

Registration number NI068528

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee
Charity no: NIC 103324
Directors' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

Contents

	Page
Report of the Directors	1 - 3
Independent Examiner's Report	4
Statement of Financial Activities	5
Balance sheet	6 - 7
Notes to the financial statements	8 - 12

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

**Directors' report
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published in October 2019.

Structure, governance and management

The Company is a company limited by guarantee.

Directors

The directors who served during the year were as follows

C Heron (Secretary)

A Kerr

M Maguire

J McAlea

L Morgan

M Morgan

K Murphy

L Wiggins

Introduction

NBIN aim to achieve these through consultation, local representation, work with community representatives across sectarian divides and interagency work. As a result of this engagement process NBIN plan activities that enable local people to address issues that have that have a negative impact on community relations. NBIN develop initiatives that seek to transform the nature of conflict and act as a catalyst for the development of community collaborations that have the potential to bring about positive social and physical change in the area. The primary vehicle for the delivery of this work has been through the programming of the Twaddell Ardoyne Shankill Communities in Transition (TASCIT) programme, of which NBIN is the lead partner.

The creation of North Belfast Interface Network has been a response to intra communal violence and the threat to the physical and social structures of community life posed by ongoing conflict and communal segregation.

North Belfast Interface Network was formed in 2002. Its primary focus is now on developing relations and trust between the two communities and to help create the conditions for the regeneration of interface communities.

Objectives and activities

Objectives & Activities for the Public Benefit

The Vision of The North Belfast Interface Network is of,

"A safe, confident and prosperous community at peace with itself and its neighbours".

The NBIN Mission statement is,

"Working to create understanding, respect and positive relations within and between North Belfast Communities

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

**Directors' report
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

NBIN have three have three key strategic aims which are:

To minimise the potential for violent conflict and support positive intervention in North Belfast

To build and maintain positive working relationships within and between communities

To play an active role in creating positive physical transformation of interface communities in North Belfast

This year North Belfast Interface Network enters its 20 year of serving the community. In 2003 North Belfast faced a lot of seemingly intractable problems that were being played out on the streets on a daily basis. At this time the area was being described as a patchwork quilt of divided communities. Segregated, if not by wall, fence or gate then certainly by desire - many people, in what is referred to as the 'interface areas', felt safe by being apart.

After the Good Friday Agreement, as conflict between armed protagonists faded into the background, inter communal tensions began to rise. Street violence and inter community violence became a nightly occurrence in many parts of North Belfast. In response to these issues Ardoyne Focus Group, Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum, Ashton Community Trust and Ligoniel Improvement Association came together and in 2002 North Belfast Interface Network was conceived. The following year, 2003 funding was sorted, staff recruited and for us the work of creating positive change in North Belfast began.

NBIN began to implement a strategic plan that included minimising the potential for violence, developing a commitment to community relations in local communities and enabling cross interface partnerships that could work towards the regeneration of interface communities.

NBIN began to organise from Ligoniel to Greencastle, initially strengthening the mobile phone networks that were the key to tackling interface violence at time. This was the primary tool that enabled NBIN to forge the many relationships that have been the backbone of much of the success we enjoy today. From mobile phone networks summer intervention schemes were organised, anti-interface violence poster campaigns were initiated and anti-sectarian charters launched.

This led to cross interface partnerships such as the North Belfast Interface Monitoring Group. Along with a host of other agencies throughout the city this partnership contributed to significantly reducing violent behaviour at interfaces. In 2003, the year NBIN began there were almost 600 incidents of interface crimes reported in North Belfast. In 2013 this number was reduced to 259. As of 2022 that number has been more than halved again and it appears to be dropping all the time. In 2022 we had no reported incidents of sectarian crime during the 11th and 12th of July, a period that has historically been associated with disputed parades and protest, inter community tensions and rioting.

In September coming we will also celebrate the 10 anniversary of NBIN's role as the lead partner in the Twaddell Ardoyne Shankill Communities in Transition (TASCIT) partnership. The TASCIT partnership set out to create the conditions that would enable residents to begin the process of residential de-segregation by transforming interface structures, removing segregation walls and opening gates that have closed for over 30 yrs.

Since 2013 TASCIT have supported residents on the Crumlin Rd with the removal of the first Northern Ireland Housing Executive wall to come down in 40 yrs. This year we have witnessed the removal of two barriers in Flax Street that have kept the road closed for over 30 years and later in the year the Colombia Street pedestrian gate which has also been closed for over 30 years will open.

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

**Directors' report
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

TASCIT has also initiated a Promoting Positive Change Programme and in September 2022 it facilitated a well-attended Meet the Neighbours event at the Everton Centre on the Ardoyne Road. A site that 20 years earlier had been the epicentre of the Holy Cross school blockade. This month the TASCIT partnership, in conjunction with an increasing number of other local community groups, will have delivered the 11th tranche of Challenging Conversations, engaging over 220 local residents in the programme. More and more people are involved in reconciliation work than ever before. Fear of the 'other' is being replaced by inquiry and a desire to know and understand those who have different political, cultural or religious outlooks to 'us'. I'm delighted to say that not only did NBIN achieve the majority of the objectives it set out to achieve but in many areas it has surpassed what many of us would not have thought possible at time.

Although things have certainly changed a lot here in North Belfast since 2003 that is not to say that everything is rosy in the garden. There are still many issues where agreements in short supply. Although interface violence has been significantly reduced there is still more of sectarian crime in North Belfast than in East and South Belfast combined. There is still a lot of work for NBIN to get along with but if anything the last twenty years has shown us that progress can be made if there is a continued commitment to dialogue, problem solving and partnership working.

Finally none of this would be achievable without those who work with us, the residents who engage in all aspects of our programme activity, all of our voluntarily committee, the tenacity and dedication of our staff and, last but not least, our main funders, the International Fund for Ireland and the Community Relations Council who continue to support our strategic plan in North Belfast.

Manus Maguire

Chairperson - North Belfast Interface Network
31st March 2023

Achievements and performance

As outlined above, the company believes it achieved its goals of promoting good community relations throughout the North Belfast interface area.

Reserve Policy

In order to carry out our work it is necessary to hold financial resources in reserve. The trustees have agreed a policy that requires financial i.e. unrestricted reserves to be maintained at a level sufficient to sustain 3 months' core activity during a period of unforeseen difficulty.

To operate as a successful community organisation, we require financial reserves for the following purposes:

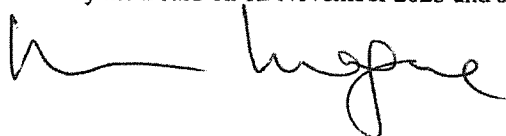
- Strategic- acquiring and replacing assets to benefit the community
- Accountability - complying with legal and statutory obligations e.g. redundancy payments
- Operational - to cover running costs not included in grant income, sustaining staff in gap funding periods etc.

Financial review

The results are set out in full in the financial statements. The directors have obtained funding for the near future.

This report was approved by the Board on 12 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by

M Maguire
Director



**Independent examiner's Report to the Members of
North Belfast Interface Network**

I report on the accounts of the for the for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 3 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- 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. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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
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.



Richard McClay FCA
For and on behalf of McCreery Turkington Stockman LTD

1 Lanyon Quay
Belfast

12 November 2023

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

**Statement of Financial Activities (Including Summary Income and Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

		Unrestricted	Restricted		
		Funds	Funds	Total	Total
		2023	2023	2023	2022
Incoming Resources	Notes	£	£	£	£
<i>Activities to further the charity's objectives:</i>					
Grant received and events	3	2,043	288,307	290,350	284,429
Total incoming resources		<u>2,043</u>	<u>288,307</u>	<u>290,350</u>	<u>284,429</u>
Charitable expenditure					
Management and administration	4	(824)	(280,984)	(281,808)	(276,531)
Total resources expended		<u>(824)</u>	<u>(280,984)</u>	<u>(281,808)</u>	<u>7,898</u>
Net income before transfers		<u>1,219</u>	<u>7,323</u>	<u>8,542</u>	<u>7,898</u>
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net incoming resources		<u>1,219</u>	<u>7,323</u>	<u>8,542</u>	<u>7,898</u>
Fund balances brought forward		47,616	15,917	63,533	55,635
Fund balances carried forward		<u>48,835</u>	<u>23,240</u>	<u>72,075</u>	<u>63,533</u>

All of the above results are derived from from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

**Balance sheet
as at 31 March 2023**

		2023		2022	
Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors	8	15,176		19,270	
Cash at bank and in hand		61,800		44,263	
		76,976		63,533	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(4,901)		-	
Net current assets			72,075		63,533
Net assets			72,075		63,533
Capital and reserves					
Restricted funds	10		23,240		15,917
Unrestricted funds	10		48,835		47,616
General funds			72,075		63,533

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

Balance sheet (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2023

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

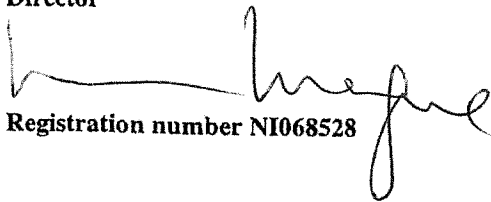
Directors' responsibilities:

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 12 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by

**M Maguire
Director**

Registration number NI068528



The notes on pages 8 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

1.2. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the directors for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal

1.3. Resources

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Donations are included as income when they are received. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

..... continued

2. Employees

Number of employees	2023	2022
The average monthly numbers of employees (including the directors) during the year were:		
Employed	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
 Employment costs	 2023	 2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<u>109,854</u>	<u>111,693</u>

There were no employees earning over £60,000 in the two years ended 31 March 2023.

3. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Grants and donations				
International Fund For Ireland	-	197,557	197,557	223,092
Belfast City Council	-	11,490	11,490	24,746
The Executive Office	-	17,565	17,565	3,230
General Income	2,043	-	2,043	4,676
NI Community Relations Council	-	30,193	30,193	28,685
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Reconciliation Funds	-	11,502	11,502	-
St Stephens Green Trust	-	20,000	20,000	-
	<u>2,043</u>	<u>288,307</u>	<u>290,350</u>	<u>284,429</u>

In 2022 of the charitable income £281,130 was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance £3,299 adding to unrestricted income.

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

..... continued

	2023	2022
	£	£
4. Total resources expended		
Wages and pension costs	109,854	111,693
Rent and room hire	13,780	14,180
Insurance	2,250	1,824
Project workers, activities and facilitation	143,412	137,747
Light and heat	3,432	2,231
Cleaning	1,700	1,575
Printing, postage and stationery	1,664	2,091
Telephone	2,474	2,498
Independent examination	1,008	936
Bank charges	424	433
General expenses	1,810	1,323
	<u>281,808</u>	<u>276,531</u>

In 2022 of the charitable expenditure £275,698 was attributable to restricted funds with the balance £833 relating to unrestricted funds.

5. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the year. The company is a registered charity .

6. Incorporation

North Belfast Interface Network is a company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The liability of the members is limited to an amount not exceeding £1 per member.

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

..... continued

7. Tangible fixed assets	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2022	6,342	6,342
At 31 March 2023	<u>6,342</u>	<u>6,342</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2022	6,342	6,342
At 31 March 2023	<u>6,342</u>	<u>6,342</u>
8. Debtors	2023	2022
	£	£
Grants due	<u>15,176</u>	<u>19,270</u>
9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>4,901</u>	<u>-</u>

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

..... continued

10. Statement of funds	Restricted reserve £	Unrestricted reserve £	Total £
Total reserves at 1 April 2022	15,917	47,616	63,533
Total income for the year	288,307	2,043	290,350
Total expenditure for the year	(280,984)	(824)	(281,808)
Total reserves at 31 March 2023	<u>23,240</u>	<u>48,835</u>	<u>72,075</u>

The restricted reserve represents monies that are subject to restriction on their expenditure imposed by the donor. These funds are not available for general charity expenses and must be spent on expenditure stipulated by the funder.

The unrestricted reserve represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

11. Analysis of net assets between funds	Restricted reserve £	Unrestricted reserve £	Total £
Fund Balances at 31 March 2023 represented by:			
Current assets	28,141	48,835	76,976
Current liabilities	(4,901)	-	(4,901)
Total net assets	<u>23,240</u>	<u>48,835</u>	<u>72,075</u>

The restricted reserve represents monies that are subject to restriction on their expenditure imposed by the donor. These funds are not available for general charity expenses and must be spent on expenditure stipulated by the funder.

The unrestricted reserve represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.