

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2020

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, submit their Annual Report and the unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 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 (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2015) (Charities SORP (FRS 102), in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) shows the gross income from all sources.

Chairman's Foreword

I have pleasure in presenting the Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2020 as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St John Ambulance (NI). It gives me the opportunity to share with you, once again, the vision for our charity, namely that 'everyone who needs it should receive first aid from those around them. No-one should suffer for the lack of trained first aiders.'

Our vision reflects the high ideals of St John Ambulance (NI) and delivery through practical first aid skills. Our volunteers play a crucial and central role in the delivery of our services. Without volunteers delivering our first aid service and event ambulance services, plus the delivery of patient transfer services at evenings, week-ends and public holidays, it would not be possible for St John Ambulance (NI) to serve the people of Northern Ireland at the present level of commitment.

Overall immense public benefit flows from our purpose, and through the delivery of first aid and health and safety training, first aid services including event coverage, ambulance services including patient transfers, youth development and emergency planning and resilience.

2020 was a year of much uncertainty and change given the world-wide Covid-19 pandemic, causing severe financial problems for many organisations, including charities such as ours. In March 2020 we lost the majority of our public event bookings, and our commercial courses had to be cancelled due to the social distancing requirements. As this represented our main income streams (nearly £1.2M pa), we could have quickly used up our reserves and become insolvent. Instead, having won the 12 patient transfer contracts, which commenced in November 2019, we were able to reconfigure and concentrate on patient transfers, given the considerable increase in demand arising from Covid-19 and the pressures on NIAS and the other hospital trusts. Indeed, NIAS, who had many staff self-isolating, stated that they could not have coped with the additional demands caused by the pandemic without the support of the voluntary ambulance services. In this respect our volunteer ambulance crews responded magnificently, living up to the core values of St John, by deploying up to 80 ambulances per week at the height of the pandemic, and ignoring the very real health risks to them and their families from operating in a Covid-19 environment. The substantial additional income obtained, plus a Government grant, payment from the government for furloughed staff, and a very positive response from the public to our request for donations (cash, PPE supplies and food/refreshments for our crews) enabled not only our financial survival, but for St John Ambulance (NI) to play a vital role in supporting the NHS and our local communities throughout the several waves of the pandemic. We are indebted to our outstanding volunteers and staff at all levels for their dedication and commitment to our organisation, and we were particularly pleased to see this acknowledged by the Government with the well-deserved award of an OBE to our NHS Liaison Manager, Adrian Petticrew BSc MRICS, in the 'Covid-19 related' additions to the delayed 2020 Queen's Birthday Awards.

In 2020 I report a profit of £112,519 before the loss on investments of £65,126. Income decreased by £130,823 while expenditure fell by £205,093. This further builds on the organisations return to profitability in 2019 after several years of large financial losses. Setting aside the change in the valuation of our investments as at 31 December 2020, due to market fluctuations, this represents a considerable improvement in the profitability of our day-to-day operations, a remarkable achievement when considered against the many difficult operational and financial problems created by Covid-19. The trustees have reviewed the company's projected budgets to December 2021.

The first half of 2021 was difficult due to the 'lockdown' and the associated restrictions, with all major public events cancelled. The outlook going forward is positive as the mass vaccination programme in Northern Ireland nears completion and many associated Northern Ireland Executive restrictions have been lifted. We hope this will allow an operating environment approaching normality going forward into 2022. We can expect increased revenues from the 12 patient contracts we won in late 2019. During 2019, we experienced an increase in our event cover, at increased prices, and for the first time we were selected as the 'sole provider' for the NW 200 International Motorcycle Races, requiring a major deployment of our resources (18 ambulances and crews, 66 first aiders and 2 treatment centres each day). Regrettably this progress was lost when the majority of public events were cancelled in 2020, however, we remain ready to respond whenever the current social distancing restrictions are lifted, and major events recommence. Despite the recent upheavals, we have maintained SJA (NI)'s position as the leading first aid and voluntary ambulance service provider for events in Northern Ireland, and despite increasing competition, the leading provider of commercial first aid training courses.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

Chairman's Foreword (continued)

The Board of Trustees have a balanced approach to activities, reducing the risk, ever present, when a charity is heavily dependent on one aspect of its operations. The charity has a strong financial infrastructure and is well equipped to meet future changes whatever they may be.

As Chairman I would like to record my thanks to the trustees for their support, time and commitment to the Board during the year. This is greatly appreciated. St John Ambulance (NI) is indeed fortunate to have their broad experience, guidance and oversight, which is given on a voluntary basis.

Above all, we are very fortunate to have such highly motivated, dedicated and professional staff and volunteers, who work so hard on our behalf, and without whom we would not be the great organisation that we are. On behalf of the Board, I sincerely thank them for their exceptional service and commitment.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives

The objectives of St John Ambulance (NI) are the relief of sickness and the protection and preservation of public health. The Charity fulfils its objectives, within its powers as specified in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Vision for St John Ambulance (NI) is that 'everyone who needs it should receive first aid from those around them. No-one should suffer for the lack of trained first aiders.

To enable delivery of the objectives, resources are channelled into the following activities:

- Training of the public in first aid, with emphasis on those sectors of the community where it is most needed;
- Provision of first aid, pre-hospital care and assistance at public events and within local communities;
- Provision of patient transfers and personnel in support of the statutory ambulance service and other health trusts especially in times of national emergency, or in circumstances where we can meet community need;
- Development of young people through the St John Youth (NI) Programme, and through first aid training in schools and local communities.

In common with the national brand of St John Ambulance to enable the effective delivery and expansion of these services within Northern Ireland, our strategy encompasses the following underlying principles for the deployment of resources

- To maximize the generation of funds through chargeable activities, particularly in the provision of training, public event cover and patient transport services;
- To link fundraising efforts more closely with charitable objectives;
- To invest, within the framework of financial stability, to sustain the longer-term success of St John Ambulance (NI) in areas where greatest benefits will be delivered;
- To increase the level of our charitable services, making the maximum use of the voluntary efforts of our volunteers; and
- To maintain an effective governance structure that ensures that legal obligations as a single provincial charity are fulfilled and that key policies are implemented consistently across Northern Ireland, but operational responsibility for delivery of services remains as close as possible to those communities served.

In addition to the above, St John Ambulance (NI) supports the achievement of the Order of St. John's worldwide objectives, in particular contributing to the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group ('the Eye Hospital') in Jerusalem, which is an independent charity. The Hospital is open to all who suffer from eye disease without regard to race, creed, socio-economic background, or ability to pay.

Activities during the year

Action was taken in support of the continued development of our services in all of the key areas indicated within our objectives. No investment was made in the acquisition of ambulances in order to address our recent financial deficits and increase our current profitability. Work continued in 2020 to upgrade St John Ambulance (NI) property, reflecting the activities of St John Ambulance (NI) operational hubs throughout Northern Ireland supported by volunteers. Commissioned services were engaged to improve our training programmes for sessional commercial trainers and to increase the number of volunteer first aid trainers. In addition, a transition programme continued to enhance the ambulance related qualifications of our ambulance crews.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

Objectives and Activities (continued)

Early in the year we completed a major upgrade of Information Technology. This project which had an overall cost in excess of £140,000, replaced an old outdated software system, and enabled the provision of enhanced databases and a new finance system. Continued work is required to provide unit reports and an online commercial course booking system.

Public Benefit

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland has published guidance to charity trustees in the health sector and provided guidance on the principles of public benefit to the advancement of health and the saving of lives. The trustees have considered the relevant guidance and are satisfied that all the charity's charitable activities fall within its objectives and result in considerable benefit to the public, as demonstrated in the section of this report dealing with achievements and performance. Particular attention is drawn to the following services provided free of cost to the end user.

St John Ambulance supported on average annually 570 cadets (10-18years) and 199 badgers (7-10 years) providing varied development programmes in diverse subjects ranging from first aid and care competencies to principles of radio communications to good citizenship. This represented a considerable reduction from previous years, mainly due to the cancellation of all face-to-face activity in March 2020, as a result of Covid -19, and the switch to 'online' activity. Membership of young volunteers between the ages of 10 and 25 was maintained at around 878 at 31 December 2020.

Emergency planning and resilience

Our fleet of ambulances, RRVs, 4 x 4s, and trained volunteers are at the disposal of the statutory emergency services in the event of a Province wide, or local emergency. Deployment of these resources is rapid to protect the public at no charge in circumstances where support is needed to respond to aircraft alerts and other incidents. For example, in 2020 our volunteers were ready 24/7 to provide essential 'back-up' as required.

First aid event coverage

The provision of direct assistance in first aid and pre-hospital care at public events continues to be one of the primary ways in which we deliver charitable objectives. For many events which are small, or organised especially for a charitable purpose, we provide cover for no charge. For other events we charge the event organiser with a view to recovering the cost of provision. In all cases there is no charge to members of the public who are treated. In 2019 the volunteers responded magnificently to support the Portrush Air Show, the North West 200, Ulster Grand Prix, the Ulster Rally, Council public events, Equestrian Events, Agricultural Shows, Super Cup NI, Municipal events and Ulster Rugby etc, however, in 2020 the majority of public events were cancelled due to Covid-19. We remain ready to provide the necessary cover in 2021, when social distancing restrictions are lifted.

Patient transfers

Prior to 2019 St John Ambulance (NI) had a service agreement in place with NIAS to provide patient transport services by our volunteer crews at times when the statutory services are unable to respond, and we also responded to short term demands providing the ambulance services with a degree of flexibility to react to winter pressures and other demand factors. This contract was lost in March 2017, but re-established partially in November 2018 by means of a Single Tender Action, and restored fully with effect from 1 November 2019, when we successfully won back not just the lost contract, but all 12 patient transfer contracts for NI. Whilst there is no charge to the recipient of our services, our fees to the trusts are intended to cover the direct and indirect costs that are incurred, including a contribution to central overheads.

Other initiatives

SJA (NI) in partnership with the PSNI and the Commissioner for Older People introduced a Trial 'First Responder' Scheme for vulnerable elderly persons in the Ards and North Down, and Lisburn and Castlereagh Council areas. We are pro-active in encouraging the widespread availability of defibrillators in Northern Ireland and to this end participate fully in the NIAS led CPR/AED Working Group.

The trustees are mindful of the Charity Commission's requirements when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in planning future activities.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**Achievements and Performance**

The trustees are pleased to report that significant progress was made towards achieving the objectives specified within the yearly Strategic and Operational Plan.

St John Ambulance (NI) provided formal training in statutory courses for 1,518 students during the year 2020 (2019: 3,248). This was achieved through the delivery of 183 statutory courses (2019: 350). St John Ambulance (NI) was able to continue to maintain its policy of providing a diversified range of courses. A total of 351 other courses were delivered, designed for those working in the child care, sporting and health and safety sectors. It is the aim of St John Ambulance (NI) that all members of the community should have access to first aid. As reported earlier, all commercial courses ceased in March 2020, recommencing in September 2020, due to Covid-19, hence the reduction in numbers of students trained and courses delivered.

2020 continued to be a period of consolidation for St John Ambulance (NI) with challenging results achieved against a changing national and international economic background.

In Northern Ireland St John Ambulance (NI), as the leading provider of First Aid at Work training, continued to compete against increasing market competition from specialist and general training providers. Courses were, however, cancelled from late March to the beginning of September due to Covid-19, and when they resumed, they did so at reduced capacity due to the social distancing requirements.

Throughout the year 2020, St John Ambulance (NI) volunteers treated 1,129 (2019: 3,621) casualties through public duties. This is an admirable performance and represents delivery of a major public benefit with no cost to those treated. Again, the reduction in numbers treated from 2019 reflects the cancellation of the majority of public events due to Covid-19.

Volunteers remained available to attend events to provide first aid or ambulance cover throughout the province, however, the vast majority of public events were cancelled from late March onwards. This situation will continue into 2021, until the social distancing restrictions are lifted. The fleet which is constrained within parameters of circa 60 vehicles was utilised to respond to high demand from organisers every weekend, public holidays and on many evenings up until late March, and at a much lower frequency after that. Our A & E equipped ambulances used on the patient transfer contracts experienced a large surge in demand due to Covid-19 and the pressures on the NHS and NIAS in particular, with up to 80 ambulances being deployed each week at the height of the pandemic. The public shows great appreciation of these services, which come at no cost to those who become casualties at public events, or are being transported as patients.

Over the Christmas and New Year period of 2020, volunteers were mobilised to provide extra support to statutory services. Volunteers from a number of units, gave up their holiday break for the welfare of the public. The contribution of the volunteers is fully recognised by the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) through the VAS agreement.

The number of adult volunteers as at 31 December 2020 was 998 (2019:910).

The LINKS organizations based at Queens University and the University of Ulster continue to flourish.

Membership of St. John Cadets averaged 570 cadets, whilst badgers numbered circa 199. The St. John (NI) Youth Programme continued to be delivered with enthusiasm and vigour by our trained leaders to Cadets and Badgers, although as our Cadet and Badger units/setts closed in March due to Covid-19, much of this was conducted virtually. The closures obviously affected recruitment. Cadets and badgers are drawn from both traditions located across the Province, and many ethnic minority groups, representing an important contribution to cross community relations. The organisation is registered with Access (NI) to fulfil its responsibilities for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

The operating licence to deliver activities under the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme was renewed by St John Ambulance (NI) in 2020, and presented by His Royal Highness, The Earl of Wessex. Resources were made available in 2020 for further development, although participation was heavily curtailed by Covid-19.

As indicated, the trustees consider that the activities carried out by St John Ambulance (NI) during 2020 constituted a significant charitable benefit to the public. From Coleraine in the North, Londonderry in the North West, Enniskillen in the West, Newry in the South, to Belfast in the East, St John Ambulance (NI) volunteers consistently attended public events prior to Covid-19, rendering first aid to those in need of attention, and during the pandemic our volunteers responded magnificently to meet the greatly increased demand for patient transfers.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

Financial Review

Overall Summary

The total net outgoing resources of St John Ambulance (NI) for the year, before the decrease from the revaluation of investments, amounted to a profit of £112,519 (2019: profit £38,081). The decrease in the revaluation of investments was £65,126 (2019: increase £123,869). There has been considerable volatility in financial markets in the past couple of years, due to issues such as Brexit.

Incoming resources in 2020 decreased by £130,823 (2019: increase £217,277). This reflected an increase in income from grants receivable, donations, ambulance and first aid activities, but a significant decrease in training income. Training income amounted to £241,654 in 2020 against £526,446 in 2019, indicating a decrease of approximately 54%, due to Covid-19.

The Charity's overall income decreased during the year by £130,823 from £1,544,051 in 2019 to £1,413,228 in 2020. Total expenditure in 2020 decreased by 13.6% to £1,300,709 (2019: £1,505,970). Setting aside the decrease in the valuation of our investments as at 31 December 2020, this represents a considerable improvement in our day-to-day operations.

Costs of Charitable Activities indicate a decrease in the year of 13.6% (2019: increase 3%). St John Ambulance (NI) remains committed to the delivery and enhancement of our charitable mission in Northern Ireland taking advantage of an improving economy. The work of the St. John Eye Hospital Group in Jerusalem continued to be supported. Overall, the Balance Sheet remains strong, thereby guaranteeing the ability of the charity to sustain investment in the future in its charitable objectives as presented in the Business Plan for 2021 and to implement the planned charitable programme.

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

The trustees have reviewed the level of free reserves (that is those funds not tied up in fixed assets, designated or restricted funds) required to ensure continuity of charitable operations. The trustees consider that a free reserve requirement of approximately six months operating expenditure is appropriate. This equates to a requirement of £650k (2019: £753k). The actual free reserves at 31 December 2020 were £1,081k (2019: £898k).

Of the total reserves of £3,521k (2019: £3,474k), £2,160k (2019: £2,296) represents the net book value of fixed assets, £189k (2019: £188k) which has been designated for other particular purposes and £91k (2019: £91k) is a restricted fund. The remainder is held as a general reserve to allow for any unforeseen falls in income or increases in expenditure in light of the current economic climate. Other factors considered in holding this level of reserves are as follows: -

- the provision of statutory courses planned 12 months in advance
- commitment to a number of binding leases
- continuing strong competition in each of our service areas and no guaranteed income

The policy relating to reserves is reviewed annually.

The trustees have reviewed the company's projected budgets for the period to 31 Dec 2021 and are content that adequate funding is in place to ensure the Company can continue its operations and the financial statements can be signed off as a going concern.

Designated Funds

The trustees considered it necessary to designate funds of £189k at 31 December 2020 (Note 17). This includes £100k for the phased replacement of the ambulance fleet and equipment, and the replacement of AEDs. The continual capital investment in the purchase and upgrading of ambulances and operational vehicles to necessary standards is vital to enable St John Ambulance (NI) to carry out its charitable mission. A review of the age and mileage of the ambulances is kept under consideration by the Trustees. The Trustees have also designated £2k for John Ambulance (NI) Youth programmes, £35k to further upgrade the IT systems, and £20k for the continued training of the volunteers.

Investment Policy

The investment policy of the Board is to maximise income, consistent with its charitable status. The Charities Deposit Fund is used for holding short term cash reserves. Investments are held in established quoted companies and performance will be reviewed throughout 2021 following advice from the Board's professional investment advisers, and also through scrutiny by the Board.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

Financial Review (continued)

The Trustees require the achievement of an acceptable balance of income and capital growth. Performance is benchmarked against the FTSE All Share Index.

Taxation

As a charity, the company is able to recover most tax deducted at source from its investment income and is not liable for corporation tax on its other income or on capital gains. Recovery is therefore made of tax credits and tax deducted from income received under gift aid.

Structure, Governance and Management

Organisational Structure

The Priory of England and the Islands of the Order of St. John ("the Priory") was established on 23 October 1999 as a charity to carry out the charitable mission of the Order of St. John ("the Order") within its territory. On the same day the Commandery of Ards ("the Commandery") became a Commandery dependent upon the Priory, with responsibility for the affairs of the Order of St. John in Northern Ireland.

On 31 August 2000, the Commandery established St John Ambulance (NI) as a charitable company, to manage the assets. On 1 January 2001 the Commandery transferred its assets and liabilities to St John Ambulance (NI). The fair value of the net assets transferred was £1,981,441 and the consideration was £1.

St John Ambulance (NI) is a company limited by guarantee and recognised as a charity by the Inland Revenue and the NI Charity Commission. In terms of company law, charity law and day to day activities, the company is an independent entity.

The charitable company is committed to increasing the number of qualified first aiders in Northern Ireland. To achieve this objective 15 commercial trainers are engaged, on a sessional basis, and co-ordinated from the headquarters in Belfast. An effective, Province-wide, service to the public and the 6 NHS trusts, is delivered by St John Ambulance (NI) volunteers, who provide first aid, care and ambulance transport services to local communities, and organisations hosting events. Delivery is organised through a Regional Headquarters, and 3 District Headquarters, each consisting of operational units composed of volunteers.

Governance

St John Ambulance (NI) is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, as promulgated on 16 August 2000 and as amended on 11 May 2005 and 18 May 2011.

The Articles provide for the appointment of up to 13 trustees, who are the directors of the charity and who are legally responsible for the governance of St John Ambulance (NI). The trustees can comprise of five nominated Commandery Officers, up to four persons appointed as lead trustees, three independent persons, and any one member elected at the annual general meeting (subject to a vacancy arising).

The current Commandery Officers are the Lieutenant, Commissioner, Treasurer and Director. The Knight Commander (Designate) joined the Board as a trustee at its meeting in February 2021.

One third of the trustees retire at each annual general meeting, except those holding a Commandery office who cease to be trustees on vacating their office, and are deemed to retire in favour of their successor to the relevant Commandery office.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of approval of the financial statements are listed on page 1. New trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate internal and external training courses in accordance with best practice.

Management

The trustees are responsible for setting strategies and policies and for ensuring that they are implemented.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

To assist with this, work the trustees have established three advisory Committees (Training, Operations, and Finance). A sub-committee of the Finance Committee was established in 2019 to oversee the introduction of a new PR & Marketing Strategy, but this was suspended in March 2020 due to the potential financial impact of Covid-19 and the large investment required.

The Board meets regularly to comply with its statutory responsibilities.

The Chairman provides direction to the Board of Trustees, is accountable to it and is responsible with the other trustees for the efficient running of St John Ambulance (NI) with the support of the Chief Executive and staff. The trustees are not remunerated for their services as trustees. No out-of-pocket expenses were reimbursed to trustees.

In addition, there is provision for three non-executive trustees to provide independent advice thus contributing to the good governance of the charity.

Management structures are reviewed periodically by the trustees.

Pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Principles and policies relating to the remuneration of the charity's key management personnel are reviewed and agreed by the Board of St John Ambulance (NI). The Board take into account the external market and set salary levels in the context of St John Ambulance (NI)'s charitable status and taking account of affordability in the light of the charity's financial position.

Risk Management

The trustees have established a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an ongoing review of the risks which the charity may face, the review to be at least on an annual basis based on a comprehensive register of risk;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise the impact on the charity should any of the risks materialise.

The trustees take all appropriate steps to moderate and manage the operational risks to which volunteers, staff and assets of St John Ambulance (NI) are exposed. Examples of the steps being taken include competence-based training for volunteers, assessments of vehicles for fitness of purpose, provision of specialist medical equipment, insurance of third-party risks and monitoring of new legislative requirements. In particular there are procedures for safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and risk assessment of health and safety to comply with statutory regulations. Procedures are in place to monitor the standard of first aid training.

Where internal audit procedures require to be augmented, recourse may be had to external services.

Reference and Administration Details

St John Ambulance (NI) is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under registration number NIC103839. St John Ambulance (NI) is registered with Companies House under registration number NI039213. It is also recognised as a Charity by the Inland Revenue, XR38256. The Trustees, Chief Executive and Secretary of the charity are listed on page 1. The principal and registered office of the charity is also listed on page 1, together with details of the professional advisers and bankers.

Exceptions from disclosure

The charitable company has taken the exemption from preparing a Strategic report and has taken no other exemptions.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

There are no funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

Plans for Future Periods

The Board of Trustees will continue to plan for the delivery of consistent high-quality standards in first aid, training of the public and our own volunteers and staff, ambulance services, as well as the care and youth programmes. Collectively they will ensure that those charged with governance or management of St John Ambulance (NI), or contributing to performance through voluntary service, or by virtue of employment with St John Ambulance (NI), will be made aware of their responsibilities. The charity will demonstrate that it is using its resources to deliver charitable activity and therefore public benefit in the best possible way in these uncertain economic times. In respect of patient transfer activities, the level of resource required to meet demand and quality considerations has increased and margins are tightening, therefore this activity will be carefully monitored.

The thrust remains to render the organisation even more fit for purpose namely:

- Raise standards in first aid and ambulance training;
- Monitor property needs to deliver cost effective services province wide;
- Continue to implement clear policies to comply with our regulated internal and external environment;
- Continued emphasis on patient care, quality assured standards and delivery of public benefit; and
- Further enhance our new IT system to provide unit Income & Expenditure accounts, and an online booking system for commercial courses.
- Young People – work with our St John Ambulance mentors to utilise grant funding from appropriate sources to support the development of our Badger, Cadet and 18–25-year-old young people.
- Update recognition pathways for volunteers ensuring the historic values of St John and its heritage are upheld, but in a contemporary fashion.
- Continue to introduce new qualifications for our volunteers.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of St John Ambulance (NI) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". 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 the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102, 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.

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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

So far as each of the trustees in office at the date of approval of these financial statements is aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

In Gratitude

The trustees wish to convey their sincere thanks to the many volunteers and staff who have so generously given their support to the organisation. With their continuing support we look forward to further enhancing the deliveries of our charitable services within the community.

Independent Auditors

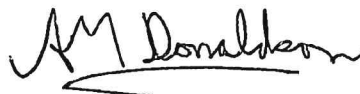
Baker Tilly Mooney Moore have been reappointed as our Independent Auditors.

Small companies' exemption

In preparing this report the trustees have taken advantage of the small companies' exemption provided by the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013. This report was approved by the trustees on 15 September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



C Murdock KStJ
Chairman
Date: 15 September 2021



A M Donaldson MBE OStJ DL
Chief Executive & Company Secretary
Date: 15 September 2021