North of England Zoological Society Staff Association

STATEMENT TO MEMBERS ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNION'S ANNUAL RETURN FOR PERIOD ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024 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 £512 This amount included payments of £ 0 in respect of membership of the union. The union's total expenditure for the period was £3,540The union does not maintain a political fund.

Salary paid to and other benefits provided to the General Secretary, President and members of the Executive
No Officer of the Association was paid any amount in respect of salary or 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
See attached by Mitchell Charlesworth, Chester CH1 2AU

NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY STAFF ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY STAFF ASSOCIATION

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of North of England Zoological Society Staff Association for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the income statement and the balance sheet. These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the accruals concept

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Association's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its deficit for the year then ended;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 28, 32 and 36 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

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

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 officers' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is not appropriate; or
- the officers have not disclosed in the accounts any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Association'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 annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The officers are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to 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.

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

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

- the Association has not kept proper accounting records in accordance with the requirements of section 28; or
- the Association has not maintained a satisfactory system of control over its transactions in accordance with the requirements of section 28; or
- the accounts to which the report relates do not agree with the accounting records.

Responsibilities of officers

The officers of the Association 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 officers determine necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the officers are responsible for assessing the Association'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 officers either intend to liquidate the Association 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures in response to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the sector in which the Association operates and the control environment
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed documentation of policies and procedures relating to:
    - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether the officers of the Association were aware of any instances of non-compliance
    - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether management have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud
    - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the accounts and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified that the greatest potential for fraud is in the completeness of revenue. In common with all audits under ISA (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks in which the Association operates, in particular, of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Association's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above, we identified completeness of revenue recognition as a key audit matter related to the potential risk of fraud. We reviewed receipts from the sponsoring employer across the year and obtained confirmation from the sponsoring employer of amounts due.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY STAFF ASSOCIATION

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

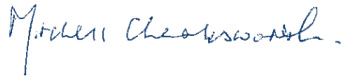
- reviewing the disclosures in the financial statements and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of the Association's activity.

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

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://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 Association'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 Association's members 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 Association and the Association's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Robert Hall
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth

Date: 30/04/2024

Accountants
Statutory Auditor

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Chester
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