



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/10/2023
Period end date

Period start date To 30/09/2024

Charity name: The Somerscience Trust

Charity registration number: 1198113

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To advance the education of the public in Somerset in science, technology, mathematics and engineering and to promote public engagement in all aspects of STEM developments for the public benefit.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The Somerscience festival was held successfully on 6th May 2024. The work of the charity in the year was focussed around organising the programme and content, attracting funding, developing the promotional and communications campaign to ensure the festival's success, liaising with Somerset schools to ensure the engagement of young people, developing a safe event management plan and handling the logistics of mounting the festival across 6 venues before the festival; supervising and troubleshooting on the day of the festival; and evaluation of the festival against our charity objectives and the various objectives of grant funders, preparing written reports on such, as appropriate.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	At all times the trustees have been aware that our activities must be within the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	All trustees, implementation team members and event assistants on the day are volunteers and we could not offer this festival as a free benefit to the public without their generous contribution of time and expertise.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The festival attracted total visitors – 5428 (600 more than 2023), 25% of which were very local (Castle Cary and Sparkford), 12.8% Yeovil – which has some of the most deprived areas of the county, 62.7% in total from the target South Somerset & rural areas. Gender breakdown 47/53% M/F. Ages: 42% under 18 (mainly 4-15); 38.7% 30-50; 17.3% 50+; 1.6% 18-30.</p> <p>Social media reach has increased considerably – we now have 1350 followers: Facebook post reach was 38, 938 in the run up to the festival with engagement of 6,616. 99% of visitors judged the quality of the festival to be Good or Very Good; 92% of visitors who expressed an opinion would recommend the festival to their network; 85% of visitors felt the festival gave them a better understanding of STEM and 73% a better understanding specifically of STEM careers; and 86% felt the festival had a positive impact on their belief that STEM is relevant to their daily life.</p> <p>A shift of 30% was reported in positivity of visitors' attitudes towards STEM before and after the festival.</p> <p>At least 80% of professional contributors reported Good or Excellent the number of interactions they had with target audience, the level of engagement from the audience, the quality of interactions they had and the gender reach of the festival. We are bringing STEM to the local rural population and developing inspiration and a sense of the future possibilities for careers, learning and wellbeing.</p>
Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>We had 5 objectives for this festival round:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Afford a minimum of 15,000 engagements by young people from South Somerset Fully met Registration data suggests that 42% of attendees were under 18 and approximately 45% live in South Somerset, which yield a ballpark figure of 1000 'young people from South Somerset'. Success criterion 1 targets 15,000 engagements from this group, which would require interaction with just 15 of the 93+ activities on offer. 2. Recruit at least 70 contributing

		<p>organisations and 100 discrete activities Fully met 93 planned individual activities and 70 separate organisations engaged; however, on the day, it became clear that many of the billed 'activities' were in fact multifaceted.</p> <p>3. Achieve a quality experience for participants and attendees (measured by survey and recognising that experts/researchers, informal educators/explainers, STEM employers and public may each have different goals) Fully met 99% of attendees rated the quality of the festival as 'Good' – 'Very Good'. Contributors gave the festival an average rating of 8.44 / 10 in terms of meeting expectations.</p> <p>4. Improve on the baseline of visitor numbers and demographic profile achieved in the first year Fully met Approximately 600 more visitors in 2024 compared to 2023.</p> <p>5. Effect positive change on attitudes towards STEM and STEM careers from visitors, leading eventually to a quantitative increase in STEM uptake at GCSE, A/T Level and STEM destinations after school. Partly met -47% of attendees said the festival made them more likely to consider studying or working in a STEM field. Post festival, 'Very Positive' attitudes to STEM became 63%, an increase of 21%. No work has yet been done on tracking changes to uptake of STEM qualifications or destinations, given that this is only year 2 of Somerscience, so this is one to monitor in future years.</p>
<p>Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	<p>We aimed to raise sufficient funds to cover the cost of the festival being free to all visitors and participants. Effective financial management and negotiation, as well as our success at achieving goodwill, grants and sponsorships, has meant that we ended the year with a budget surplus which provides the basis for confidence that we can fund next year's festival and so have a sustainable event.</p>

Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>At the end of each financial period, including 30/09/24, Somerscience conducts a thorough review of its financial position to assess its overall fiscal health and make informed decisions for the future. This review involves a comprehensive analysis of our financial statements, including the balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement, among others. The purpose of this review is to:</p> <p>Evaluate Financial Performance: We examine our financial performance over the period to determine how well we have utilized our resources in achieving our mission. We assess key financial indicators such as revenue, expenses, and net assets to understand the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations. This analysis helps us identify areas of strength and areas that require improvement, enabling us to make informed decisions to optimize our financial performance.</p> <p>Ensure Compliance: We review our financial position to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and accounting standards. This includes assessing our adherence to legal and regulatory requirements related to financial reporting, tax obligations, and governance. By ensuring compliance, we maintain the trust and confidence of our stakeholders, including donors, partners, and the broader public.</p> <p>For 30/09/24, The trustees of The Somerscience Trust found that the financial performance and compliance were in line with expectations.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>At The Somerscience Trust we believe in transparency and accountability in our operations, including the management of reserves. We maintain reserves for the following reasons:</p> <p>Financial Stability: Reserves act as a financial safety net, providing a cushion to navigate unexpected challenges or economic fluctuations. They help us weather unforeseen events such as economic downturns, changes in donor funding, or emergencies that could impact our ability to carry out our programs and services.</p>

		Program Continuity: Reserves enable us to sustain ongoing programs and services during periods of uncertainty or when there is a delay in anticipated funding. By having reserves in place, we can ensure that critical activities, such as providing aid to beneficiaries or conducting research, can continue uninterrupted even if there are temporary fluctuations in revenue.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£6,680.85
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The Charity will need to continue to raise grant income to meet the costs of running the festival. We are confident we can achieve this as we now have a one year (and successful) track record.
The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Grant income from trusts and foundations. Corporate Sponsorship of the Somerscience event.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	We have limited reserves each year and therefore we keep these in a savings account. At present there is no need to have a social investment policy.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The Principal risk is the inability to raise sufficient funds to run the Somerscience event. We also have a key person risk. Colleen Bower, who is the founder of the Somerscience festival, is integral to the success of the event. She has built up a team around her to mitigate this risk.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		N/a
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Every trustee must be appointed for a term of 2 or 3 years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees, apart from the founding trustees. Trustees other than founding trustees, were selected and approved at the Trustee meeting on 19/05/22 based on their skills, knowledge and experience, and expertise in aspects of STEM and/or outreach events. One trustee stood down and a replacement was selected during the period along the same principles.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Somerscience Trust
Other name the charity uses	N/a
Registered charity number	1198113
Charity's principal address	189 Newbridge Rd Bath BA1 3HH

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Teresa Colleen Bower	Chair		
2	Simon Patrick Connell	Treasurer		
3	Christopher Budd	Safeguarding Lead		
4	Gavin Costigan			
5	Alan Champneys			
6	Lucy Smith			
7	Darren Wilson		<i>Appointed 10/09/24</i>	
8	Wendy Adams		<i>01/10/23 to 29/05/24</i>	

Names and addresses of advisers

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountants	Linden Accountants Ltd	Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier Street, St Werburghs, Bristol, BS2 9LB

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Teresa Colleen Bower	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	17/11/24	

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOMERSCIENCE TRUST

I report to the charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Somerscience Trust for the period ended 30 September 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act), as amended by s.145 of the Charities Act 2011) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under the company law and is eligible for independent examination; it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 by audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.


Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Steven Baptiste
Linden Accountants, Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier Street, St Werburghs, Bristol, BS2 9LB

Date: 24 February 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Somerscience Trust

Charity No
Company No

1198113
CE028489

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/10/2023

To

30/09/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Charitable Activities	-	6,000	-	6,000	2,400
Corporate Donations	-	2,200	-	2,200	500
Grants	-	15,350	-	15,350	30,150
Sponsorship	-	650	-	650	5,940
Other Income	150	-	-	150	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	150	24,200	-	24,350	38,990
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	150	24,200	-	24,350	38,990
A3 Payments					
Charitable Activities	-	16,637	-	16,637	23,501
Separate Material Expense Items	907	11,389	-	12,295	7,742
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	907	28,026	-	28,933	31,244
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	907	28,026	-	28,933	31,244
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 757	- 3,826	-	- 4,583	7,746
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	- 1,093	10,339	-	9,246	1,500
Cash funds this year end	- 1,850	6,514	-	4,664	9,246

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank and in hand	- 1,850	6,514	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	- 1,850	6,514	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Prepayments	2,617	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Deferred Income	Restricted	-	
	Accruals	Unrestricted	540	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	