

Independent auditor's report to the members of C.H.A.R.T.E.R. FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of Charter NI ("the charitable company") for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account), Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the 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.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities in the circumstances set out in note 20 to the Financial Statements and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require me to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements, other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

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Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report, incorporating the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which I am required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires me to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by me; 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
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit; 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' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 17, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 the trustees 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 charitable company'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 the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My 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 my 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.

Independent auditor's report to the members of C.H.A.R.T.E.R. FOR NORTHERN IRELAND continued

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements continued

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

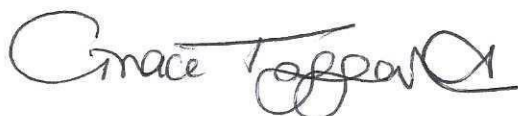
- obtaining an understanding of the significant legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and how the charitable company is complying with that framework.
- assessing the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur.
- ensuring competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations are maintained.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that I will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as I will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my Auditor's report.

Use of my report

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



Grace Taggart FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of CG Taggart Accountancy Services, Statutory Auditor,
17 Cypress Crescent, Donaghadee, Co Down, BT21 0QG

CG Taggart Accountancy Services is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of s1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

28 November 2023