

## Accounts for the Year ended March 31st 2024

### Receipts & Payments Account

<b>Receipts</b>	Current Year (to nearest £)	Previous Year (to nearest £)
Administration	£ -	£ -
EF grant funding	£ 88,300	£ 44,150
Donations	£ -	£ -
Data requests	£ -	£ -
Conference income	£ -	£ -
Project income	£ -	£ 9,000
Subscriptions & Fees	£ -	£ -
Bank interest	£ 606	£ 67
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£ 88,906</b>	<b>£ 53,217</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Administration	£ -	£ -
Conferences & workshops	£ 1,447	£ -
Staff costs & sub-contractors	£ 55,680	£ 25,814
Office & overheads (websites, hosting, storage)	£ 2,312	£ 1,200
Insurances	£ 1,358	£ 1,323
Equipment	£ 13,716	£ 864
Travel & Volunteer costs	£ 2,702	£ 402
Other (bank fees)	£ 25	£ -
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£ 77,240</b>	<b>£ 29,603</b>
Net surplus/(deficit)	£ 11,666	£ 23,614
Opening funds	£ 31,317	£ 7,703
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT YEAR END</b>	<b>£ 42,983</b>	<b>£ 31,317</b>
Cash at bank (31st March)	£ 42,013	£ 30,207
Assets cost	£ 970	£ 970
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>£ 42,983</b>	<b>£ 31,317</b>

Asset register (>£500 per individual item). No of  
Items

Item No. 1 Description (Telescope)

1

£

1

£

970

Signed by Trustees:

Dr Eimear Rooney  
Notes to the Accounts

Mr Paul Larmor

Dr Marc Ruddock

### Restricted Funds

- The group held no specifically restricted funds during the year and where funds are restricted for usage these are clearly identifiable and traceable.

### Trustees' Expenses

- No expenses were paid to any of the Trustees during the year except to reimburse them for purchases made on behalf of the group.
- In line with the reporting and notification to Charity Commission Northern Ireland, (under Charities Act 2011 a single Trustee i.e. a minority of the Trustees (1 of 3; 33%) were paid to complete work on behalf of the group (ER) as the Raptor Officer

### Trustees' Indemnity Insurance

- No charitable funds have been used to purchase insurance to indemnify the Trustees against the consequences of any neglect or default on their part. The group had in place the necessary insurance policies for the operation of the group through the nominated broker.

### Accounting Policies

- Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 permits a charity to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities where gross income in the financial year does not exceed £250,000, therefore receipts and payments accounts, and a statement of assets and liabilities has been prepared and presented for the year ended March 31st 2024.
- Bank interest is included separately and identifiably as income parameter.
- All income, including grants and investments is recorded when received to the bank account.
- All expenditure is recorded when paid from the bank account.
- Gift aid reclaimable on donations is included in the amounts of income once received.
- All transactions are process by online banking and no cheques have been issued or received during the reporting period.

### Basis of Valuations

- Valuations have been provided for assets held for functional use; where possible the brand new purchase price/replacement cost is given. If this is not readily available a second-hand purchase price is given.

### Independent Examination

- In the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024, gross income did not exceeded £250,000 and therefore, in accordance with the sections 144 & 145 of the Charities Act 2011 an independent examination is required and this scrutiny was duly conducted (see Independent Examiners Report).

### Payments not cleared at bank at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

- At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 there were no payments issued which had not cleared at the bank.
- At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 there were no payments received which had not cleared at the bank.

Approved and adopted by a meeting of the Trustees on 31 March 2025.

Dr Eimear Rooney

Mr Paul Larmor

Dr Marc Ruddock

## Administrative Details

### **Charity Name**

The Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group also known as NIRSG.

### **Charity Number**

Registered Charity in England & Wales, No .1064103

Castle Archdale Countryside Centre

346 Killadeas Road, Irvinestown

Co. Fermanagh, BT94 1PP

### **Charity Trustees as of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024**

Dr Eimear Rooney

Mr Paul Larmor

Dr Marc Ruddock

### **Other Charity Trustees in the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024**

There were no other Trustees during the reporting year. Mr A Ferguson stepped down as a Trustee during the reporting year.

Trustees all indicated their willingness to serve for a further term and have identified the aspiration for recruiting, and nominations are always open for, additional trustees for the future.

### **Patrons as of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024**

There are no appointed patrons or honorary members.

### **Banking**

Santander Business Banking Operations

Sunderland, SR43 4FW

### **Insurance Broker & Underwriter**

We'reSure Motor, Home & Business Insurance

Unit C, Carrowreagh Business Park

Dundonald, BT16 1QQ

East Kent Underwriting Limited (EKU).

2nd Floor, Knightrider Chambers

12 Knightrider Street

Maidstone, Kent ME15 6LP

## Structure, Governance, and Management

The Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group, founded in 1991, is a network of voluntary raptor fieldworkers who monitor and record the fortunes of birds of prey across Northern Ireland. We collect information by visiting known raptor breeding and wintering sites each year to check for occupancy and to record the status, distribution and breeding success of each species. We also visit previously un-surveyed areas to search for and to document new sites.

We promote and encourage the conservation of Northern Ireland's raptors by working in partnership with many others including landowners, statutory agencies, industry, academic researchers, educators, raptor rehabilitators and non-governmental organisations. The species we monitor include peregrine falcon, hen harrier, buzzard, merlin, kestrel, sparrowhawk, goshawk, red kite, white-tailed eagle, golden eagle, barn owl, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, marsh harrier, hobby, honey buzzard and osprey.

The Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group comprises skilled volunteer raptor workers that operate to study, research, survey and monitor raptors (birds of prey) across Northern Ireland and to encourage the conservation of raptors in Northern Ireland and elsewhere. In addition the group aim to provide information on breeding raptors to relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies in Northern Ireland and to raise the awareness and profile of all native raptor species and the issues facing them. The group and its expert volunteers aim to inform and assist the protection and wildlife agency and the police regarding suspected illegal persecution of raptors and to collaborate with other researchers and research organisations to develop our raptor research and monitoring programmes.

The NIRSG understand that the public benefit criteria apply to our activities which include (i) the advancement of environmental protection or improvement since the data collected by volunteers are utilised to inform conservation management at various spatial and temporal scales for statutory, non-statutory and the wider public and through the wider conservation and protection of raptors through our training, outreach, events, advice, education, surveys, reporting and research activities; and for (ii) the advancement of animal welfare through best practice, advice, reporting and research in particular the expertise of volunteers in the detection, prevention and reporting of raptor crimes and the groups participation in the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime (PAW NI) and production of strategic mapping and analytical research and publications on the awareness of illegal raptor killing and crimes that occur in Northern Ireland.

These efforts can be demonstrated through the extensive efforts of volunteers in survey, monitoring, analysis, education, training, reporting and ultimately in conservation of birds of prey and through building an enduring mechanism and network of citizen-scientists to protect raptors for current and future generations alongside providing volunteers the tools, skills, support and education and field skills to optimise the raptor network and conserve these protected species for all members of all communities and all parts of society to enjoy the natural heritage of birds of prey.

The work of the NIRSG benefits the range of raptor (bird of prey) species that occur in Northern Ireland and also benefits the volunteers who monitor these species across Northern Ireland. The general public also benefits from wider awareness and understanding during any outreach activities. Volunteers may benefit from increase access to the countryside and recreational activities generating wider physical and mental health benefits.

**The charity's purposes ('the purposes') are:**

- **to study, research, survey and monitor raptors (birds of prey) across Northern Ireland**
- **to encourage the conservation of raptors in Northern Ireland and elsewhere**
- **to provide information on breeding raptors to relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies in Northern Ireland**
- **to raise the awareness and profile of all native raptor species and the issues facing them**
- **to inform and assist the protection and wildlife agency and the police regarding suspected illegal persecution of raptors**
- **to collaborate with other researchers and research organisations to develop our raptor research and monitoring programmes**

The NIRSG is an unincorporated association and is governed by a constitution which is to be found at Appendix 1. The Group is managed by the Management Committee which consists of volunteer Trustees. A minority of trustees also hold offices within the group. The Trustees are in regular contact with one another via email and phone and met regularly during the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. In relation to payments the Trustees only make payments when two, or more, Trustees approve the payment. Payments are made only by online banking from a single bank account. Full members, who do not pay a subscription fee, are afforded voting rights. Applications for Full membership are considered by Trustees via email following referee checks also conducted via email. The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts are prepared and approved by the Trustees and then presented to the members at an Annual General Meeting (AGM). Typically the terms and conditions of grant-aid funding received, which funds the activity of the group set the work plan of the group and the associated spending in delivering the purposes.

# Independent Examiners Report

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group (NIRSG)

We report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 5 above.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner:

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

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

## **Basis of independent examiner's report**

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

Our examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters. Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

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

## **Independent examiner's statement**

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



Neeson Chambers Ltd  
123-125 Main Street  
Bangor  
BT20 4AE  
Date : 31 March 2025