

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI624114  
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NIC100332

**Science Festivals NI**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Unaudited Financial Statements**  
**30 April 2024**

Finegan Gibson Ltd  
Chartered accountants  
Causeway Tower  
9 James Street South  
Belfast  
BT2 8DN

**Science Festivals NI**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Financial Statements**  
**Year ended 30 April 2024**

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# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 30 April 2024

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The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 April 2024.

#### Reference and administrative details

**Registered charity name** Science Festivals NI

**Charity registration number** NIC100332

**Company registration number** NI624114

**Principal office and registered office** 3rd Floor  
Botanic House  
Botanic Avenue  
Belfast  
BT7 1JG

#### The trustees

Elizabeth Conlon (Treasurer) (Resigned 30 November 2023)  
Claire Lyttle (Secretary)  
Judith Harvey  
Jonathan Wallace  
Alan Fitzsimmons  
Anthony Byrne  
William Connor  
Victoria Simms (Chairperson)  
Donna-Marie Rogers  
Sara Catherine Gunn-Smith (Resigned 9 December 2024)  
Cailin Lynn (Appointed 9 December 2024)  
Simon Bailie (Appointed 9 December 2024)

**Independent examiner** Finegan Gibson

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 30 April 2024

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#### Structure, governance and management

##### *Governing Document*

Science Festivals NI is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 15th April 2014. Science Festivals NI is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. Science Festivals NI is a membership organisation each of whom agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

##### *Appointment of trustees*

The Chairperson and the Trustees recruit and select new Trustees as needed. New Trustees are recruited on the relevance of their professional skills, and their potential to be able to make a helpful contribution to the governance of the charity. As part of the recruitment process they are made aware of a Trustees' legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity.

Once the potential new Trustee has agreed to be considered for appointment to the role, the Trustees meet to review and to vote on the candidates' suitability for appointment. If there is unanimous agreement their names are then proposed for appointment to the voting Members of the Company at the next Annual General Meeting.

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

#### Year ended 30 April 2024

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##### Objectives and activities

The purposes of the charity are to advance the education of the public about science by offering accessible, creative and relevant activities to the broadest possible range of people in particular (but not exclusively) by:

- Providing events that enable the broadest possible group of people to have a better understanding of how science is part of, and impacts on, their everyday life;
- Providing an annual science festival in Northern Ireland accessible to all members and the public to enable and promote better understanding of how science, technology, engineering, maths and the arts are part of, and impacts on, their everyday life;
- Collaborating with local educational institutions, businesses, arts organisations and charities to engage the public with scientific and technological developments;
- Providing a platform for the scientists in Northern Ireland and/or United Kingdom and/or Ireland to talk to a diverse audience about what they do, and stimulate interest in their work;
- Facilitating dialogue between scientists and the public providing hands on, interactive science events with broad and lasting impact which will encourage increased public engagement across Northern Ireland;
- Building relationships with other similar science activities and festivals to share best practice, ideas and resources;
- Promote openness about science in society between scientists and the public;
- Promote the intercourse of those who cultivate science, particularly through the arts, in different parts of Northern Ireland, the remainder of the United Kingdom, Europe and beyond;
- Maintain, developing and extending the social and international relations of science.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help.

The review also helps us ensure our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

#### Year ended 30 April 2024

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#### Achievements and performance

##### *Activity*

The main activity and duty of the Festival is to run an 11 day Festival taking place in February. This took place across over 110 venues across Northern Ireland with live events for all ages. We had over 340 unique events and performances, which consisted of a mixture of international and local speakers, with events developed by both the Festival and its partners for the public, schools and educators programmes.

##### *Performance*

With an audience exceeding 45,000 people, the NI Science Festival exceeded our expectations of what was achievable in a challenging year of cost of living concerns, increased activity and the team working on multiple projects. Audience and stakeholder feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with 96% of respondents indicating that they would come to similar events in the future. 58% of respondents were new visitors to the festival.

The Festivals partnership with the Nerve Centre continued with the team focusing on delivering the schools programme and assisting the core team with programming the North West programme. This approach paid dividends with the schools programme expanding massively from previous years. Continued investment in the schools programme should be explored as an option in future years.

Our extensive reach has always been important to us and balancing this direct engagement activity alongside that of our partners is key to continuing the connection we have with communities across the whole of Northern Ireland. This year over 25% of the festival was free to attend. Regional events increased by 9% this year, with 53% of the public event programme taking place outside Belfast City.

The quality of events surpassed the high bar reached in previous years, and has shown growth since the effects of the Covid Pandemic have subsided, providing a firm foundation for future consolidation and growth for our eleventh festival in 2025.

##### *Key Events*

##### *Science Communication skills.*

The festival brought back 'FameLab' after a 5 year hiatus to great success, partnering with Queens and Ulster University. FameLab is designed to find and support the next generation of NI Science Festival science communicators and equip them with the skills to engage the public in their research in an exciting and engaging way. The process provides training and support to upskill researchers in best practice for communicating their research to the general public. FameLab also gives access to a worldwide network of trainers and institutions for sharing resources. We had over 40 applications from local candidates and 11 finalists presenting their work during the festival. The winner Aaron Monson went on to take part in the UK Final.

##### *Autopsy Commission*

Commissioned by NISF, AUTOPSY was a live theatrical exploration through the anatomy created by Axolotl. A multi-sensory journey that educated and informed on the importance of the greatest machine; the human body. Dr Marise Heyns, Senior Lecturer in Anatomy at Ulster University provided expert guidance on the processes in an autopsy which informed the final production. Local actor Mary Lindsay provided the voiceover of the anatomist. This project will encourage the festival to look at future commissions of unique work.

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 30 April 2024

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#### ***The Compass***

The Compass was a projection mapped installation in Belfast's 2 Royal Avenue space, celebrating science by bringing to life the thoughts, hopes and dreams of researchers from across the UK. British science researchers are revealed as pioneering explorers on voyages of discovery, with new horizons to explore. Featuring the voice of Dr Chris MGonigle of Ulster University. The Compass was commissioned by the British Science Festival, Created by Illuminos, and produced by event production specialists, Inspirate and presented at the festival as our key opening event.

#### ***Regional Roadshow***

The festival is committed to reaching across Northern Ireland and bringing high quality science communication to families through the Regional Roadshow. The tour went to Bangor, Newcastle, Enniskillen and Portrush and featured two newly developed shows. The Super Nature Show with BBC's Chantelle and Rory. Co-produced by Chantelle and Rory, originated from their beloved Cbeebies program, Tiny Tiny Creatures, for ages 3- 6. This was developed with RSPB's support and was their first ever in theatre-style performance. The Science of Jurassic World featuring Jon Chase, a seasoned science communicator, led his first interactive talk on the Jurassic World franchise, targeting children 8yrs+. Paired with local palaeontologist Mike Simms, from National Museums Northern Ireland, they provided engaging interaction with rocks and fossils for the audience.

#### ***Foyle Science Showcase***

We continued to support work in the North West and brought back the Foyle Science Showcase after a period of hiatus after Covid. We had over 1000 attend the public day and over 600 at their schools day. Featuring stands from Loughs Agency, Acorn Farms, various AR/VR and AI based events from the Ulster University, Kainos and Geoenergy NI. We were excited to be able to have a mini Planetarium at the event thanks to the help of the Armagh Planetarium and to host BBC weatherman, Barra Best, show the young people how a weather report is made and use a green screen to produce their own reports.

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

#### Year ended 30 April 2024

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##### **Achievements and performance** *(continued)*

###### ***Rathlin Island Events***

The NI Science Festival wishes to reach all corners of Northern Ireland with programming and for year two of our work on Rathlin Island established partnerships with RSPB and Manor House hotel. 24 events took place on the Island, with 600 hours of engagement. 28kg of litter was removed during a beach clean.

###### ***Full STEAM Ahead***

For the landmark 10th year, NI Science Festival took over the Ulster Transport Museum with a day of interactive activities, workshops, immersive experiences. This was a pilot project with NMNI, as an audience engagement tool and we hope to continue in future festivals. Over 2,200 attended the event and 91% were satisfied.

###### ***Dark Matters***

Dark Matters: A night of short fiction inspired by John Stewart Bell and CERN celebrated one of Belfast's most famous physicists through fiction, biography and a little bit of science. The event was supported by the British Council and included: Lucy Caldwell - Award winning Belfast author, Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and the writer of the short story 'Dark Matters', featured in Collisions. Michael Davis - A computer scientist and software engineer working for CERN. Michael joined the Storage and Data Management group in CERN's IT department, where he now leads the team responsible for the long-term archival storage of the physics data and Andrew Whitaker - A Professor of Physics at Queens' University Belfast.

###### ***Year Round Programme***

Over 21,500 people were engaged in our year round programme of events.

###### **British Science Association Genomics Projects**

We held Discover Dogs Day, looking at genetics, healthcare and assistance dogs at Queens' University with a series of talks, demos and exhibits.

Songs of Genomics was a collaboration with the Clinical Ethics Law Society and HIVE Choir to create and perform new songs about genetics.

Earth Day: The Festival teamed up with Brink! To host a day of climate activities, including a seed swap, panel discussion and a talk from headline speaker Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock. Belfast Maritime Festival Curated by the festival, Science Street included interactive exhibits, live performances and engaging science activities exploring topics such as navigation, marine biology and biodiversity. Over 20,000 attended.

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 30 April 2024

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#### Financial review

Science Festivals made a loss during the year of £9,373 (2023: £99,685 surplus). At 30 April 2024, Science Festivals had unrestricted reserves of £374,188 and restricted funds of £5,688.

#### ***Reserves policy and going concern***

Reserves are needed to bridge the timing gap between spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned temporary shortfalls in income should they arise. Holding adequate reserves safeguards the provision of our services in the event of unexpected significant financial pressures. The organisation is currently dependent on a small number of key funders to sustain its activities. This means that if there were to be a gap in this income or a funder(s) did not commit to the next Festival, Science Festivals NI would face significant financial pressure threatening its contractual commitment to deliver a Festival and the future sustainability of the organisation. To mitigate risks associated with funding difficulties the board has agreed to set a target level of financial reserves to ensure that main operations can continue and the organisation can still deliver its primary objective of delivering a Festival each year.

Unrestricted reserves freely available to spend, therefore excluding fixed assets, restricted reserves and designated reserves amounted to £373,981 which was in line with the target level. The trustees believe this represents a sufficient level of reserve to ensure that the going concern assumption is appropriate.

#### Plans for future periods

Science Festivals NI is continuing to grow in scale and has completed a strategic review in 2023 to plan for the forthcoming 10th Festival with a strategic plan for 2024-2028. The organisation is also planning to continue to grow its reach and range of events throughout Northern Ireland.

#### ***Cost of Living Crisis***

The trustees are mindful of the risk to the festival due to the cost of living crisis which will affect funders and audiences. The festival will continue to provide free or low cost events for people across Northern Ireland and look at new funding pathways to protect the organisation. The trustees are mindful of the risk to the festival due to the cost of living crisis which will affect funders and audiences. The festival will continue to provide free or low cost events for people across Northern Ireland and look at new funding pathways to protect the organisation.

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 30 April 2024

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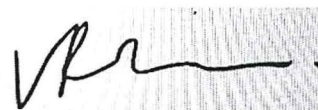
#### Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 9 December 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Claire Lyttle (Secretary)  
Trustee



Victoria Simms (Chairperson)  
Trustee

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Science Festivals NI

Year ended 30 April 2024

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Science Festivals NI ('the charity') for the year ended 30 April 2024.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 65 of the 2008 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

## Science Festivals NI

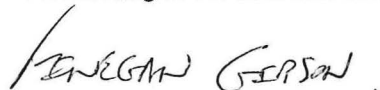
Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Science Festivals NI *(continued)*

Year ended 30 April 2024

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I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Finegan Gibson  
Independent Examiner  
Causeway Tower  
9 James Street South  
Belfast  
BT2 8DN

9th December 2024

# Science Festivals NI

Company Limited by Guarantee

## Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 30 April 2024

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		2024		2023	
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
<b>Income and endowments</b>					
Charitable activities	5	115,360	237,125	352,485	602,068
Other trading activities	6	93,438	–	93,438	74,529
Other income	7	–	–	–	5,429
<b>Total income</b>		<u>208,798</u>	<u>237,125</u>	<u>445,923</u>	<u>682,026</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Expenditure on charitable activities	8	<u>217,059</u>	<u>238,237</u>	<u>455,296</u>	<u>582,341</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>217,059</u>	<u>238,237</u>	<u>455,296</u>	<u>582,341</u>
		–	–	–	–
<b>Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds</b>		<u>(8,261)</u>	<u>(1,112)</u>	<u>(9,373)</u>	<u>99,685</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>382,449</u>	<u>6,800</u>	<u>389,249</u>	<u>289,564</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>374,188</u>	<u>5,688</u>	<u>379,876</u>	<u>389,249</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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The notes on pages 13 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

**Science Festivals NI**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Statement of Financial Position**

**30 April 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	14	207	749
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	15	43,679	139,907
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>343,036</u>	<u>274,929</u>
		386,715	414,836
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	16	<u>7,046</u>	<u>26,336</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>379,669</u>	<u>388,500</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>379,876</u>	<u>389,249</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>379,876</u>	<u>389,249</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>			
Restricted funds		5,688	6,800
Unrestricted funds		<u>374,188</u>	<u>382,449</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>	18	<u>379,876</u>	<u>389,249</u>

For the year ending 30 April 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

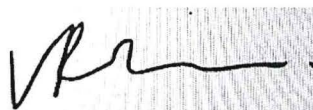
- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 9 December 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Claire Lyttle (Secretary)  
Trustee



Victoria Simms (Chairperson)  
Trustee

The notes on pages 13 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 30 April 2024

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#### 1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland and a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is 3rd Floor, Botanic House, Botanic Avenue, Belfast, BT7 1JG.

#### 2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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 (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

#### 3. Accounting policies

##### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

##### Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

##### Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

##### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

#### Year ended 30 April 2024

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#### 3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

##### Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

##### Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

##### Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

#### Year ended 30 April 2024

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#### 3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

##### Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

##### Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	20% straight line
Equipment	-	33% straight line

##### Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

##### Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

#### Year ended 30 April 2024

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#### 3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

##### Financial instruments *(continued)*

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

##### Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

#### 4. Limited by guarantee

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 30 April 2024

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#### 5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Belfast City Council	26,200	97,600	123,800
Department of the Economy	–	93,000	93,000
Queen's University Belfast	5,000	–	5,000
Ulster University	20,000	–	20,000
British Council	–	10,000	10,000
British Science Association	2,460	7,938	10,398
MCS	10,000	–	10,000
Tourism NI	–	–	–
Kainos Sponsorship	1,000	–	1,000
Royal Society of Chemistry	5,000	–	5,000
RSPB	2,000	–	2,000
National museums	15,000	–	15,000
Institute of Physics	2,000	–	2,000
Halifax	–	–	–
CQ Bid	500	–	500
RSPCA	–	–	–
Belfast Harbour Commission	–	5,000	5,000
Innovate UK	–	–	–
Derry and Strabane Council	–	20,787	20,787
Matrix NI	10,000	–	10,000
Film Hub NI	5,000	–	5,000
The Nerve Centre	–	–	–
Open University	5,000	–	5,000
Arts and Business	1,200	2,800	4,000
Collective Act	–	–	–
Open College Network	5,000	–	5,000
	<u>115,360</u>	<u>237,125</u>	<u>352,485</u>

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 30 April 2024

#### 5. Charitable activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Belfast City Council	–	99,904	99,904
Department of the Economy	–	83,000	83,000
Queen's University Belfast	–	5,000	5,000
Ulster University	20,000	–	20,000
British Council	5,000	–	5,000
British Science Association	–	4,400	4,400
MCS	10,000	–	10,000
Tourism NI	30,000	–	30,000
Kainos Sponsorship	–	–	–
Royal Society of Chemistry	–	–	–
RSPB	–	–	–
National museums	–	–	–
Institute of Physics	2,000	–	2,000
Halifax	–	5,700	5,700
CQ Bid	1,000	–	1,000
RSPCA	2,000	–	2,000
Belfast Harbour Commission	–	3,950	3,950
Innovate UK	10,000	–	10,000
Derry and Strabane Council	–	23,309	23,309
Matrix NI	10,000	–	10,000
Film Hub NI	5,000	–	5,000
The Nerve Centre	–	47,317	47,317
Open University	5,000	–	5,000
Arts and Business	–	–	–
Collective Act	229,488	–	229,488
Open College Network	–	–	–
	<u>329,488</u>	<u>272,580</u>	<u>602,068</u>

#### 6. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Ticket income	<u>93,438</u>	<u>93,438</u>	<u>74,529</u>	<u>74,529</u>

#### 7. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets held for charity's own use	–	–	1,000	1,000
Other income	–	–	<u>4,429</u>	<u>4,429</u>
	–	–	<u>5,429</u>	<u>5,429</u>

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 30 April 2024

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#### 8. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total funds 2024	Total fund 2023
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	412,693	28,284	440,977	576,101
Governance costs	–	14,319	14,319	6,240
	<u>412,693</u>	<u>42,603</u>	<u>455,296</u>	<u>582,341</u>

#### 9. Analysis of support costs

	Analysis of support costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Premises	17,273	17,273	18,436
General office	11,011	11,011	24,850
Governance costs	14,319	14,319	6,240
	<u>42,603</u>	<u>42,603</u>	<u>49,526</u>

#### 10. Net (expenditure)/income

Net (expenditure)/income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	677	632
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	–	(1,000)
Loss on disposal of heritage assets	–	384
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	–	3,780
	<u>–</u>	<u>3,780</u>

#### 11. Independent examination fees

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>2,100</u>	<u>–</u>

#### 12. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	112,751	173,388
Social security costs	6,478	11,350
Employer contributions to pension plans	5,111	4,994
	<u>124,340</u>	<u>189,732</u>

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# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

#### Year ended 30 April 2024

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#### 12. Staff costs *(continued)*

The average head count of employees during the year was 3 (2023: 14).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

#### Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £48,595 (2023:£46,146).

#### 13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2023:£Nil). No trustee received reimbursement for travel expenses during the year (2023: £Nil).

No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity in the year.(2023:£Nil).

#### 14. Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 May 2023	3,215
Additions	135
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<u>3,350</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 1 May 2023	2,466
Charge for the year	677
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<u>3,143</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<u>207</u>
At 30 April 2023	<u>749</u>

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

#### Year ended 30 April 2024

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##### 15. Debtors

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	43,679	139,682
Other debtors	–	225
	<u>43,679</u>	<u>139,907</u>

##### 16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,676	22,259
Accruals and deferred income	2,100	3,570
Social security and other taxes	1,543	–
Pension creditor	727	298
Net wages creditor	–	209
	<u>7,046</u>	<u>26,336</u>

##### 17. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

###### Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £5,111 (2023: £4,994).

##### 18. Analysis of charitable funds

###### Unrestricted funds

	At				At
	1 May 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	30 April 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>382,449</u>	<u>208,798</u>	<u>(217,059)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>374,188</u>

	At				At
	1 May 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	30 April 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>282,258</u>	<u>409,446</u>	<u>(330,604)</u>	<u>21,349</u>	<u>382,449</u>

## Science Festivals NI

### Company Limited by Guarantee

#### Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

#### Year ended 30 April 2024

#### 18. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

##### Restricted funds

	At 1 May 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 30 April 2024 £
Department of the Economy	–	93,000	(93,000)	–	–
Belfast City Council	–	97,600	(97,600)	–	–
Derry and Strabane Council	–	20,787	(20,787)	–	–
The Nerve Centre	–	–	–	–	–
Queens University	–	–	–	–	–
British Science Association	4,400	7,938	(6,650)	–	5,688
Halifax	2,400	–	(2,400)	–	–
Belfast Harbour Commission	–	5,000	(5,000)	–	–
British Council	–	10,000	(10,000)	–	–
Arts and Business	–	2,800	(2,800)	–	–
	<u>6,800</u>	<u>237,125</u>	<u>(238,237)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>5,688</u>

	At 1 May 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 30 April 2023 £
Department of the Economy	–	83,000	(82,651)	(349)	–
Belfast City Council	–	99,904	(99,904)	–	–
Derry and Strabane Council	–	23,309	(23,309)	–	–
The Nerve Centre	7,306	47,317	(33,623)	(21,000)	–
Queens University	–	5,000	(5,000)	–	–
British Science Association	–	4,400	–	–	4,400
Halifax	–	5,700	(3,300)	–	2,400
Belfast Harbour Commission	–	3,950	(3,950)	–	–
British Council	–	–	–	–	–
Arts and Business	–	–	–	–	–
	<u>7,306</u>	<u>272,580</u>	<u>(251,737)</u>	<u>(21,349)</u>	<u>6,800</u>

A Transfer has taken place in the prior year which relates to fixed assets. Science Festivals have used funding to purchase an asset which has been transferred to Unrestricted Funds as Science Festivals fully own the asset, no restriction has been placed on the asset. A Transfer has also taken place in the year to reclassify production fee income to Unrestricted Funds.

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

#### Year ended 30 April 2024

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#### 19. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	207	–	207
Current assets	381,027	5,688	386,715
Creditors less than 1 year	(7,046)	–	(7,046)
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>374,188</u>	<u>5,688</u>	<u>379,876</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	749	–	749
Current assets	408,036	6,800	414,836
Creditors less than 1 year	(26,336)	–	(26,336)
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>382,449</u>	<u>6,800</u>	<u>389,249</u>

#### 20. Corporation tax

The Charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

#### 21. Contingencies

A contingent liability exists to repay grants received should certain conditions not be fulfilled by the charity. In the opinion of the Trustees, the terms of the Letters of Offer have been, or will be, complied with and no liability is expected.

#### 22. Related parties

There were no related parties in the 23/24 year (2023:£Nil)

**Science Festivals NI**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Management Information**  
**Year ended 30 April 2024**

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The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 30 April 2024

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	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Income and endowments</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Belfast City Council	123,800	99,904
Department of the Economy	93,000	83,000
Queen's University Belfast	5,000	5,000
Ulster University	20,000	20,000
British Council	10,000	5,000
British Science Association	10,398	4,400
MCS	10,000	10,000
Tourism NI	–	30,000
Kainos Sponsorship	1,000	–
Royal Society of Chemistry	5,000	–
RSPB	2,000	–
National museums	15,000	–
Institute of Physics	2,000	2,000
Halifax	–	5,700
CQ Bid	500	1,000
RSPCA	–	2,000
Belfast Harbour Commission	5,000	3,950
Innovate UK	–	10,000
Derry and Strabane Council	20,787	23,309
Matrix NI	10,000	10,000
Film Hub NI	5,000	5,000
The Nerve Centre	–	47,317
Open University	5,000	5,000
Arts and Business	4,000	–
Collective Act	–	229,488
Open College Network	5,000	–
	<u>352,485</u>	<u>602,068</u>
<b>Other trading activities</b>		
Ticket income	<u>93,438</u>	<u>74,529</u>
<b>Other income</b>		
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets held for charity's own use	–	1,000
Other income	–	4,429
	<u>–</u>	<u>5,429</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<u>445,923</u>	<u>682,026</u>

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# Science Festivals NI

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Notes to the Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 30 April 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
<b><i>Activities undertaken directly</i></b>		
Wages and salaries	112,751	173,388
Employer's NIC	6,478	11,350
Pension costs	5,111	4,994
Staff travel and subsistence	1,133	2,653
Depreciation	677	632
Loss on disposal of assets	–	384
Training costs	1,192	–
Performer & Speaker Travel	10,254	13,752
Performer & Speaker Fees	83,075	56,803
Subscriptions and memberships	239	913
Project support costs	–	12,669
Marketing	73,000	93,130
Performer and production costs	52,181	128,277
Event catering	834	189
Venue costs	–	778
Venue hire	40,033	33,450
R&D	176	(547)
Bad debt	25,559	–
	<u>412,693</u>	<u>532,815</u>
<b><i>Support costs</i></b>		
Rent	13,860	15,005
Insurance	3,413	3,431
Other office costs	1,860	3,058
General expenses	9,151	21,792
	<u>28,284</u>	<u>43,286</u>
<b><i>Governance costs</i></b>		
Independent examiners fees	2,100	–
Audit fees	–	3,780
Legal and professional fees	11,064	–
Accountancy fees	936	2,306
Governance costs - other finance costs	219	154
	<u>14,319</u>	<u>6,240</u>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<u>455,296</u>	<u>582,341</u>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>	<u>(9,373)</u>	<u>99,685</u>