

Communication Workers Union

Statement to Members for period ended 31 December 2024

This statement is issued in connection with the Union's annual return for 31 December 2024. As required by Section 32A of Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Income and Expenditure

In 2024, the union reported a total comprehensive surplus of £2,780,562 (2023: deficit £3,749,632), with a net operating deficit of £1,368,991 (2023: deficit £199,357).

General Fund

The total accounting income of the union (including pension changes and revaluation of investments) for the period was £32,154,766. This amount included £26,444,589 from members' subscriptions.

The union's total expenditure for the period was £28,621,134 (including pension schemes expenses).

Political Fund

In respect of the union's political fund, its total income was £1,204,320. This amount included £1,203,570 from members' subscriptions and total expenditure was £1,957,390.

Analysis of Officials' Salaries and Benefits

Office Held	Gross Salary £	Employers NI £	Pension £	Other Benefits £	Total £
General Secretary – D Ward	115,055	13,250	18,134	-	146,438
National Executive – S Banbury	3,533	73	-	-	3,606
National Executive – T Bouch	3,308	-	-	-	3,308
National Executive – M Kavanagh	2,510	-	-	-	2,510
National Executive – M Meade	769	-	-	-	769
National Executive – K Quirke	2,018	56	-	-	2,074
National Executive – J Samuels	5,847	590	-	-	6,437
National Executive – K Woolley	34,881	3,515	-	-	38,396

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, they should consider obtaining independent legal advice".

Withdrawal from the Political Fund

Members who joined the CWU after 1st March 2018 and who gave notice that they wished to contribute to the Political Fund, may withdraw that notice by giving notice to the union (a "withdrawal notice").

Auditor's Report

Please refer to the financial accounts (pages 5 – 7) independent audit report to members of the Communication Workers Union and also in the Union's AR21 submission.

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of the Communication Workers Union

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Union's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its result 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 Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

We have audited the financial statements of the Communication Workers Union ("the Union") for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Funds and Reserves and 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 United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Union in accordance with the 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.

Conclusions Relating To Going Concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the National Executive Council's 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 Union's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other Information

The National Executive Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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 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 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.

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of the Communication Workers Union (continued)

Matters On Which We Are Required To Report By Exception

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

- proper accounting records have not been kept in accordance with the requirements of the Act; or
- the Union has not maintained a satisfactory system of controls over its transactions; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities Of The National Executive Council

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the National Executive Council, the National Executive Council is 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 National Executive Council determines 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 National Executive Council is responsible for assessing the Union'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 National Executive Council either intend to liquidate the Union or to cease operations, or have 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.

Extent To Which The Audit Was Capable Of Detecting Irregularities, Including Fraud

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:

Non-compliance with laws and regulations

Based on:

- Our understanding of the Union and the sector in which it operates;
- Discussion with management and those charged with governance; and
- Obtaining and understanding of the Union's policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;

we considered the significant laws and regulations to be the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 and UK tax legislation

The Union is also subject to laws and regulations where the consequence of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amount or disclosures in the financial statements, for example through the imposition of fines or litigations. We identified such laws and regulations to be the health and safety legislation, and the Bribery Act 2010.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- Review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Review of correspondence with regulatory and tax authorities for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Review of financial statement disclosures and agreeing to supporting documentation; and

Independent Auditor's Report to the Communication Workers Union (continued)

Extent To Which The Audit Was Capable Of Detecting Irregularities, Including Fraud (continued)

- Review of legal expenditure accounts to understand the nature of expenditure incurred.

Fraud

We assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiry with management and those charged with governance regarding any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Obtaining an understanding of the policies and procedures relating to:
 - o Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud; and
 - o Internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud.
- Review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Discussion amongst the engagement team as to how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements; and
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

Based on our risk assessment, we considered the area's most susceptible to fraud to be management override of control and revenue recognition through the use of inappropriate journals.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- Testing a sample of journal entries throughout the year, which met a defined risk criteria, by agreeing to supporting documentation. We also tested a sample of non-risky journals. In response to the risk of fraud in revenue recognition, we specifically tested journals with unusual revenue account combinations.

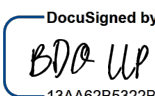
We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our 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 our auditor's report.

Use Of Our Report

This report is made solely to the members of the Communication Workers Union, as a body, in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Union 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 Union as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

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BDO LLP, Statutory Auditor
London, UK

Date: 04 November 2025

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).