

General Federation of Trade Unions

Statement to members issued in connection with the union's annual return for the period ended 31 December 2019 As required by Section 32A of Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992

Income and Expenditure

The total income of the union for the period was £749,600. This amount included payments of £195,434 in respect of membership income of the union. The union's total expenditure for the period was £887,634.

Political Fund

In respect of the union's political fund, its total income was £nil and total expenditure was £nil.

Salary paid to and other benefits provided to the General Secretary

The General Secretary of the union was paid £77,475 in respect of salary and £6,416 in respect of benefits.

Irregularity statement

A member who is concerned that some irregularity may be occurring, or have occurred, in the conduct of the financial affairs of the union may take steps with a view to investigating further, obtaining clarification and, if necessary, securing regularisation of that conduct.

The member may raise any such concern with such one or more of the following as it seems appropriate to raise it with: the officials of the union, the trustees of the property of the union, the auditor or auditors of the union, the Certification Officer (who is an independent officer appointed by the Secretary of State) and the police.

Where a member believes that the financial affairs of the union have been or are being conducted in breach of the law or in breach of the rules of the union and contemplates bringing civil proceedings against the union or responsible officials or trustees, he should consider obtaining independent legal advice.

Auditor's report

General Federation of Trade Unions Independent auditor's report to the members of General Federation of Trade Unions

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of General Federation of Trade Unions for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Balance Sheet and notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. 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 the Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the Federation's members, as a body, in accordance with the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Federation's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 Federation and the Federation's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Federation's affairs as at 31 December 2018 and of its deficit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Basis of 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 accounts section of our report. We are independent of the Federation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out below, 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.

In accordance with the exemption provided by FRC's Ethical Standard - Provisions Available for Audits of Small Entities, we have prepared and submitted the Federation's returns to the tax authorities and assisted with the preparation of the accounts.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

- the federation's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is not appropriate; or
- the federation has not disclosed in the accounts any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the 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 accounts are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the report and accounts, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The members of the executive committee are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts 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. In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in 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 there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992

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

- the information given in the executive committee report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Executive Committee

As explained more fully in the executive committee responsibilities statement, the executive committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Executive Committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the executive committee are responsible for assessing the Federation'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 executive committee either intends to liquidate the Federation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts 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 accounts.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

David Goodwin
(Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Sturgess Hutchinson (Leicester) Limited
Accountants and Statutory Auditors
26 August 2020

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