

Registered Charity No. 1101114

1101114
5/4/08

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2008**

No 4

ACCOUNTS

03 FEB 2009

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COMPLIANCE DIVISION

SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE TRUSTEES' REPORT

OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY

The Trust is a registered Charity established under Trust Deed dated 6 August 2003. The objectives are:

1. To advance the education of the public in any branch of scientific research (including social science) and in particular by the dissemination of such research and useful information about such research.
2. To promote (for the benefit of the community) the knowledge and understanding of the public of, and to stimulate interest of the public in, the creation, presentation and use of scientific research.

Sense About Science sets out to achieve its objectives in three ways: by working with scientists to respond to the misrepresentation of scientific evidence on issues that concern the public, particularly when they are controversial; by strengthening contact between public intermediaries and researchers; and by undertaking activities that help the public to use scientific reasoning and evidence.

Sense About Science summarises its objectives and activities in its mission:-

“promoting good science and evidence for the public”.

POLICIES AND STRUCTURE OF THE CHARITY

The Trust specifies that a chairman should be elected annually and the Deed gives the power to elect or co-opt individuals to the Trust.

Organisational Structure

Sense About Science is an independent charitable trust funded by donations from foundations, science bodies, companies and individuals. Funding does not entitle any organisation to decision-making authority. Activities are coordinated by a small office team and supported by a wide network of organisations and volunteers from all areas of science and society.

The Board of Trustees is the decision-making body. It meets four times a year. Sense About Science is supported by an Advisory Council, which is a voluntary group providing time and advice. There are 14 Trustees. Mr Nick Ross joined the Board in December 2007; Dr Mark Matfield completed his term as trustee in September 2007.

STATEMENT of TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

In conformity with current practice, the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of the income and expenditure of the Trust for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:-

SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financials statements;
prepare the financials statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the Charity will continue for the foreseeable future.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The principal income of the Trust is derived from Grants and Donations. There was a net deficit for the year from unrestricted funds of £5,155 (2007 £75,027).

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Increasing the scientific contribution to public debate

Sense About Science was founded after consultation with leading scientific bodies and civic organisations to encourage scientists to work with citizens and improve public discussions about science and evidence and to encourage people to ask questions about evidence and claims relating to scientific and medical matters.

The trust now works with over 3,000 scientists, from Nobel prize winners to a growing network of postdoctoral researchers, all giving their services freely, and medical and learned societies. We help anyone with an audience or constituency from small local groups to national commentators. We have worked with opinion formers, news media, employers, educational bodies, teachers, academics, medical charities, information services, healthcare providers, professional organisations, trade bodies, NGOs, community groups, local authorities, parliamentarians, government, statutory bodies, broadcast media, and lifestyle and specialist publications. Our message to everyone who communicates with the public is: if you need help on a difficult or controversial issue of science, contact us.

Sense About Science runs a programme to increase the number of younger research scientists in public debates and to help them develop a supportive network. The VoYS (Voice of Young Science) programme is led by a group of enthusiastic early career scientists. In 2007-08 we held 4 Standing up for Science workshops and other activities including *There Goes the Science Bit*, a report on hunting the evidence for product claims.

SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Responding to growing public demand

Our responsive work has continued to grow. On a busy day, we handle in excess of 50 requests. These examples show the range of people who contact us:

- midwives about media stories on heat exposure in pregnancy
- a residents' association about brown field sites and chemicals
- women's magazines about the safety of cosmetics
- a town councillor about mobile phone masts
- health charities on assessing research claims
- television programme makers for advice on diet claims
- patient groups on government medical licensing rules
- amateur weather monitors on climate change.

We are regularly asked to help correct misleading information published in the public domain or presented by opinion formers. Over 2007 we produced responses to more than 200 inaccurate claims in the media, policy statements and product information.

Improving public exposure to good science and evidence

Where we identify significant gaps between the way that scientists and specialists understand a subject and how it appears to the public, we seek to address these through collaborative, longer term activities. In 2007-2008 these have included:

- Continued republication of our guide to the way scientific research is assessed, through peer review, called "*I don't know what to believe*" and the first stage of the Peer Review Resource for schools, supported by a grant from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.
- An annual review of *Science for Celebrities*, a helping hand from scientific bodies to people in the public eye who comment on health matters.
- *Making Sense of Testing*, a guide to patients and health writers on why scans and health tests for well people aren't always a good idea.
- The Sense About Science annual lecture given by Professor Alan Sokal, *What is Science?*

Sense About Science also initiated briefings and other activities concerned with promoting evidence and good science, including embryo research, WiFi radiation, homeopathy, food additives, evidence-based medicine, endocrine disruption, water use and MRI scans.

Risk Management

The Trustees actively review the major strategic, business and operational risks to which Sense About Science is exposed. Since 6 April 2005, the Trust has operated a reserves policy whereby a minimum of £5,000 per quarter is set aside, and held in a suitable interest-bearing bank account, toward establishing a reserve equivalent to six months operating costs. Progress is reviewed quarterly at Trustees' meetings and the amount set aside will be revised in accordance with projected income and expenditure.

On behalf of the Trustees



Chairman

Date:

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1101114**

We report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 5 April 2008, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

As the Charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act: and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Spilkin Knight
Farriers The Street
Albury Guildford
Surrey GU5 9AE

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2008**

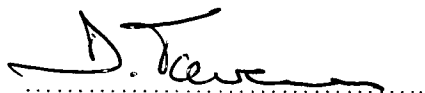
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2008 £	Total Funds 2007 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Grants					
Hamlyn		-	24,403	24,403	1,920
HSCT		-			9,533
Garfield Weston		-			25,000
Amberstone Trust		25,000		25,000	25,000
Donations	2	145,902		145,902	167,544
Other incoming resources		947		947	3,278
Interest		<u>1,991</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,991</u>	<u>760</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>173,840</u>	<u>24,403</u>	<u>198,243</u>	<u>233,035</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Fundraising and publicity		-		-	-
Charitable expenditure					
Costs of activities in furtherance of					
The charity's objects:					
- Staff costs (including training)		151,385	21,038	172,423	153,238
- Bursaries		1,250		1,250	-
- Donations		-	-	-	50
- Other project costs		10,907	252	11,159	11,006
- Running costs	3	2,734		2,734	7,030
Management & administration					
Costs	4	<u>7,429</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,429</u>	<u>7,498</u>
		173,705	21,290	194,995	178,822
Governance costs	5	<u>5,290</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,290</u>	<u>4,034</u>
Total resources expended		<u>178,995</u>	<u>21,290</u>	<u>200,285</u>	<u>182,856</u>
Net incoming resources					
- Net movement in funds		<u>(5,155)</u>	<u>3,113</u>	<u>(2,042)</u>	<u>50,179</u>
Total funds at 6 April 2007		<u>118,076</u>	<u>(758)</u>	<u>117,318</u>	<u>67,139</u>
Total funds at 5 April 2008		<u>112,921</u>	<u>2,355</u>	<u>115,276</u>	<u>117,318</u>

The notes on pages 7 to 9 form part of these accounts.

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 5 APRIL 2008**

	Notes	£	2008 £	£	2007 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	1,6		1,163		904
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors		23,460		12,000	
Cash at bank- (Reserve)		63,626		46,335	
Cash at bank		<u>29,660</u>		<u>101,327</u>	
		<u>116,746</u>		<u>159,662</u>	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>2,633</u>		<u>43,248</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>114,113</u>		<u>116,414</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>115,276</u>		<u>117,318</u>
FUNDS					
Restricted funds			2,355		(758)
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	8		<u>112,921</u>		<u>118,076</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			<u>115,276</u>		<u>117,318</u>

The financial statements on pages 5 to 9 were approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:


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The notes on pages 7 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2008
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. They also comply with the Trust Deed and the Charities Act 1993. In preparing the financial statements the charity has followed best practice as laid down in the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005.

(b) Incoming resources

Grants and Donations are included in the period to which they relate.

(c) Resources expended

Resources expended are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered. The costs associated with generating funds are included as incurred. Management and administration costs are those associated with the general running of the charity.

Charitable expenditure

This includes all the costs associated with activities and sundry expenditure associated with the premises, in addition to the costs incurred in staffing.

(d) Governance costs

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the Charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

(e) Fund accounting

Funds are held by the charity as unrestricted and restricted funds. Unrestricted funds can be used, at the discretion of the trustees, for any purpose within the objects of the charity. Funds held as restricted funds are income funds expendable by the trustees in furtherance of some particular aspect of the charity declared by the donors.

(f) Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation including any incidental expenses of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided at 25% of cost apart from assets purchased with restricted funds which are written off.

(g) Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to taxation.

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2008
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2 INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds 2008 £	Unrestricted Funds 2007 £
Income from Donations	£	£
G E Healthcare	10,000	12,000
ABPI	3,000	3,000
Astra Zeneca	34,000	15,000
BP	15,000	15,000
GSK	15,000	13,000
Pfizer	-	10,000
USGL Vodafone	-	15,000
Elsevier BV	11,046	32,575
Blackwell Publishing	-	3,000
Project Donations	42,357	25,418
Other Donations	2,450	750
Individual and Friendship	<u>13,049</u>	<u>22,801</u>
	<u>145,902</u>	<u>167,544</u>

3 RUNNING COSTS	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2007 £
Events	473	-	3,186
Internet and Web	-	-	1,442
Papers and Journals	829	-	476
Travel	889	-	1,275
Depreciation – owned assets	<u>543</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>651</u>
	<u>2,734</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,030</u>

4 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHARITY

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2007 £
Rent	4,013	-	4,000
Bank Charges	23	-	-
Telephone	1,482	-	916
Postage and Stationery	1,325	-	1,522
Software and Computer Sundries	487	-	1,026
Sundries	<u>99</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34</u>
	<u>7,429</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,498</u>

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2008
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

	Unrestricted Funds 2008 £	Unrestricted Funds 2007 £
5 GOVERNANCE COSTS		
Staff Costs	4,430	3,000
Accountancy Fees	<u>860</u>	<u>1,034</u>
	<u>5,290</u>	<u>4,034</u>
6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS		Total £
COST OR VALUATION		
As at 6 April 2007		2,605
Additions		<u>802</u>
As at 5 April 2008		<u>3,407</u>
Direct charitable purposes:		
DEPRECIATION		
At 6 April 2007		1,701
Provision for year		<u>543</u>
As at 5 April 2008		<u>2,244</u>
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 5 April 2008		<u>1,163</u>
At 5 April 2007		<u>904</u>
7 CREDITORS	2008 £	2007 £
Social security	-	3,799
Deferred Income	-	22,510
Other creditors	<u>6,384</u>	<u>16,939</u>
	<u>6,384</u>	<u>43,248</u>

8 TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND REIMBURSED EXPENDITURE

The Trustees received no remuneration and no reimbursement expenses from the charity during the current year or previous year.

9 FUNDS

Assets as shown on the Balance Sheet comprise unrestricted funds of £109,170 (2007 £118,076) for the principal activity of the Trust and restricted funds of £2,355 (2007 (£758)).