



**Polish
Abroad**

www.polishabroad.co.uk

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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POLISH ABROAD ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2024

The trustees of Polish Abroad are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period 6th April 2023 to 5th April 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS AND WORK DONE

Financial year 2023-2024 was the 16th year for Polish Abroad during which we were engaged in several different initiatives and projects which directly relate to the aims and objectives as well as the public benefits of the organisation.

As ever we were dedicated to developing our policies and procedures as well as working on quality areas for the management of the organisation. The year was a seventh full year as a registered charity in Northern Ireland for Polish Abroad.

POLISH ABROAD SATURDAY SCHOOL

Polish Abroad Saturday School has been our main and biggest project since the start of it in 2008. Mrs Paulina Zalewska-Oriola continued to be the Principal of the school and Ms Agnieszka Cyrulska was the Vice-Principal. The success of the school would have not been possible without active involvement and dedication of not only the teachers and teaching assistants, but also of volunteers, parents and pupils.

Polish Abroad was successful in obtaining funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, the Executive Office, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland and Stowarzyszenie "Wspólnota Polska" (KPRM). We continued to use the premises of Rosemount Primary School in Helen Street.

We have managed to maintain and develop our School Library with special thanks to parents who ran and maintained it throughout the year on a voluntary basis. Thanks to the funding we were able to secure, we also expanded our book collection, which is available for pupils and aids in developing reading skills.

We ran five age groups for children aged 3 to 13. The lessons were delivered over 32 Saturdays from 10:05am till 1:25 pm, followed by five extracurricular clubs until 2.15 pm. The clubs proved to be very popular and successful with our pupils, and we hope to continue the format if only future funding allows us.

OTHER INITIATIVES

We have organised three information sessions on topics such as: EU Settlement Scheme, Joining Family Members and their rights, welfare benefits post Brexit and Race Hate Crime support attended by 71 people. Those have proven to be successful and positive feedback has been received with further sessions planned.

Additionally, to celebrate 15 years of work of Polish Abroad we have organised an event commemorating Poland regaining independence and celebrating our work to date.

To promote active citizenship among the members of Polish community we encouraged attendance and promoted events regarding voting rights, political debates, cultural tourism and peace, community planning, to name a few examples.

MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER GROUPS

Polish Abroad remains highly involved in work both on a local and regional level. We were one of the founding members of Foyle BME Voluntary Collective and Foyle Race Equality Forum.

On a regional level we cooperate with other polish organisations in Northern Ireland.

We also have a member representing the BAME community on the Derry City and Strabane District Council PEACE IV Board.

ONLINE PRESENCE

We continue to run our website www.polishabroad.co.uk including a separate page for the Polish Abroad Saturday School. We continue to post on Facebook and Twitter @PolishAbroadNI. Our Facebook account has over 1300 followers with our posts reaching over 50,000 people over the year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Polish Abroad accounts are kept and prepared in accordance with *The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015*. This legislation applies to all registered charities and sets out:

- the form and content of charity accounts (receipts and payments or accruals accounts)
- the form and content of the trustees' annual report
- the level of external scrutiny required, i.e. independent examination or audit.

As per the regulations Polish Abroad has prepared receipts and payments accounts with unqualified report for a charity that is not a company and has an income of £250,000 or less.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Financial performance in the year to 5th April 2024 has been broadly consistent with the trustee's forecasts and expectations.

The year ended with fund balance of £48,659 (compared to £36,633 for the same date last year) although this is based on the receipts and payments accounting basis. Detailed accounts can be found on pages 7-10.

INCOME

Income receipts for the year totalled £50,574.

Polish Abroad income is generally healthy and remains consistent with previous performance.

The income shows £9,621 of unrestricted funds.

From funding applications made for 2023/2024 financial year we have been awarded the following:

Stowarzyszenie "Wspólnota Polska" (KPRM)	£4483
The Executive Office – MEDF	£9750
Consulate General of the Republic of Poland	£520
The National Lottery Community Fund (From 1 st September 2022 – 31 st August 2024)	£43,440
Allstate NI	£2,000

Out of restricted grants £9,750 was still to be paid by the funders as the payments were not received by 5th April 2024.

The fees from parents relating to the Polish Abroad Saturday School (monthly fees, clubs and other fees) totalled £7,621.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure for the year totalled £38,548 – a slight increase on the previous year (£34,927). Again, the category-by-category analysis which follows in the full accounts will demonstrate that expenditure is well managed and controlled. There are no outstanding liabilities.

CHEQUES NOT CLEARED AT BANK ON 5TH APRIL 2024 AND OTHER LIABILITIES

On 5th April 2024 there were cheques not cleared at the bank totalling £2,480.

ASSETS

Apart from monetary assets Polish Abroad also has other assets as listed on page 8. The value of the assets is difficult to estimate because of the age of the items listed; however, purchase prices are listed in the accounts.


MAJOR RISKS

In our Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 5th April 2024 we have not identified any major risks.

Approved and adopted by the Board and Members at Annual General Meeting on 30th November 2024 and signed on their behalf:

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 Polish Abroad <small>www.polishabroad.co.uk</small>	Charity Name:		Charity No.	
	Polish Abroad		NIC102361	
	Receipts and payments accounts			
	For the period from	06/04/2023	till	05/04/2024
Section A Receipts and payments				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £			
A1 Receipts				
Grants	2,000	40,953	42,953	38,126
PASS project fees	7,621	-	7,621	12,434
Other charitable receipts	-	-	-	-
A1 Total receipts (Gross income for the Annual Return)	9,621	40,953	50,574	50,560
A2 Payments				
Polish Abroad Saturday School - Facilitators' Fees	222	20,338	20,560	20,322
PASS Venue Hire	-	5,440	5,440	5,295
PASS Resources	358	1,416	1,774	2,286
PASS Cultural Celebrations & Events	2,412	4,223	6,635	3,162
Insurance	-	394	394	388
Office rent	-	1,740	1,740	1,740
Bank charges	212	-	212	200
Transport	307	920	1,227	200
Other project costs	506	60	566	1,334
A2 Total payments	4,018	34,530	38,548	34,927
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,603	6,423	12,026	15,633
A3 Transfers between accounts	-	-	-	13,000
A4 Cash funds last year end	36,633	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	42,236	6,423	48,659	36,633

Polish Abroad - NIC102361		Period end date: till		05/04/2024	
Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period					
Categories	Details	Funds in account		Total funds	Last year
		to nearest £			
B1 Cash funds	Polish Abroad	25,520		25,520	16,030
	Saturday School	23,139		23,139	20,603
	Other	-		-	-
	Total cash funds	48,659		48,659	36,633
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
		to nearest £			
B2 Other monetary assets	TEO - MEDF	-	9,750	9,750	-
	Other	-	-	-	-
		-	9,750	9,750	-
B3 Other assets			Price at purchase to nearest £	Year of purchase	Comments
	Toshiba Satellite Pro L850		£ 585.00	2012	Obsolete
	ASUS VivoBook 14 K403J		£ 589.00	2021	
	ASUS VivoBook 14 K403J		£ 589.00	2021	
	ASUS VivoBook 14 K403J		£ 589.00	2021	
	Brother HL-L3230CDW		£ 199.00	2021	
	JBL - Flip 5 Portable Bluetooth Speaker		£ 99.00	2021	
	JBL - Flip 5 Portable Bluetooth Speaker		£ 99.00	2021	
	Digital Projector Epson EB LCD XGA 2600Lm		£ 370.00	2012	
	ViewSonic PA503X		£ 322.96	2021	
	Projector Screen Metroplan Tripod Screen		£ 85.00	2012	
	4G router Archer MR400		£ 113.49	2021	
	Waterproof Tent Marquee		£ 100.00	2015	Obsolete
	Books, games, resources		£ 700.00	2008-2021	Approx.
			Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	Last year
B4 Liabilities	Cheque not cleared	Unrestricted		-	-
	Cheque not cleared	Restricted		2,480	-
	Other	N/A		-	-
				2,480	-

Notes

Analysis of receipts and payments

1 Grants

Grants awarded for the given financial year (grant payments in accounts may relate to different financial years depending on the payment date of backdated claims)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total current period	Total last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Minority Ethnic Development Fund	-	9,030	9,030	9,750
Konsulat Generalny RP w Belfascie	-	520	520	600
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	26,520	26,520	-
Allstate NI	2,000	-	2,000	-
Stowarzyszenie Wspolnota Polska	-	4,483	4,483	2,301
PSU Newry	-	400	400	-
Total	2,000	40,953	42,953	12,651

2 Gross receipts from other sources

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total current period	Total last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Parental fees relating to Polish Abroad Saturday School	7,621	-	7,621	12,434
Total	7,621	-	7,621	12,434

ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

No expenses were paid to any of the Trustees during the year except to reimburse them for purchases made on behalf of Polish Abroad or to cover fees for professional delivery.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 as well as *The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015* permit a charity to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities where gross income in the financial year does not exceed £250,000, therefore receipts and payments accounts and a statement of assets and liabilities has been prepared and presented for the year ended 5th April 2024.

All Income, including grants is recorded when received.

All Expenditure is recorded when paid.

All outstanding grant payments and liabilities (cheques not cleared) are also included for clarity.

No valuations have been provided for assets held all prices are either estimates or price at purchase date.

INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY

The accounts have been independently examined as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and the examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act by Mrs Gabrielle Doherty.

Approved and adopted by the Board and Members at Annual General Meeting on 30th November 2024 and signed on their behalf:

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I report on the accounts of Polish Abroad for the year ended 05 April 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Gabrielle Doherty
c/o BCDA
283 Ormeau Road
Belfast BT7 3GG

Date:

Signature:

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

CHARITY NAME

Polish Abroad

CHARITY NUMBER

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland, No. NIC102361

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

HOLYWELL - DiverseCity Community Partnership

10-14 Bishop Street

Derry~Londonderry

BT48 6PW

CHARITY TRUSTEES AS OF 5TH APRIL 2024

Mrs Kamila Parkinson	Chairperson
Mrs Anna Stefanska-McEwlee	Treasurer
Mrs Paulina Callan	Secretary
Dr Adam Lapicki	Officer
Mrs Anna Szykaruk	Officer

ADVISORS

Banking	HSBC UK Bank plc Belfast Royal Avenue 25-29 Royal Avenue BT1 1FB	
Insurance Broker and Underwriter	Towergate Dawson Whyte 17-21 Bishop Street Derry~Londonderry BT48 6PR	Ansvar Insurance Ansvar House St Leonards Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 3UR

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

Polish Abroad is an unincorporated association and is governed by a constitution adopted and last amended 26th January 2019 which is available from our website at www.polishabroad.co.uk.

TRUSTEE SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Polish Abroad is managed by a Committee also called a Board which consists of all the appointed trustees. The number of Board members is in line with the governing document which is from 4 to 8. The Committee meets typically once every two months and holds a minimum of 6 meetings per year.

Apart from the Trustees, the Board appoints a Coordinator who is responsible for the day-to-day running of the organisation. Since 2011, Miss Agnieszka Luczak has been the Coordinator of Polish Abroad.

At each meeting the Coordinator reports to the Board, the Treasurer presents the latest accounts and these are reviewed against budgets and forecasts; spending is discussed and approved. Officers may authorise some spending, between meetings, within set limits but must ensure such spending is reported at the next meeting.

The meetings also offer a forum to review recent activities on all the Polish Abroad projects and to plan forthcoming events. Further *ad hoc* meetings are called if required, for example to plan and manage special events or projects.

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts are prepared by the Coordinator, approved by the trustees and then presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting for approval.

We would like to express our gratitude for the support of Polish Abroad to our funders:



Consulate General
of the Republic of Poland
in Belfast

We extend the thanks for ongoing support to:



CHARITABLE PURPOSES

The aims and objectives of Polish Abroad are set out in our Constitution.

The aims of the Polish Abroad are to:

1. Contribute to the advancement of citizenship and community development through social, cultural and educational projects undertaken either independently or together with organisations sharing the same objectives.
2. Work in partnership with other community and charity organisations, their representatives and officials as well as other relevant organisations and agencies to formulate and implement constructive strategies to encourage the promotion of the Polish Community in Northern Ireland.
3. Raise awareness among the wider community of the needs and rights and the contribution of the Polish Community in the interest of community relations in the North West.
4. Bring together members of the Polish community to develop and advance their arts, culture and heritage.
5. Advance the education of the Polish Community in the North West by providing educational opportunities.
6. Advance the amateur sport among the Polish Community in the North West and its environs.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

Contribute to the advancement of citizenship and community development through social, cultural and educational projects undertaken either independently or together with organisations sharing the same objectives. Work in partnership with other community and charity organisations, their representatives and officials as well as other relevant organisations and agencies to formulate and implement constructive strategies to encourage the promotion of the Polish Community in the North West of Northern Ireland. Raise awareness among the wider community of the needs and rights and the contribution of the Polish Community in the interest of community relations in the North West.

The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include encouraging and extending the participation in the voluntary sector of the Polish Community. The benefits will be demonstrated through records of participation as well as formal and informal evaluation of events and projects.

This purpose of our charity does not lead to any harm.

The charity's beneficiaries are members of the Polish community in the North West and its environs. It could also benefit the majority community who will improve their understanding about the minority communities living in the North West.

The only private benefit flowing from this purpose is the training that will be available to the members of Polish Abroad and this is incidental and necessary to carry out the functions of the organisation.

Bring together members of the Polish community to develop and advance their arts, culture and heritage. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include the preservation of Polish traditions and customs, Polish traditional crafts and the Polish culture and language. These benefits will be demonstrated through records of participation in the cultural events as well as formal and informal evaluation.

This purpose of our charity does not lead to any harm.

The charity's beneficiaries are the Polish community living in the North West and its environs as well as the local community.

The private benefit flowing from this purpose is remuneration for the project facilitators as well as the training provided and this is incidental and necessary to effectively carry out the purpose.

Advance the education of the Polish Community in the North West by providing educational opportunities.

The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include the better knowledge of the Polish language and culture among the Polish community in the North West and its environs. This benefit will be demonstrated through attendance records of our projects as well as project evaluation.

This purpose of our charity does not lead to any harm.

The charity's beneficiaries are young people participating in our educational projects as well as their families and extended families living in the North West and its environs.

The private benefit flowing from this purpose is remuneration for the project facilitators as well as the training provided and this is incidental and necessary to effectively carry out the purpose.

Advance the amateur sport among the Polish Community in the North West and its environs. The direct benefit which flows from purpose involves the advancement of angling and the promotion of health among the Polish community.

These benefits will be demonstrated through participation records in amateur angling events.

This purpose of our charity may lead to accidental physical harm, however, this risk will be carefully assessed and managed so potential benefits will outweigh the harm.

The charity's beneficiaries are Polish community in the North West and its environs as well as the local community.

The only private benefit flowing from this purpose is any training available and this is incidental and necessary to carry out the purpose safely.

Annual Report prepared by: Coordinator – Miss Agnieszka Luczak

Approved and adopted by the Board and Members at Annual General Meeting on 30th November 2024 and signed on their behalf:

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