

Homeless Connect
Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements
for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

Muldoon & Co
16 Mount Charles
Belfast
BT7 1NZ
Northern Ireland

Company Number: NI027577
Charity Number: NIC103325

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Homeless Connect REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Number in Northern Ireland	NIC103325
Company Registration Number	NI027577
Chairperson	Liam Milligan
Trustees	Simon Geddis, Vice Chairperson Eddie Magowan, Treasurer Malachy Byrne Cormac McArt Maria Jennings Kirsten Hewitt Anna Lea Hettmannsperger Samuel Andrew Humphries Dermot Murphy Brenda Parker (appointed on 24 November 2022)
Senior Management	Nicola McCrudden, Chief Executive Officer Nigel McKinney, Interim Head of Business Services
Principal Address	Building 14, Units 2-4 Central Park, Mallusk Newtownabbey, BT36 4FS
Auditors	Muldoon & Co 16 Mount Charles Belfast BT7 1NZ Northern Ireland
Principal Bankers	Danske Bank P.O. Box 183 Donegall Square West Belfast BT1 6JS
Solicitors	Norman Shannon & Co 3-5 Union Street Belfast Antrim BT1 2JF Northern Ireland

Homeless Connect TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees, who are Directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Objectives and activities

Homeless Connect (previously CHNI) is an umbrella organisation, founded in 1983. We exist to prevent and alleviate homelessness in Northern Ireland. We represent the views of organisations within the homelessness sector to inform the design of homelessness services and the development of housing and homelessness policy and strategy locally. Working together with our members and service users we seek to shape government policy and public opinion towards securing greater support for preventative and responsive services.

We support the sector in the delivery of good quality services through being proactive in identifying the needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and influencing and shaping services to meet those needs.

We work collaboratively to create a community of support by being the voice of the homelessness sector and by delivering direct assistance through our projects.

Policy, advocacy and networking

Encourage and support stakeholders to work together to prevent and reduce the impact of homelessness by:

- Facilitating collaboration and interagency working.
- Influencing policy through advocacy and representation on behalf of members.
- Monitoring and contributing to policy development and keeping members informed of relevant policy, consultations, and practice changes.
- Promoting and facilitating service user involvement.

Services include:

- Providing networking opportunities for members to share experiences and to work with colleagues from other sectors.
- Providing training and events to support staff operating both at a senior level and on the frontline.
- Informing policy by responding to relevant public consultations.
- Providing information resources for the homelessness sector, and evidence on their behalf, to influence the planning and provision of services.
- Making presentations on behalf of the homelessness sector to representatives of political parties.

Measures of success:

- Improved cohesion and partnership between homelessness service providers and other relevant statutory, voluntary, and private organisations. Our policy and representation work is widely acknowledged by members, the statutory sector, and government departments.
- Statutory and voluntary sectors work together in highlighting issues around homelessness.
- Raised awareness of homelessness through events including the co-ordination and promotion of NI Homeless Awareness Week.
- Homeless Connect is a vital resource in providing information to and supporting members.

Home Starter Pack Project

Basic starter packs provided for homeless people moving into permanent accommodation to help them to sustain tenancies and prevent homelessness throughout NI.

Measures of success:

- Number of packs distributed / tenants in receipt of packs.
- Sustainability of tenancies.

Homeless Connect TRUSTEES' REPORT

Fareshare in Northern Ireland

Tackling food waste by diverting and redistributing high quality 'in date' food from industry to organisations and charities working to alleviate food poverty in communities throughout Northern Ireland.

Measures of success:

- Volume of food redistributed
- Reduction in food going to landfill.
- Recipient organisations saving money on food purchases which they are then able to use for other necessities.

Regional Service User Network (RSUN)

Supporting a Northern Ireland wide network for people with lived experience of substance use, to ensure that service users are given a voice and meaningfully involved in the planning of services at a local/regional level. RSUN aims to develop strong, active links between service user groups and the individuals who are part of these, building capacity. Measures of success:

- Level of service user engagement.
- Number of service user groups.
- Service users in regular attendance at Steering Groups for policy and planning of services, by statutory agencies.

Northern Ireland Frontline Network

Supporting workers in the voluntary and statutory sectors working on the frontline with those experiencing homelessness. Northern Ireland Frontline Network works in partnership with the UK wide Frontline Network so that frontline workers can come together with others to share their experiences.

Measures of success:

- Number of registered members.
- Level of engagement with the network.
- Links between the frontline voice and decision-makers.

Public Benefit

The activities currently carried out for the public benefit by Homeless Connect can be broadly categorised within our mission statement.

Our services:

- Policy and representation
- Membership support
- Home Starter Pack project
- FareShare NI food sharing network
- Regional Service User Network
- Northern Ireland Frontline Network

These broad categorisations of activities are currently carried out for the public benefit. Our vision is to see an end to homelessness in Northern Ireland.

The company's charitable purposes are specifically restricted to the following:

- to relieve poverty, distress and sickness and improve the conditions of life for people within Northern Ireland and, in particular for people who are homeless and those vulnerable to becoming homeless, who are in necessitous circumstances, and to advance education on issues associated with homelessness for the public benefit, and in furtherance of these Objects:
- to promote and improve the effectiveness of charities, voluntary and community groups, and other agencies in their provision of services to people who are homeless and those vulnerable to becoming homeless, by the provision of conferences, training, information, advice and other facilities, services or support;

Homeless Connect TRUSTEES' REPORT

- to act as a representative body for those engaged in work with people who are homeless in relation to government policies and legislation and bring together in Council or conference or otherwise representatives of voluntary agencies, statutory authorities and other agencies involved with people who are homeless and provide a focus for mutual contact and co-operation amongst organisations involved with people who are homeless.
- to prevent and relieve poverty amongst people in need, in particular the provision of supplies of goods and services.

Values

Our values underpin everything we do and guide our work and behaviours.

- Collaboration - Working together for a common goal.
- Fairness - Treating people impartially.
- Inclusive - Welcoming diversity and promoting involvement.
- Integrity - Acting with honesty and transparency and being accountable.
- Respect - Treating people with dignity.
- Supportive - Helping people to achieve their potential.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Achievements and Performance

The year 2022-23 has, once again, been extremely busy with significant demand for our services. Key achievements and activities are set out below.

Policy, practice and representation

- Research, commissioned by Homeless Connect and funded by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), into staffing challenges in the NI homelessness sector was published in September and launched in the Long Gallery at NI Assembly Buildings.
- Developed our service to work with people who have experienced homelessness, culminating in six meetings to discuss key issues which subsequently impacted the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan.
- Provided the Secretariat to the All Party Group on Homelessness and facilitated its reformation after the 2022 Assembly election. Eight meetings were held including participation by several member organisations; the Housing Executive; and the Department for Communities.
- Working with the Homeless Connect policy forum developed manifestos for the 2022 Assembly and 2023 Local Elections. Proposals were adopted by a number of political parties in their manifestos.
- Co-ordinated Homelessness Awareness Week 2022 with the theme of 'Have the Conversation' which included twenty events across Northern Ireland raising awareness of homelessness. Media coverage was estimated to have reached over 75,000 people with social media impressions running at a similar level.
- Responded to consultations on the Draft Supporting People Strategy, NIHE Corporate Plan and Electoral Office Equality Action Plan.

Home Starter Pack

- Distributed 3970 home starter packs with 90% of tenancies sustained for 6 months+.
- Provided 2792 Getting Started Boxes containing food and hygiene items.
- Secured additional funding that enabled us to provide 333 children's bedding packs.
- Research into furniture poverty (completed in June) highlighted the need for furniture provision for people moving from homelessness into a new home.

FareShare

- Distributed 677 tonnes of food, equivalent to 1.61 million meals, to 179 charities, community groups and schools throughout Northern Ireland. Approximately 35,040 individuals benefited.
- 303 tonnes (44.7%) of the food was chilled offering improved nutrition.
- Awarded Investment in Volunteers accreditation from Volunteer Now!
- 76 volunteers contributed a total of 14048 volunteer hours over the year, an average of 1,170 hours per month and 185 hours per volunteer.
- 20 new charitable partners were recruited.

Homeless Connect TRUSTEES' REPORT

- Tesco food collection in NI recorded 12.7 tonnes of food donated over 3 public collection days, which surpassed the record collected to date and equated to 30,421 meals.
- Achieved 6 awards at the FareShare UK national award ceremony.

Regional Service Users Network (RSUN)

- Following the closure of Andras House office, an RSUN office was established in the Twin Spires Complex Belfast.
- Members fed into a Cocaine dependency resource for the Royal College of Psychiatrists, London.
- Members and staff took part in the Harm Reduction Conference in Liverpool.
- Commenced a review of RSUN operating structures with a view to reconfiguring, in consultation with the Public Health Agency (PHA).

Despite achievements, however, there were ongoing issues with staffing the project. Following the review of the structure and activities of the project, the Trustees decided to end the contract in 2023/24 and entered discussions with PHA.

Northern Ireland Frontline Network

- Held 2 events in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry on the Cost of Living Crisis in June attended by 43 participants from 21 organisations.
- Held a workshop on trauma informed care attended by over 30 frontline staff and an online training attended by 8 frontline staff on 'Understanding and Tackling Hoarding'.

Financial review

The end of the year saw a good financial result for Homeless Connect based on strong financial management. Net incoming resources were £97,981 (2022: £63,033). The detailed trading results for the year and the financial position at the end of the year are shown on pages 15 to 25 of these financial statements.

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £2,340,935 (2022: £2,739,608) with expenditure of £2,242,954 (2022: £2,676,575) resulting in a net increase in funds of £97,981 (2022: £63,033).

Reserves Policy

The trustees have established a reserves policy that aims to ensure that Homeless Connect maintains an adequate level of reserves to achieve its stated aims and objectives while safeguarding, as far as possible, the continued financial sustainability of the organisation. The policy requires that a minimum level of cash-backed, unrestricted reserves equivalent to three months annual outgoing expenditure be maintained by the charity, which trustees feel provides a prudent level of insurance against short-term liabilities resulting from events of an unplanned nature outside our immediate control. In the event of a significant drop in funding, however, it would obviously be necessary to consider how the funding would be replaced, or activities curtailed. At March 2023 the unrestricted reserves stood at £303,808 equivalent to 12 months of annual outgoing expenditure.

Principal funding sources

The main incoming resources of Homeless Connect remains Grant Funding, Community Food Member fees, Donations and Membership Subscriptions.

Homeless Connect greatly appreciates the backing it receives from all its grant funders, including NIHE, PHA, DFC, DAERA and Fareshare UK, without whose support the organisation would simply not be able to run a number of its activities.

Plans for future periods

Over the coming year Homeless Connect will continue to deliver on its business plan and will develop a new 3-year strategy for 2024-2027. We will also:

- Further develop work with people who have lived experience of homelessness to help inform the Housing Executive's homelessness action plan and homelessness services more widely.
- Visit at least 4 member services to discuss policy, practice and wider issues around their work.
- Develop FareShare partnerships, recruiting at least 5 new suppliers.
- Work with our accountants to embed new financial management arrangements and recruit a Finance Officer.

Homeless Connect TRUSTEES' REPORT

- Commence work on an organisational restructure to support the development of services to members/community food members, to strengthen our core infrastructure and to sustain our work through the development of an income generation strategy.
- Continue to support our staff and volunteers, promote integration and a cooperative team working environment.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e., whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

While the nature of the charity's core funding is such that trustees cannot be certain that projected future funding will materialise and, as such, are unable to provide a cast iron guarantee that the charity will continue as a going concern indefinitely, our judgement on the basis of the evidence currently available, is that it is reasonable to assume that it can continue operating for a further 12 months.

Structure, governance and management

Homeless Connect is a company limited by guarantee which is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Homeless Connect Board members are nominated and elected annually by full members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Existing committee members must stand down after 3 years in office but are eligible for re-election up to a maximum of 9 years' service after which they must stand down permanently. Only organisations and individuals who are full members are eligible for nomination or representation on the Board. Office Bearers are elected by the Board Members from among their number at the first full Board meeting after the AGM.

Induction and training of trustees

Once elected new trustees undertake a Board induction and are invited to take part in governance training.

Decisions regarding strategic development and organisational outputs and outcomes are decided by the Board, on advice of senior staff. All expenditure is monitored and agreed in line with agreed and documented financial procedures. Operational issues and staff performance in line with Homeless Connect objectives are managed by staff in accordance with the handbook.

Arrangements for setting key management personnel remuneration

Staff salaries are aligned to National Joint Council (NJC) Salary Scales. The Chairperson and trustees work wholly on a voluntary basis and receive no remuneration, bonuses, or benefits-in-kind or have any pension entitlements. Likewise, volunteers are not remunerated. Out-of-pocket expenses are paid in line with good practice.

The Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) remuneration is set by the Board of Trustees with reference to NJC scales.

Organisational structure

The Board is responsible for the governance of the charity. The trustees delegate the running of the organisation to the CEO, within a framework of delegated authority. The Board meets approximately every quarter. There are two sub committees: (1) Finance Audit and Risk and (2) Human Resources. These sub-committees comprise members of the Board and meet quarterly.

Relationships with related parties

• Trustees

During the year, some Homeless Connect trustees, through their professional capacities, had transactions with the charitable company, e.g., membership. These transactions were carried out on an arm's length basis on the same terms and conditions as available to other members.

Homeless Connect TRUSTEES' REPORT

Risk Management

Homeless Connect maintains a risk management system, which seeks to identify and prioritise any risks to its activities and the delivery of its objectives and puts in place measures proportionate to the management of those risks. The main risks are categorised as:

- **Reduction in funding**
The risk of losing core funding, with the associated loss of expertise, experience and staff.
- **Lack of demand for our services**
The risk that other organisations may offer the same services.
- **Failure to respond to changing environment**
The risk that the organisation does not take a proactive approach to change.

Homeless Connect has put in place a risk register, which will be closely monitored by the senior staff and Board over the course of the next financial year to formally record the key risks and actions taken to minimise those risks.

Financial risks

The charity's activities also expose it to several financial risks including cash flow risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. The use of financial derivatives is governed by the charity's policies approved by the board of trustees, which provide written principles on the use of financial derivatives to manage these risks. The charity does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Cash flow risk

The charity's activities rely principally on funding from external sources. Cash flow risk is managed by ensuring appropriate funding is in place before committing to any relevant expenditure and close monitoring of available resources.

Credit risk

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows.

Liquidity risk

The charity's liquidity risk is managed by ensuring that an adequate level of reserves is maintained in accordance with the Reserves Policy established by the Trustees.

Creditor payment policy

We support a prompt payment strategy and targets payment for goods and services to be made within agreed payment terms or within 30 days following month of receipt of invoices not in dispute.

Fair Employment

Homeless Connect is an equal opportunity employer. The aim of our policy is to ensure that no job applicant or staff member receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, disability, marital status, political opinion, race, religious beliefs, sex or sexual orientation. They should not be disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which are not objectively justifiable or which can be accommodated through making reasonable adjustments, where persons are disabled (as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995) or which are not relevant to the job. Selection criteria and personnel procedures will be reviewed regularly to ensure that individuals are recruited, promoted and treated in all other ways purely on the basis of merit and ability to do the job for which they have applied.

To ensure that the talent and resources of staff members are utilised to the full and that no job applicant or staff member received less favourable treatment on the grounds of his or her age, disability, marital status, political opinion, race, religious beliefs, sex or sexual orientation. Neither should conditions or requirements that cannot be shown to be relevant to performance disadvantage him/her. To this end, Homeless Connect will:

Homeless Connect TRUSTEES' REPORT

- Fulfil its social responsibility towards its staff members and the community in which it operates.
- Comply with the legal obligations imposed by the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Acts.
- Review at least once every three years its employment composition and practices to determine where members of each community are enjoying, and are likely to continue to enjoy, fair participation in employment.
- Seek to give all staff members equal opportunity and encouragement to progress within the organisation by implementing an affirmative action programme, where appropriate.
- Provide facilities for any staff member who believes that inequitable treatment has been applied to him / her within the scope of this policy and to raise the matter through the appropriate grievance procedures.

All staff members have a responsibility to accept their personal involvement in the practical application of this policy but specific responsibility falls upon the CEO, Line Managers and staff professionally involved in recruitment, staff member administration and training.

All staff members are required to comply with the organisation's policy of not permitting the display of flags, emblems, posters, graffiti, or the circulation of materials, or the deliberate articulation of slogans or songs, which are likely to cause offence to, or cause apprehension among, existing or potential staff members. Breaches of the policy will be dealt with under our Disciplinary Procedures.

Disability Discrimination

Homeless Connect does not discriminate against persons with disabilities when recruiting staff. Moreover, we do not discriminate against staff members with disabilities:

- In terms of employment.
- In the opportunities afforded him/her for promotion, transfer, training or any other benefit.
- By refusing to afford him/her or deliberating not affording him/her, any such opportunity; or
- By dismissing him/her or subjecting him/her to any detriment.

Where any arrangements made by or on behalf of us, or any physical feature of premises occupied by us, place the person with a disability at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with persons who are not disabled, we will take reasonable steps (considering the circumstances of the case) in order to prevent the arrangements or feature having a detrimental impact.

Staff Appraisal Policy

We have a formalised performance management system. This system comprises objective setting, planning, one to one supervision, and yearly appraisals. It provides staff members with an opportunity to be involved in the setting of objectives and contributing to our ongoing development.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Homeless Connect for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK 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 charitable company will continue in business.

Homeless Connect TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

Appointment of auditor


Following a tendering exercise, Muldoon and Company have been appointed as auditors at the AGM held on 24 November 2022 for an initial 3-year period commencing financial year 2022/23

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 4 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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Liam Miligan
Director and Trustee

DocuSigned by:

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Eddie Magowan
Director and Trustee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT to the Members of Homeless Connect

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the charity financial statements of Homeless Connect ('the charity') for the financial year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

In our opinion, when reporting in accordance with a fair presentation framework the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT to the Members of Homeless Connect

Responsibilities of Trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 10, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

While the specific response and tailored audit procedures planned will vary on each engagement, relative to the specific risks identified, this may include the following:

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors (or in-house legal team) around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing internal audit reports;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is contained in the appendix to this report, located at page 14, which is to be read as an integral part of our report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

ROBERT BARR

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Mr. Robert Barr (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

MULDOON & CO

16 Mount Charles

Belfast

BT7 1NZ

Northern Ireland

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT to the Members of Homeless Connect

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Homeless Connect

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income							
Donations and legacies	4.1	347,262	1,133,238	1,480,500	202,683	1,345,908	1,548,591
Charitable activities	4.2	15,056	844,207	859,263	2,372	1,188,385	1,190,757
Other income	5	1,172	-	1,172	260	-	260
Total income		363,490	1,977,445	2,340,935	205,315	2,534,293	2,739,608
Expenditure							
Charitable activities	6.1	(288,840)	(1,954,114)	(2,242,954)	(251,316)	(2,425,259)	(2,676,575)
Net income/(expenditure)		74,650	23,331	97,981	(46,001)	109,034	63,033
Transfers between funds		61,655	(61,655)	-	64,260	(64,260)	-
Net movement in funds for the financial year		136,305	(38,324)	97,981	18,259	44,774	63,033
Reconciliation of funds							
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2022		167,503	1,324,604	1,492,107	149,244	1,279,830	1,429,074
Balances carried forward at 31 March 2023	12	303,808	1,286,280	1,590,088	167,503	1,324,604	1,492,107

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year.
All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Homeless Connect BALANCE SHEET

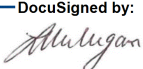
as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	8	424,294	493,352
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	113,089	55,724
Cash at bank and in hand	10	1,738,427	1,160,767
		1,851,516	1,216,491
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(685,722)	(217,736)
Net Current Assets		1,165,794	998,755
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		1,590,088	1,492,107
Total Net Assets		1,590,088	1,492,107
Funds			
Restricted Funds		1,286,280	1,324,604
Unrestricted Funds		303,808	167,503
Total funds	12	1,590,088	1,492,107

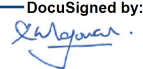
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 4 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

2B162FEC66B24CF

Liam Miligan
Director and Trustee

DocuSigned by:

BE7286575E8F475

Eddie Magowan
Director and Trustee

Homeless Connect STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

Cash flows from operating activities		
Net movement in funds	97,981	63,033
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	76,635	79,114
Interest income	(1,172)	(260)
	<u>173,444</u>	<u>141,887</u>
Movements in working capital:		
Movement in debtors	(57,365)	47,753
Movement in creditors	467,985	(2,193)
	<u>584,064</u>	<u>187,447</u>
Cash generated from operations	584,064	187,447
Interest paid	-	-
	<u>584,064</u>	<u>187,447</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest receivable and similar income	1,172	260
Payments to acquire tangible assets	(7,576)	(280,690)
	<u>(6,404)</u>	<u>(280,430)</u>
Net cash (used in)/generated from investment activities	(6,404)	(280,430)
	<u>577,660</u>	<u>(92,983)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	577,660	(92,983)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,160,767	1,253,750
	<u>1,738,427</u>	<u>1,160,767</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	10 <u>1,738,427</u>	<u>1,160,767</u>

Homeless Connect

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Homeless Connect is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office of the charity is Building 14, Units 2-4, Central Park, Mallusk, Antrim, BT36 4FS which is also the principal place of business of the charity. The financial statements have been presented in Pound Sterling (£) which is also the functional currency of the charity.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102", applying Section 1A of that Standard.

As permitted by the Companies Act 2006, the charity has varied the standard formats in that act for the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet. Departures from the standard formats are to comply with the requirements of the Charities SORP and are in compliance with section 4.7, 10.6 and 15.2 of that SORP.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the charity for the financial year ended 31 March 2023 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102", applying Section 1A of that Standard.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or until fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Homeless Connect NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

Grants receivable

Grants are received when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Gift aid

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Charitable activities

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support programme activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and Trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Homeless Connect

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph I Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Motor Vehicles	25% reducing balance
Plant & Machinery	30% straight line
Leasehold Improvements	10% straight line
Furniture and Equipment	33% straight line

Research and development

Research and development expenditure is written off as incurred.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Homeless Connect

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

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

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Financial instruments classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Homeless Connect

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

3.	NET INCOME			2023	2022
				£	£
	Net Income is stated after charging/(crediting):				
	Depreciation of tangible assets			76,635	79,114
	Audit fees			3,900	2,625
4.	INCOME				
4.1	DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
	Donations from Individuals	78,752	126,645	205,397	76,995
	Government Grants	268,510	1,006,593	1,275,103	1,471,596
		347,262	1,133,238	1,480,500	1,548,591
4.2	CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
	Core Services	15,056	-	15,056	2,372
	Food Distribution	-	611,173	611,173	952,317
	Individual Support	-	94,425	94,425	100,510
	Christmas grants	-	138,609	138,609	135,558
		15,056	844,207	859,263	1,190,757
5.	INVESTMENT AND OTHER INCOME			2023	2022
				£	£
	Investment income			1,172	260

Homeless Connect

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

6. EXPENDITURE				
6.1 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Core Services	103,444	13,555	116,999	68,865
North West Services	-	-	-	527
Food Distribution	-	264,976	264,976	269,981
Individual Support	-	905,318	905,318	1,391,201
Christmas Grants	-	131,770	131,770	128,415
Depreciation	3,205	73,430	76,635	78,897
Staff Costs	175,647	565,065	740,712	733,695
Governance Costs	6,544	-	6,544	4,994
	<u>288,840</u>	<u>1,954,114</u>	<u>2,242,954</u>	<u>2,676,575</u>

6.2 GOVERNANCE COSTS	Unrestricted Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Staff costs	195	195	649
Audit fees	3,900	3,900	2,625
Legal Fees	9	9	74
Marketing and publicity	246	246	13
Depreciation	75	75	59
Other governance costs	-	-	17
Allocated Support costs	2,119	2,119	1,557
	<u>6,544</u>	<u>6,544</u>	<u>4,994</u>

7. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

Number of employees

The average number of persons employed (including executive Trustees) during the financial year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Core Staff	5	5
Project Staff	23	22
	<u>28</u>	<u>27</u>

The staff costs (inclusive of Trustees' salaries) comprise:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	707,722	700,001
Pension costs	33,185	34,343
	<u>740,907</u>	<u>734,344</u>

Homeless Connect NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2022	444,192	103,340	9,312	152,152	708,996
Additions	-	709	6,868	-	7,577
At 31 March 2023	<u>444,192</u>	<u>104,049</u>	<u>16,180</u>	<u>152,152</u>	<u>716,573</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	53,690	87,998	3,256	70,700	215,644
Charge for the financial year	44,419	69	11,784	20,363	76,635
At 31 March 2023	<u>98,109</u>	<u>88,067</u>	<u>15,040</u>	<u>91,063</u>	<u>292,279</u>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2023	<u>346,083</u>	<u>15,982</u>	<u>1,140</u>	<u>61,089</u>	<u>424,294</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>390,502</u>	<u>15,342</u>	<u>6,056</u>	<u>81,452</u>	<u>493,352</u>

9. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	72,883	25,537
Other debtors	30,047	30,187
VAT	10,159	-
	<u>113,089</u>	<u>55,724</u>

10. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash and bank balances	1,734,617	1,160,009
Cash equivalents	3,810	758
	<u>1,738,427</u>	<u>1,160,767</u>

11. CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	654,737	182,386
Taxation and social security costs	23,047	15,291
VAT	-	2,290
Accruals	4,949	2,628
Other creditors	2,989	15,141
	<u>685,722</u>	<u>217,736</u>

Homeless Connect

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

12. FUNDS

12.1 RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
At 1 April 2021	149,244	1,279,830	1,429,074
Movement during the financial year	18,259	44,774	63,033
At 31 March 2022	167,503	1,324,604	1,492,107
Movement during the financial year	136,305	(38,324)	97,981
At 31 March 2023	303,808	1,286,280	1,590,088

12.2 ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS

	Balance 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	Balance 31 March 2023 £
Restricted funds					
DFC Christmas Grant	-	138,609	131,770	(6,839)	-
FareShare Ireland	1,051,382	712,819	717,836	(27,669)	1,018,696
PHA – Service User Projects	26,336	94,425	99,040	(8,052)	13,669
Rough Sleepers	220	-	-	-	220
PHA – Starter Packs	201,824	1,009,790	984,080	(16,490)	211,044
Covid Response Grants	32,564	7,636	7,833	-	32,368
Frontline	12,278	14,166	13,555	(2,605)	10,284
	<u>1,324,604</u>	<u>1,977,445</u>	<u>1,954,114</u>	<u>(61,655)</u>	<u>1,286,280</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted General	167,503	363,490	288,840	61,655	303,808
Total funds	<u>1,492,107</u>	<u>2,340,935</u>	<u>2,242,954</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,590,088</u>

13. TRUSTEE'S REMUNERATION

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No Trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity in the year.

14. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the financial year-end.