

Meningitis Research Foundation

(A company limited by guarantee)



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Foreword

2014 is a particularly important year for the Meningitis Research Foundation. It marks the 25th anniversary of the charity, and we could have had no more welcome news in March 2014 than the Government's decision to include the new meningococcal meningitis type B (MenB) vaccine in the UK infant immunisation schedule. This was all the more important, since there had previously been indications that the Government considered the vaccine not to be cost-effective. I am pleased to report we and all our many supporters played a unique role in bringing about this change of heart. We can now look forward to the prevention of the dreadful death and disability



caused by MenB in future. My sincere thanks go to all our members and supporters who have campaigned, donated funds and taken part in research over many years to help defeat this strain of the disease.

For the UK and Ireland our vision of a world free from meningitis and septicaemia is another significant step closer. But this most welcome progress made at home must not mask the immense challenges which still lie ahead in tackling this disease globally. We are committed to investing in research and to taking action not only in the UK but in other countries, especially Africa, where meningitis goes largely unrecognised and unprevented, and where therefore the burden of death and disability is unacceptably high, especially among children. Our Action Meningitis project in Malawi has made a promising start, helping to diagnose children in rural clinics accurately and quickly. And we are also funding research into group B streptococcal (GBS) meningitis, as this particularly affects newborns in the developing world. But this is only the beginning of what we plan will be a wide-ranging programme of research and interventions in many countries, ultimately bringing us closer to achieving our vision.

I will report back to you in the coming years about progress, which I hope will be similar to that which has been achieved in the UK. But to continue our work we rely on the interest, support, and generosity of many committed individuals and organisations. So please continue to be engaged in our work, and help us make that vital difference to individuals and families everywhere.

Thank you

Dr Brian ScottChair of trustees

Trustees' Annual Report

1. Structure

a. Governance

Meningitis Research Foundation is a national charity registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales, with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator in Scotland and with charitable exemption under Section 207 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 in the Republic of Ireland.

The Foundation is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, governed by the board of trustees, who are the directors of the company, under a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees are elected and hold office for three years. They are eligible for re-election. Trustees have the power to appoint a person who is willing to act to be a trustee for a period of up to one year. Applications to become a trustee, setting out relevant skills and experience, are accepted at any time. When a vacancy occurs prospective trustees are given an induction covering governance, the charitable objects, strategy, plans, budgets and activities. The chief executive delivers ongoing training in regulatory and other governance matters. The Medical Adviser covers medical and scientific matters. The board complies with the Code of Governance for the Voluntary and Community Sector and adopted the Dóchas Codes of Conduct and Professional Guidelines for Development NGOs in the Republic of Ireland.

Trustees review and approve the charity's strategy, plans and budgets, policies and procedures, and ensure the charity fulfils its constitutional functions and meets its legal obligations. Where appropriate, policies and procedures are devolved under terms of reference for consideration by sub-committees appointed by the board. Current sub-committees are listed on page 20.

The trustees confirm that the major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the board, have been reviewed annually and systems established to manage those risks. The most recent risk review was completed in June 2014.

Meningitis Promotions Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary trading company of Meningitis Research Foundation. It is a company limited by shares, registered in England, number 04494027 and governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. Its registered office is Midland Way, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2BS. David Moed, Angela Pick and Debi Warman are the directors. The company is dormant.

b. Management

In 2013/14 the board met five times. The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated to a paid chief executive.

A specialist advisory panel provides guidance to the trustees on the choice of appropriate research projects for funding. Advisers hold office for five years, renewable for a further two years. A further specialist group provides advice on other projects overseas. The charity recently set up a Medical Advisory Group

to help with clinical questions about meningitis and septicaemia received from people affected, the public and health professionals.

The charity is based in Bristol, with offices in Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and Scotland that conduct the activities of the charity in their geographical areas and are part of the administrative machinery of the reporting charity. From time to time the charity may also appoint staff to work in other locations and currently supports a Project Manager and staff in Malawi.

2. Public benefit

During the year we have reviewed the services we provide and the activities we undertake in order to determine that those services benefit the public.

a. Identifiable benefit (see also 3b, 3c1, 3c2, 3c3, 3d and 4a)

We provide:

- Funding for high-quality research into the detection, treatment and prevention of meningitis and septicaemia
- High-quality diagnosis, treatment and vaccination information for health professionals and symptoms awareness information for the general public
- Support for people affected through our 365-day-ayear helpline, our online Book of Experience, our befriending and membership programmes and our Disability Rights and Benefits service.

These services help to prevent disease altogether, help people to avoid contracting life-threatening illnesses where there are no vaccines, to live with the aftereffects as well as possible if they are unfortunate enough to contract them and survive, or to cope with bereavement if a loved one dies.

b. Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public (see also 3a)

 Meningitis and septicaemia can affect anyone of any age, although we focus many of our services on those most at risk, the very young and the elderly

c. People on low incomes must be able to benefit (see also 3b)

- We provide all our information free of charge. All our helpline calls are also free of charge. Membership of the charity and participation in our befriending programmes are free of charge.
- We publish information for survivors with disabilities about Disability Rights and Benefits, which we make available free of charge

d. Any private benefit must be incidental (see also 4b)

 We keep staffing levels to a minimum thanks to the generosity of our many volunteers who give their time to support the charity. Members of staff receive salaries which are benchmarked against appropriate national or local pay scales. These are reviewed annually.

Trustees' Annual Report

2. Public benefit (continued)

 If as a result, in whole or in part, of our research funding, a commercially-viable medical product such as a vaccine were to be developed, public benefit would ensue in line with our objectives. The charity would benefit financially in line with our intellectual property agreement.

3. Objectives and Activities

a. The need

Meningitis and septicaemia can affect anyone of any age but most cases are in babies, children and young adults. They continue to be the major infectious cause of death in children. Bacterial forms are generally the most dangerous and have to be notified to public health authorities.

In 2013/14, there were approximately 3,400 cases of meningococcal disease and other bacterial forms of meningitis in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (based on enhanced surveillance data where available).

In 2013/14 the UK and Ireland childhood immunisation schedule included an improved 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, a Hib vaccine and a MenC vaccine. These vaccines are saving lives and lessening disabilities by reducing the overall burden of disease. In March 2014 a vaccine for MenB was recommended for inclusion in the childhood schedule in the UK.

b. Aims and objectives

The trustees' vision is a world free from meningitis and septicaemia.

Their charitable objects are to:

- promote research into the causes and treatment of all forms of meningitis and associated infections;
- promote the dissemination of the knowledge gained by such research;
- advance the education of the public and health professionals in the causes, treatment and prevention of meningitis and associated infections;
- help relieve distress to individuals and families caused by death and damage through meningitis and associated infections.

The trustees' financial objectives for 2013/14 were:

- to raise £2.4 million in the year;
- to meet ongoing research funding commitments;
- to manage the funds effectively in the discharge of the charitable objects;
- to complete the rebuilding of the charity's reserves.

The trustees' operational objectives were:

- To continue to fund high-quality research projects;
- To continue to promote awareness through regular media and other campaigns;

- To review and distribute widely and freely all the charity's publications;
- To develop the Action Meningitis project in Malawi.

c. Strategies and grant making policy

The trustees work to a five-year strategy, which is reviewed annually. Detailed operating plans and budgets are drawn up and approved annually. Performance is monitored monthly.

- 1. Meningitis Research Foundation aims to defeat meningitis and septicaemia through research. Research funded must be of the highest scientific merit. Priority will be given to research that produces results in immediate problem areas, including
- prevention of all forms of meningitis and associated infections;
- improving treatment and outlook for patients;
- improving the speed and accuracy of diagnosis.

The trustees place particular emphasis on research into prevention of Group B meningococcal infection, due to its prevalence in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Research applications are assessed through a rigorous and competitive peer review process. Research grants may be held in any country but must meet UK standards of research ethics, scientific integrity and animal welfare. Research institutions must be able to accept the charity's Terms and Conditions of Grant Aid. The charity awards project grants only, unlikely to be more than £150,000 per year for up to five years.

2. The trustees' aim is also to give accurate, relevant and responsible messages which raise awareness of, and distinguish between, meningitis and septicaemia, and which enable the recipient to take appropriate and effective action to reduce death and disability.

A range of information resources has been produced for health professionals and for the public. Materials are developed with experts, endorsed by relevant professional bodies and regularly evaluated. Resources are widely available and free of charge. Annual public awareness programmes, focusing on the most at-risk groups, are undertaken.

- 3. Support for people affected is tailored and includes in-depth information about the diseases and aftereffects. Further help includes bereavement support, befriending and an invitation to become a member of the charity. Membership is free and open-ended, and offers a variety of opportunities to fight back against meningitis and septicaemia.
- 4. We rely heavily on voluntary income to maintain our charitable programmes and ensure we have the infrastructure to manage those programmes to the highest professional standards. The board's aim is always to maintain existing income streams, and to develop new ones.

d. Significant activities

The research commitments entered into in previous years were reviewed. Funding was continued in all cases. There were 13 live research projects at the year-end. Over the full duration of the projects these commitments amount to c£2 million. Funding is made available in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Europe, Africa and the USA.

Action Meningitis was continued as a pilot project, with the addition of three more clinics in the Blantyre region of Malawi, making a total of eight. Health workers were provided with mobile phones modified with purposedesigned applications giving them easy-to-use Early Triage, Assessment and Treatment (ETAT) information. Coupled with radio broadcasts and community theatre, the aim is to raise awareness of meningitis amongst both health workers and the general population, and to help sick children get treatment much faster than at present, thus saving lives.

Staff attended a number of health professional conferences to present and distribute educational materials and treatment protocols.

Mass mailings were made to junior doctors in paediatric departments, accident and emergency units, general medicine and infectious diseases, nurses in public health, immunisation, hospital triage and GP practices, as well as doctors in public health, directors of new ambulance trusts and other health professionals with responsibility for the disease area. During the year we distributed around 1 million leaflets, booklets, symptoms cards and posters free of charge, thanks to the generosity of the charity's supporters.

The Helpline was widely promoted, and deals with a variety of calls from the public, and health and education professionals. An interpretation service is available in 120 languages.

We rely on voluntary income to fund our charitable work. A small paid team works in each office to develop and support fundraising, and to work with volunteers in the community who participate in activities in their own time and at their own expense. Major fundraising events during the year included:

- Golf Days, including Bunker to Banquet in Aberdeen supported by patrons Sir Ian and Lady Helen Wood, their son Garreth and other members of their family:
- London Loot, and Megaraids such as Bristol, Belfast, Cardiff and Dublin, where large numbers of students organise street collections;
- Fundraising balls in London and Belfast;
- The London and Berlin Marathons, Flora Women's Mini Marathon, Dublin and Cork Mini Marathon, Edinburgh 10K, Glasgow, Cardiff and Bristol half-marathons, the Great North Run, the Great South Run, Run to the Beat, Santa Run and other runs and triathlons;
- Walk for Scotland, Donard in the Dark and the Phoenix Park Walk;

 GI Jane assault course challenge, parachuting events, quizzes and raffles.

Trained volunteers work with our staff and nurses on the Helpline, and also give administrative help in our four offices.

The trustees thank all those members and volunteers who give their time and support so generously by assisting in fundraising, awareness activities and office work.

4. Achievements and Performance

a. Services

We continued to maintain the largest research programme of any meningitis charity during 2013/14. The charity has funded 140 projects altogether, of which 13 are current, at a total investment of over £17.5 million. A description of all our research projects can be found on our website www.meningitis.org.

Our 365-day-a-year Helpline continued to operate on the special freephone tariff for charities, providing the only service of its kind in the UK. The Helpline dealt with 4,946 calls and emails during this period. Support staff made 23 home visits throughout the UK and Ireland. Use of helpline, email service and social networking sites has increased. The Helpline is accredited as a member of the Helplines Partnership and is the only meningitis charity with this Quality Standard.

Our website, www.meningitis.org, attracted 1,849,074 unique visitors in the past year including 1,133,536 visits to our symptoms pages. The UK and Ireland drives most of the traffic but we are seeing significant increases in visitors from African and Asian countries as well as the USA, Canada and Australia. The site is promoted on NHS Choices and by the British Overseas NGOs for Development (BOND) organisation, the UK's international development site for NGOs. Our Facebook site was liked by 14,020 users by March 2014 and attracted 38,113 active engagements in its content. We also have 5,235 followers on Twitter.

The Telephone Befriending Network is accredited with the Approved Providers' Standard of The Mentoring & Befriending Foundation. A review of all befrienders showed the charity had 95 active trained volunteer befrienders offering support and arranged 21 new befriending relationships during the period.

At the end of the financial year there were 17,689 members of the charity (13,354 in England, 837 in Wales, 1,179 in Scotland, 944 in Northern Ireland, 1,119 in the Republic of Ireland, and 256 overseas).

We continued our campaign 'Counting the Costs of Meningitis' and presented a petition to government supporting the need for increased vaccination. There was a further day of action, Meningitis Matters, at the Westminster Parliament, and other lobbying activity in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Trustees' Annual Report

4. Achievements and Performance (continued)

We continue to support the Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunisation (GAVI) whose mission is to improve child health and survival by accelerating access to life-saving pneumococcal vaccines in the world's poorest countries. We took part in World Meningitis Day organised by CoMO, the international Confederation of Meningitis Organisations, of which we are founding members.

b. Fundraising

The trustees recognise the economic climate is difficult, and are especially grateful for the loyal and continued support of the charity's many thousands of donors.

Our thanks go to our generous members without whose donations and tireless fundraising activity the charity's work could not happen.

We are grateful to individual supporters and donors whose contribution through raffles, collections, event sponsorship and other gifts is invaluable.

The trustees also acknowledge with gratitude the funds made available by grant-making trusts.

Contributions from the corporate sector are always welcome.

The charity receives no core funding from statutory sources, but recognises the value of project funding from the Department of Health in England, the Irish Government, the Scottish Government and others, from time to time.

5. Financial Review

In 2013/14 the overall income of the charity was £2.59 million. Principal funding sources were voluntary income, fundraising activities, investment income and our biennial conference.

The board's policy is to hold sufficient reserves in a designated fund providing for three months' running costs of £324,617. Restricted funds of £235,884 are also held. The remainder is held by the trustees against future research funding commitments already entered into. The investments and reserves were last reviewed in June 2014.

The board's policy is to hold reserves in short, medium and long-term deposits, having regard to acceptable levels of risk and return, and day-to-day working capital requirements.

The trustees confirm that the financial statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' and with the requirements of the Foundation's governing Memorandum and Articles. The financial statements give a true and fair view of the Foundation's incoming resources and application of resources during the year and of its state of affairs at the end of the accounting period.

The trustees have taken all appropriate steps to apprise themselves of any relevant audit information. So far as each trustee is aware, the charity's auditors are aware of all relevant audit information.

6. Plans for future periods

Existing charitable programmes and fundraising events will be maintained for the UK and Ireland, and the trustees also wish to develop new charitable programmes and income streams for work abroad.

We will continue to give top priority to vital scientific research in 2014/15. Further funding will be made available for new projects, including research in Africa. Trustees also recognise the importance of continuing to focus on meningococcal type B bacteria, given its prevalence in many parts of the world.

We will advance our project Action Meningitis in Malawi to improve the diagnosis of meningitis by health professionals and the recognition of the disease by the general public. We will work with partners to embed the outcomes in health systems and in good practice. We will use the learning from this project to develop further work in resource-poor settings.

The trustees applaud the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) in March 2014 to include a MenB vaccine in the UK's infant immunisation schedule. We will continue to work with all parties to ensure its smooth introduction, and look forward to the consequent reduction in death and disability this will provide.

We are aiming for a minimum of $\mathfrak{L}2.2$ million from voluntary income in the year. We aim to raise more than this for new projects. We wish to operate to a modest financial surplus. Expenditure on charitable activities will be at least 70% of all expenditure.

2014/15 is the 25th anniversary of the charity. The trustees pass on heartfelt thanks to all the members, supporters, volunteers, advisers, Patrons and staff of the charity who have worked so hard over the years to make progress in the fight against meningitis and septicaemia. The trustees continue to rely on the goodwill and support of everyone in the community, and would like to enhance their input by accessing new sources of support in the future.

In preparing this report, the trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

Dr Brian Scott

Chair

Signed on behalf of the trustees 8 November 2014

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company and charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Under company and charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charity for the year.

In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate and proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Companies Act 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Financial statements are published on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements, which may vary from legislation in other jurisdictions. The maintenance and integrity of the charity's website is the responsibility of the trustees. The trustees' responsibility also extends to the ongoing integrity of the financial statements contained therein.

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the financial statements of Meningitis Research Foundation for the year ended 31 March 2014 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees and members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees and 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 charity and the charity's trustees and members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with those Acts.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

A description of the scope of an audit of financial statements is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditscopeukprivate.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2014, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the charitable company has not kept adequate, sufficient and proper accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the trustees' report.

Neil Dimes

Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of BDO LLP, Statutory Auditor

United Kingdom

14 November 2014

BDO LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income & Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds	Total funds 2014 £	Total funds 2013 £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary					
Donations and gifts	4	1,134,107	127,470	1,261,577	1,487,762
Legacies		193,789	-	193,789	221,621
Grants receivable	5	-	221,676	221,676	149,022
Activities for generating funds					
Fundraising	6	769,733	100	769,833	667,070
Merchandising income		57	-	57	178
Investment income	7	45,717	425	46,142	60,900
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Conference income and sponsorship		95,894	-	95,894	_
Other incoming resources					
Gains/(losses) on foreign exchange	11	1,011	(118)	893	(5,150)
Total incoming resources		2,240,308	349,553	2,589,861	2,581,403
Resources expended					
Costs of generating funds					
Costs of generating voluntary income					
Fundraising costs	9	740,507	2,795	743,302	728,035
		740,507	2,795	743,302	728,035
Costs of charitable activities					
Research	10	346,493	137,333	483,826	407,040
Information	10	724,450	100,836	825,286	593,222
Member support and befriending	10	209,261	13,776	223,037	224,919
	10	1,280,204	251,945	1,532,149	1,225,181
Governance costs	10	107,396	29	107,425	132,721
Total resources expended		2,128,107	254,769	2,382,876	2,085,937
Net income for the year before transfers	11	112,201	94,784	206,985	495,466
Gross transfer between funds	20	8,793	(8,793)	-	_
Unrealised (losses)/gains	15	(7,943)	_	(7,943)	64,995
Net movement in funds for the year		113,051	85,991	199,042	560,461
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2013		989,073	149,893	1,138,966	578,505
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2014	20	1,102,124	235,884	1,338,008	1,138,966

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these accounts.

Balance Sheet Company registered number: 04367866

	Notes	£	2014 £	£	2013 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	14		1,031		2,766
Investments	15		1,043,579		1,048,955
			1,044,610		1,051,721
Current assets					
Debtors	16	267,257		254,501	
Short-term deposits	17	668,930		534,594	
Cash at bank and in hand		404,101		397,835	
		1,340,288		1,186,930	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(934,293)		(886,865)	
Net current assets			405,995		300,065
Total assets less current liabilities			1,446,825		1,351,786
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than					
one year	19		(112,597)		(212,820)
Net assets			1,338,008		1,138,966
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds	20		235,884		149,893
Unrestricted funds					
General fund		550,858		437,807	
Designated funds		551,266		551,266	
Total unrestricted funds	20		1,102,124		989,073
Total charity funds			1,338,008		1,138,966

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these accounts.

Approved and adopted for issue by the trustees on 26 June 2014 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Brian Scott

Chair

8 November 2014

1 Principal accounting policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005), issued in March 2005, applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Companies Act 2006. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

The charity is a parent undertaking of a subsidiary company that was dormant throughout the current and prior periods and so is not required to prepare group financial statements. These financial statements therefore present information about the charity as an individual undertaking and not about its group.

1.2 Incoming resources

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Such income is only deferred when the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods, or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Donated assets are taken to income when donated, at estimated market value. Gifts for fundraising by the charity are recognised by way of the resulting fundraising proceeds.

Donated services and facilities are included as voluntary income at their estimated value to the charity when received, and under the appropriate expenditure heading depending on the nature of the service or facility provided.

Legacies are included when the charity is notified that payment will be made or properly transferred and that the amount involved can be quantified with reasonable certainty.

Grants receivable are accounted for when conditions for receipt have been complied with, and recognised in the period to which they relate. Grants relating to future periods are deferred and recognised in those future accounting periods.

When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital gains, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

Income from commercial trading activities is recognised as earned, as the related goods and services are provided.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1.3 Research grants

Research grants are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity. Single year grants are recognised as liabilities in full once the charity has made an unconditional commitment to pay the grant and this is communicated to the beneficiary. Multi-year grants that are conditional on an annual review of progress that determines whether future funding is provided, and for which the charity retains discretion to terminate the grant, are recognised as a liability to the extent the charity has made a commitment to pay the grant instalment and this is communicated to the beneficiary. Multi-year grants that are not conditional on an annual review are recognised as liabilities in full once the charity has made an unconditional commitment to pay the grant and this is communicated to the beneficiary.

1.4 Resources expended and basis of allocation of costs

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Contractual arrangements and performance related grants are recognised as goods or services are supplied. Other grant payments are recognised when a constructive obligation arises that results in the payment being unavoidable.

- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.
- Charitable activities expenditure includes both the direct costs and support costs relating to these activities.
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets, and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Staff costs are allocated on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of time spent by staff on those activities, and is reviewed half yearly. Office costs and property related costs are apportioned on a usage basis that is reviewed annually.

1.5 Pension costs

The charity contributes to the personal pensions of qualifying UK employees through a group personal pension plan, and to a defined contribution scheme for qualifying employees in the Republic of Ireland. The pension charge recorded in these accounts is the amount of contributions payable in the accounting year.

1.6 Foreign exchange

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling and recorded at an average rate of exchange for the period. Balances at the year end denominated in a foreign currency are translated into Sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation of assets is provided at rates calculated to write off the excess of cost or valuation over estimated residual amount over the estimated useful economic lives of each class of asset, subject to annual review.

These rates are currently as follows:

Plant and machinery
Office equipment
Computer equipment
Motor vehicles
25% reducing balance
25% straight line
33.3% straight line
25% reducing balance

Donated assets are valued by the trustees.

1.8 Investments

Listed stocks and shares are shown at market value at the balance sheet date. The surplus or deficit arising on each annual valuation is credited or debited direct to the statement of financial activities.

The net book profit or loss on realisation of investments is arrived at by comparing the consideration with the market value at the previous year end or the cost if the investments were purchased during the year.

1.9 Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds that can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Expenditure that meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

1.10 Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the trustees named in the Trustees' Annual Report. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

3 Incoming Resources

3% (2013: 6%) of incoming resources arose outside the United Kingdom.

4 Donations and gifts

	Unrestricted funds 2014 £	Restricted funds 2014 £	Total funds 2014 £	Total funds 2013 £
Donations from members, supporters and general public	624,970	35,005	659,975	588,884
Charitable trusts donations	47,716	13,767	61,483	133,662
Company donations	196,000	78,698	274,698	676,608
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	100,724	-	100,724	80,019
Gifts in kind	164,697	-	164,697	8,589
	1,134,107	127,470	1,261,577	1,487,762

The charity received donated services including airtime for a television infomercial and Google advertising. These are included as income at a valuation based on the estimated cost to the charity to provide goods and services of the same utility. In addition, substantial help from volunteers has been received, but has not been recognised in the financial statements as this cannot be reliably valued.

The charity gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the donors and volunteers.

5 Grants receivable

	2014 £	2013 £
Northern Ireland DOHSSP – Information Awareness Programme	19,184	19,184
Department of Health - Disability rights and benefits	_	30,000
St James Place – Northern Ireland Awareness for Travellers	2,266	_
Scottish Executive – Scottish Government funding	110,410	10,755
Lloyds TSB Northern Ireland – Action Meningitis Malawi	6,000	_
Meningitis Merseyside – MRF Meningococcus Genome Library	_	41,411
NIE - Northern Ireland office equipment	-	1,300
University of Birmingham	-	5,141
St Anne's Cathedral – Northern Ireland Awareness	_	800
St Anne's Cathedral – Northern Ireland Book of Experience	800	_
Co Op – Northern Ireland Schools Awareness	_	495
Danske Bank – Northern Ireland University packs	_	316
The Hospital Saturday Fund	992	1,000
Irish Aid – Action Meningitis Malawi	_	8,790
Novartis	80,991	25,424
Eli Lilly – ROI Awareness	1,033	_
HSE North – Support for people affected	_	4,237
Cork Street - Republic of Ireland	_	169
	221,676	149,022

6 Fundraising

Fundraising income is generated through fundraising events, public collections and appeals organised by the charity, and with volunteers in the community.

7 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2014 £	Restricted funds 2014 £	Total funds 2014 £	Total funds 2013 £
Income from listed investments and unit trusts	45,525	_	45,525	58,360
Interest on cash deposits	192	425	617	2,540
Investment income	45,717	425	46,142	60,900

8 Research grants

The charity makes grants for research into the causes and treatment of all forms of meningitis and associated infections. The amount payable in the year comprises grants to institutions, as follows:

	Number of grants	£
Agence de Médicine Préventive, France	1	112,597
University of Cambridge	2	85,576
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine	1	75,293
Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency)	1	23,503
University of Oxford	1	128,322
	6	425,291
Reconciliation of grants payable		£
Grants payable in the year		425,291
Grants cancelled or recovered		(92,502)
Charge for the year – note 10		332,789
9 Costs of generating funds		
	2014 £	2013 £
Materials, event participation costs and fees, and direct mail	231,690	179,214
Salaries and related overheads	390,999	413,266
Support costs – note 10	120,613	135,555
	743.302	728.035

10 Total resources expended

Details of charitable activities

The amount spent on charitable activities, including support costs is analysed by programme area as follows:

	Direct costs £	Grant funding £	Support costs £	Total 2014 £	Total 2013 £
Research	-	332,789	151,037	483,826	407,040
Information	685,875	-	139,411	825,286	593,222
Member support and befriending	149,378	-	73,659	223,037	224,919
Total resources expended	835,253	332,789	364,107	1,532,149	1,225,181
	E	stablishment			

		E:	stablishment and travel			
Support costs	Allocated indirect £	Staff costs £	costs funding £	Office costs £	Total 2014 £	Total 2013 £
Fundraising	3,898	46,400	43,562	26,753	120,613	135,555
Research	66,615	73,385	7,558	3,479	151,037	151,206
Information	176	76,511	36,695	26,029	139,411	144,666
Member support	1,929	38,433	21,191	12,106	73,659	73,114
	72,618	234,729	109,006	68,367	484,720	504,541

Basis of allocation

Establishment and travel costs and office costs are apportioned on a staff time allocation by department on the following basis:

Fundraising	Research	Information	Member support	Governance
38%	5%	36%	17%	4%

Governance costs

The governance costs of the charity consisted of the following direct and indirect costs:

	2014 £	2013 £
Staff costs	41,515	46,832
Building costs	8,134	9,156
Office costs	33,083	52,957
Trustee expenses and meeting costs	2,012	1,509
Legal and professional	4,591	6,967
Investment managers' fees	6,847	6,360
Auditor's remuneration	11,243	8,940
	107,425	132,721

11 Net incoming resources

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2014 £	2013 £
Auditor's remuneration –		
Audit fees	7,650	7,450
Accountancy, taxation and other services	3,593	_
Operating leases – plant and machinery	8,644	6,020
Operating leases – property	70,308	72,844
Depreciation	1,475	12,601
Net gain on disposal of fixed assets	260	_
Unrealised gains/losses on foreign exchange	(893)	5,150

12 Staff costs

	2014 £	2013 £
Salary costs	989,613	997,502
Social security costs	81,878	96,817
Pension costs	45,329	42,978
	1,116,820	1,137,297

One (2013: one) employee earned more than £60,000 in the year. The charity made pension contributions of £3,638 (2013: £3,638) in respect of this employee.

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

2014 No.	2013 No.
42	42

The average weekly number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2014 No.	2013 No.
Charitable activities	22	22
Cost of generating funds	14	14
Management and administration of the charity	1	1
	37	37

13 Trustees' remuneration and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them have received any remuneration during the year.

Seven trustees received travel expenses for trustee and other meetings of the charity totalling £1,527 (2013: £1,135).

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and	Office	
	machinery £	equipment £	Total £
	L	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2013	4,707	114,287	118,994
Disposals	_	(2,277)	(2,277)
At 31 March 2014	4,707	112,010	116,717
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2013	4,420	111,808	116,228
Charge for the year	73	1,402	1,475
Disposals	-	(2,017)	(2,017)
At 31 March 2014	4,493	111,193	115,686
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2014	214	817	1,031
At 31 March 2013	287	2,479	2,766

All of the charity's fixed assets are primarily used for charitable purposes. Plant and machinery and office equipment also support fundraising and administration functions.

15 Fixed asset investments

Historical cost as at 31 March 2014	975,308
Market value 31 March 2014	1,043,579
Net realised/unrealised investment losses	(7,943)
Additions at cost	2,567
Market value 1 April 2013	1,048,955
	£

Although the market value of investments has fallen, the charity received income from the investments, as shown in note 7.

The market value of investments as at 31 March 2014 can be analysed as follows:

	£
Listed investments and unit trusts	1,021,433
Investments in subsidiary undertakings	1
Cash held as part of the investment portfolio	22,145
	1,043,579

The charity owns the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of Meningitis Promotions Limited, a company registered in England. The subsidiary is dormant, and has therefore not been consolidated into the financial statements of the parent charity.

All other investments are held to provide an investment return. All listed investments and unit trusts are managed in the UK.

16 Debtors

	2014 £	2013 £
Other debtors	706	4,348
Taxation recoverable	5,889	4,531
Prepayments	194,627	171,057
Accrued income	66,035	74,565
	267,257	254,501

17 Short-term deposits

	£
Short-term cash deposits at 1 April 2013	534,594
Additions	134,336
Short-term cash deposits at 31 March 2014	668,930

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2014 £	2013 £
Trade creditors	70,541	55,504
Taxation and social security costs	35,972	26,970
Accrued research grants	644,451	536,856
Accruals	23,165	39,545
Deferred income	160,164	227,990
	934,293	886,865

Deferred income relates to receipts for fundraising events happening after the year end that are refundable should those events not take place. All deferred income brought forward was released and all deferred income carried forward arose in the year.

19 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2014	2013
	£	£
Accrued research grants	112,597	212,820

20 Statement of funds

Support costs	Balance at 1 April 2013 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Losses on investments and transfers	Balance at 31 March 2014 £
General funds	437,807	2,240,308	(2,128,107)	850	550,858
Designated funds					
Running costs	324,617	-	-	-	324,617
Future potential research project funding	226,649	-	-	-	226,649
Total unrestricted funds	989,073	2,240,308	(2,128,107)	850	1,102,124
Restricted funds					
Awareness:					
Adult management interactive electronic tool	34,771	55	-	-	34,826
Vital signs, Vital Issues DOH	274	-	-	-	274
Helpline	-	680	(680)	-	_
Disability rights and benefits	3,218	3	(3221)	-	_
Raise awareness student health professionals	8,423	7	(8,430)	-	-
Awareness Scotland	-	13,007	(9,118)	-	3,889
Northern Ireland information and awareness	-	19,185	(17,411)	-	1,774
Malawi	20,855	146,952	(97,368)	-	70,439
MRF Meningococcus Genome library	41,331	17,732	(46,503)	-	12,560
Genome Scotland	-	15,006	(10,869)	-	4,137
Novartis awareness	-	81,101	(30,740)	-	50,361
Other funds in respect of awareness	33,966	41,910	(18,413)	-	57,463
Fixed assets:					
Funds in respect of fixed assets	55	-	(14)	-	41
Research projects:					
Group B vaccine	7,000	-	-	(7,000)	-
Other funds in respect of research projects	-	12,915	(11,002)	(1,793)	120
Other funds in respect of general research	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
	149,893	349,553	(254,769)	(8,793)	235,884
	1,138,966	2,589,861	(2,382,876)	(7,943)	1,338,008

Sufficient resources are held in an appropriate form to enable each fund to be applied in accordance with any restrictions.

Awareness funds are applied for the provision of information to the general public, groups targeted by age or location who are potential sufferers of the diseases, their families and carers, and health professionals and others dealing with the diseases.

Befriender training funds are used to support training programmes for volunteers to support those affected by the diseases.

Fixed asset funds arise where income is received for the purpose of acquiring fixed assets for use by the charity. Research projects funds are applied for research into the prevention, detection and treatment of the diseases.

During the year, the charity received income in relation to specific research projects where costs had been accrued and therefore recognised in prior years. Accordingly, transfers are made from restricted funds to the general fund to reflect costs previously recognised.

The designated running costs fund provides for three months' running costs.

The designated future potential research project fund is intended to cover future research funding commitments not yet recognised as liabilities.

21 Operating lease commitments

The charity has the following annual commitments under non cancellable operating leases in respect of property payable in the next 12 months:

		Land and buildings			Other	
		2014 £	2013 £	2014 £	2013 £	
Expiry date:						
Within one year		32,026	37,017	-	_	
Two to five years		9,000	9,000	11,992	6,020	
22 Analysis of net assets between funds	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2014 £	Total funds 2013 £	
Fund balances at 31 March 2014 are represented by:						
Fixed assets	1,044,569	-	41	1,044,610	1,051,721	
Net current assets	(381,114)	551,266	235,843	405,995	300,065	
Creditors falling due after one year	(112,597)	_	_	(112,597)	(212,820)	
Total net assets	550,858	551,266	235,884	1,338,008	1,138,966	

23 Contingent liability - research grants

In addition to the accrued research grants in notes 18 and 19, the charity has agreed in principle to give £248,235 (2013: £387,098) of continuation funding to existing research grant recipients. This amount has not been recognised as a liability as continuation funding is contingent on satisfactory progress assessments by the charity and the relevant reviews had not occurred at the year end.

Reference and administrative details

Reference and administrative details

MENINGITIS RESEARCH FOUNDATION Charity Registration Numbers

1091105 in England and Wales SC037586 in Scotland

CHY 12030 in Republic of Ireland

Company Registration Number

04367866

Principal Office of the Charity and Registered Office of the Company

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Prof George Griffin Mathew Gilbert

Linda MacHugh (retired April 2013) Jane Murphy: Deputy Chair

David Moëd FCA: Company Secretary

Angela Pick: Treasurer

David Pick

Simon Stirling (retired April 2013)

Prof Christoph Tang (appointed Nov 2013)

Mark Taylor

Stephen Trump (appointed Feb 2014)

Martin Vaggers Debi Warman

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Martin Vaggers, David Moëd

Finance Sub-Committee

David Moëd; Jane Murphy, Dr Brian Scott

Comms Sub-Committee

Mark Taylor, Debi Warman

Fundraising Sub-Committee

Mark Taylor, Mathew Gilbert, Jane Murphy

Research Sub-Committee

Dr Brian Scott, Prof George Griffin, Prof Christoph Tang

Action Meningitis Sub-Committee

Dr Brian Scott, Mathew Gilbert

Medical Adviser

Prof George Griffin BSc PhD FRCP FRCPath FMedSci

Chief Executive

Christopher Head MA FRSA MInstF

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(Chair to June 2013) Prof Peter Andrew PhD

Prof Ray Borrow PhD MRCPath (Chair from June 2013)

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Prof Adam Finn MA PhD FRCP FRCPCH

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