72,191).

Investment Policy

The Trustees' intention is to maintain funds so that they are readily accessible when required, but are earning a reasonable return whilst not utilised. Trustees reviewed this policy in February 2005 and confirmed their policy of only placing funds in investments where the book value of the principal is maintained.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 'The financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- ❖ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ❖ observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102);
- ❖ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ❖ state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ❖ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed.

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.

Approved by the Trustees at a Zoom meeting on 2 May, 2024

Signed on their behalf and with their approval by:

MRS Z AITCHISON
Chair

MR M DEAN
Trustee and Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Neuroblastoma UK

I report to the trustees on the examination of the accounts of Neuroblastoma UK for the year ended 31 December, 2023.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I have reported in respect of the examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out the examination have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

The Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

I have completed the examination and can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination, which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011;
- 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.

Mr M J Forshaw BA FCA
Haines Watts
Pacific Chambers
11-13 Victoria Street
Liverpool
L2 5QQ

NEUROBLASTOMA UK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 31 December, 2023		Unrestricted Funds 31 December, 2022	
		£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations	2		366,478		250,365
Other trading activities	3		51,607		9,340
Income from investments	4		32,349		8,712
			<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL			450,434		268,417
 EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	5	(6,699)		(7,506)	
Charitable activities:					
Grants payable and grant amendments	6	214,525		(691,520)	
Governance costs	7	(144,403)		(119,754)	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
TOTAL			63,423		(818,780)
			<hr/>		<hr/>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)			513,857		(550,363)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward			72,191		622,554
			<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD			586,048		72,191
			<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

NEUROBLASTOMA UK
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and advance payments	9	46,341	55,176
Investments	10	967,476	845,713
Cash at bank	11	378,268	275,392
		1,392,085	1,176,281
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS			
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	12	(655,329)	(605,785)
		736,756	570,496
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due in more than one year	13,14	(150,708)	(498,305)
		586,048	72,191
NET ASSETS			
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Unrestricted fund	15	586,048	72,191
		586,048	72,191

The financial statements set out on pages 8 – 13 were approved by the Trustees on

TRUSTEE – Mrs Z Aitchison

TRUSTEE – Mr M Dean

NEUROBLASTOMA UK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January, 2015)', the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (effective January 2015) and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Donations

Cash donations and gifts are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are received by the Charity. Cash collected at special fund-raising events is included in the income and expenditure account after deducting the expenditure incurred directly in staging the event. Significant non-cash donations are included in the income and expenditure account at the Trustees' estimation of their market value when received.

Income from investments

Investment income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis.

Research grant awards

These are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities when the Trustees have awarded them. Research grants awarded, but not disbursed at the balance sheet date, are carried forward as grant creditors in the balance sheet.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Cash flow statements

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption provided by the Charities SORP (FRS102) and does not prepare a cash flow statement.

Taxation

The Charity is exempt from taxation on its charitable activities.

VAT

As a non-trading organisation the Charity is not registered for VAT purposes, and is unable to recover VAT incurred on its expenditure.

NEUROBLASTOMA UK
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2023

2.	DONATIONS	2023	2022
		£	£
	Donations and fund-raising	366,478	250,365
		<hr/>	
3.	OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	2023	2022
		£	£
	Christmas cards, webshop and other income	51,607	9,339
		<hr/>	
4.	INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS	2023	2022
		£	£
	COIF deposit	27,728	5,949
	National savings income bonds	4,621	2,763
		<hr/>	
		32,349	8,712
		<hr/>	
5.	EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS	2023	2022
		£	£
	Fund-raising and publicity costs	6,699	7,506
		<hr/>	
6.	GRANTS PAYABLE AND GRANT AMENDMENTS	2023	2022
		£	£
	Contribution from Medical Research Council	(214,525)	
	Gaze		214,385
	Chesler		469,093
	Ewing & Gao		10,000
	Conferences, Travel and Other Grants		
	Write back		(1,958)
		<hr/>	
		(214,525)	691,520
		<hr/>	

NEUROBLASTOMA UK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2023

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Rent and facilities	8,642	8,923
Staff salaries and pension contributions	87,803	67,118
Staff training	131	0
Sporting event costs	8,757	8,566
Subscriptions	2,618	2,183
Travel	1,215	177
Computers, software and equipment hire	8,439	5,195
40 th Anniversary celebration	3,307	11,792
Accounts and audit	720	5,556
Trustees meeting costs	213	0
Printing, postage and stationery	585	1,456
Sundries	414	1,727
Advertising and website	1,903	5,870
Insurance	1,155	1,119
Bank and professional charges	135	72
ANR Conference	18,366	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	144,403	119,754

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There was no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December, 2023 (2022: £NIL).

The Trust owns no premises.

9. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Receivables	1,188	1,188
Prepayments	20,403	23,238
Co-funding income	24,750	30,750
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	46,341	55,176

10. CURRENT INVESTMENTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
COIF Deposit Fund	617,476	495,713
National Savings – Income bonds	350,000	350,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	967,476	845,713

NEUROBLASTOMA UK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2023

11. **CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash at Bank	<u>378,268</u>	<u>275,392</u>

12. **CREDITORS – DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Grant commitments	548,847	562,130
Trade creditors	90,582	27,755
Accruals	900	900
Co-funding income received in advance	15,000	15,000
	<u>655,329</u>	<u>605,785</u>

13. **CREDITORS – DUE IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Grant commitments	<u>150,708</u>	<u>498,305</u>

14. **GRANT COMMITMENTS**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Total commitments at 1 January, 2023	1,060,435	682,189
Paid in the year	(373,668)	(298,275)
New commitments	12,788	676,523
Written back in the year		(2)
	<u>699,555</u>	<u>1,060,435</u>

All of the grants paid in 2023 and 2022 were to institutions and to commission research studies.
All of the new grant commitments in 2023 were to institutions.

15. **ANALYSIS OF UNRESTRICTED FUND**

	2023	2022
	£	£
At 1 January, 2023	72,191	622,554
Net movement in funds for the year	<u>513,857</u>	<u>(550,363)</u>
	<u>586,048</u>	<u>72,191</u>