

EXETER OBSERVER LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024

EXETER OBSERVER LIMITED

COMPANY INFORMATION

Secretary: Leigh Curtis

Directors: Leigh Curtis & Martin Redfern

Society number: RS008435

Registered address: St Sidwell's Community Centre, Sidwell Street, Exeter EX4 6NN

EXETER OBSERVER LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024

The directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 5 April 2024.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the society during the year were:

- producing, publishing, distributing and promoting free, independent public interest journalism in accordance with the society's aims and objects
- operating a community organisation that is owned and democratically-run by its members
- raising working capital via a community share offer
- delivering editorial and operational development strategy milestones and enhancements.

DIRECTORS

The directors at the balance sheet date and at the beginning of the year were Leigh Curtis and Martin Redfern.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 requires the society's directors to prepare, in respect of each year of account, a revenue account for that year which deals with the society's affairs as a whole and gives a true and fair view of the income and expenditure of the society for the period to which the account relates, and a balance sheet which gives a true and fair view of the state of the society's affairs as at the date of the balance sheet.

In preparing those financial statements the directors are required to:

- 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 financial statements.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the society and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

AUDIT

Rule 26 of the society's rules permits the society to opt out of the requirement to appoint a qualified auditor when the society's turnover will fall below the threshold required for a full audit, to similarly opt out of the requirement to appoint lay auditors, and to instead prepare unaudited financial statements for presentation to its members at an Annual General Meeting for approval and subsequent submission to the Financial Conduct Authority with its annual return.

As a resolution to accordingly disapply Section 83 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 was passed at a general meeting on 23 September 2023 at which less than 20% of the votes cast were against the resolution and less than 10% of the votes held within the society were cast against the resolution, the total value of the society's assets do not exceed £5,100,000 and its turnover for the preceding year did not exceed £10,200,000, the society has opted to submit unaudited financial statements to the Financial Conduct Authority with its annual return.

Signed on 7 September 2024 by:

Leigh Curtis

Leigh Curtis

Director/Secretary

Martin Redfern

Martin Redfern

Director/Chair

Louise Stinchcombe

Louise Stinchcombe

Member

EXETER OBSERVER LIMITED

REVENUE ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024

	Year ended 5 April 2024	Year ended 5 April 2023	Year ended 5 April 2022	Period ended 5 April 2021
Revenue	7,978	2,294	1,350	-
Costs of revenue	31,893	16,147	27,537	1,995
Gross surplus/(deficit)	(23,916)	(13,852)	(26,188)	(1,995)
Administrative expenses	835	2,118	885	-
Grant-funded project costs	8,245	2,481	-	-
Operating surplus/(deficit)	(32,996)	(18,452)	(27,073)	(1,995)
Other income				
Donations	704	702	432	333
Grants	-	12,630	-	-
Interest	645	-	-	-
Payments	425	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities before taxation	(31,222)	(5,120)	(26,641)	(1,662)
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	-	-	-	-
Net surplus/(deficit) for financial period	(31,222)	(5,120)	(26,641)	(1,662)

EXETER OBSERVER LIMITED**BALANCE SHEET****AS AT 5 APRIL 2024**

	Year ended 5 April 2024	Year ended 5 April 2023	Year ended 5 April 2022	Period ended 5 April 2021
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets				
Cash at bank	40,865	16,311	22,145	48,338
Cash in hand	5	4	4	3
Debtors	82	-	-	-
Current liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-	81	619	-
Net current assets	40,952	16,234	21,530	48,341
Total assets less current liabilities	40,952	16,234	21,530	48,341
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	-	-	-	-
Net assets	40,952	16,234	21,530	48,341
Capital and reserves				
Share capital	105,598	49,658	49,834	50,003
Revenue account	(64,646)	(33,424)	(28,304)	(1,662)
Funds	40,952	16,234	21,530	48,341

The society has no recognised gains or losses other than those dealt with in the revenue account.

The notes on the financial statements below form part of these financial statements.

Signed on 7 September 2024 by:

Leigh Curtis

Leigh Curtis

Director/Secretary

Martin Redfern

Martin Redfern

Director/Chair

Louise Stinchcombe

Louise Stinchcombe

Member

EXETER OBSERVER LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Exeter Observer Limited was incorporated as community benefit society No. 8435 on 21 July 2020 under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and is registered by the Financial Conduct Authority at St Sidwell's Community Centre, Sidwell Street, Exeter EX4 6NN.

The accounting period covers the year from 6 April 2023 to 5 April 2024. The comparative periods covers the period 6 April 2022 to 5 April 2023, 6 April 2021 to 5 April 2022 and the period from 21 July 2020 to 5 April 2021 which is consequently shorter than one year.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland as applied to small entities by section 1A of the standard.

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

PRESENTATION CURRENCY

The financial statements are presented in £ sterling and rounded to the nearest full £.

REVENUE RECOGNITION

Revenue comprises the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of discounts and value added taxes, in the ordinary course of the company's activities.

GOODWILL

Goodwill which is generated by the activities of the company is not recognised as an asset on the balance sheet and the associated costs are written off to the revenue account when they are incurred.

SHARES

Ordinary shares are classified as equity.

3. SHARE CAPITAL

During the year 56,901 £1 shares were issued at par, 960 £1 shares were sold back and the proceeds donated to the company and a single £1 share was surrendered.

	Shares
Share capital at 6 April 2023	49,658
Shares issued at par	56,901
Shares redeemed	960
Shares surrendered	(1)
Share capital at 5 April 2024	105,598

4. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Remuneration and fees paid to the directors during the year amounted to £37,653.

5. AMENDMENTS

The revenue account as at 5 April 2023 presented at the 2023 AGM included grant-funded project costs in administrative expenses. It has since been amended in line with the subsequent accounting period to show these costs separately.