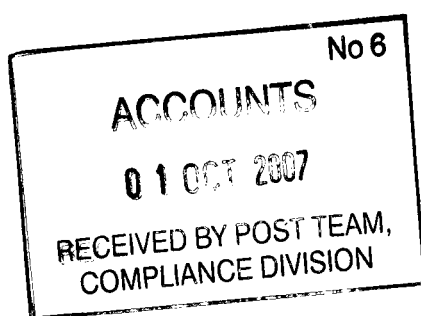


Registered Charity No. 1101114

S. (LND)

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2006**



## **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 two ways: by working with scientists to respond to the misrepresentation of science and scientific evidence on issues that matter to society, particularly when they are controversial; and by undertaking longer-term activities that help the public to understand the nature of science 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, industry and individuals. Funding does not entitle any organisation to decision-making authority. Our activities are coordinated by a small office team and supported by a wide network of organizations 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 currently 13 Trustees. Lord Plumb stepped down from the Board to join the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council was increased by one member, Professor Ray Tallis; Professor Derek Burke, following four years of highly valued advice, was replaced by Dr Irene Hames.

## **SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **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

- 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;
- prepare the financial 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 surplus for the year from unrestricted funds of £60,156 (2005 – deficit £8,597). Restricted funds unspent amounted to £24,090 (2005 - £26,810).

### **REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### **Increasing the scientific contribution to public debate**

Sense About Science was founded after consultation with leading scientific bodies and organisations because there was widespread concern that much public discussion of scientific issues paid no regard to evidence. For their part, scientists were often reluctant to participate in public debate for fear of misrepresentation. One of our principal aims has been to increase the involvement of scientists in public discussions.

We now have some 1,000 scientists and other specialists enrolled on our rapidly expanding database, ranging from Nobel Laureates to postdoctoral fellows. All give their services free. We work closely with professional and learned societies and have built relationships 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, various statutory bodies, TV and radio programmes, lifestyle and specialist publications. Our general message to all bodies who communicate with the public is: if you need help on a difficult or controversial issue of science, contact us.

## **SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

Sense About Science runs a programme to increase the number of younger research scientists in public and media debates. The VoYS (Voice of Young Science) programme has expanded rapidly and is led by a group of enthusiastic early career scientists around a programme of workshops, publications and other activities on public participation.

### **Responding to growing public demand**

Our responsive work is now stretched to its fullest capacity and continues to grow. On a busy day, we can be handling in excess of 50 requests. Some examples of people who contact us are:

- parent groups about reported risks from babies' bottles
- local authorities for information about dioxins
- women's magazines about the safety of popular diets
- a medical research charity about exposure to diagnostic scans
- health charities and nursing publications on how to assess scientific papers and research claims
- television programme makers for advice on 'debunking myths'
- government agencies on how to convey complex scientific information to non-experts
- employment agencies for advice on clinical trials.

We are also frequently asked to help correct misleading information published in the public domain or presented by opinion formers.

### **Improving public exposure to good science and evidence**

We identify areas of common misconception and seek to address them through collaborative, longer term activities. In 2005-2006 these have included:

The publication of a guide to the way scientific research is assessed, through peer review, called "*I don't know what to believe*". Over 50,000 copies of the guide were requested to April 2006. Demand has been particularly high in education and frontline services.

The publication of a briefing booklet, "*Making sense of chemical stories*", in response to repetition - in lifestyle commentary and publications on food, family and health - of simple errors about toxicology and how our bodies work. This has resulted in over 400 popular articles, comments and programmes publicising and addressing the misconceptions.

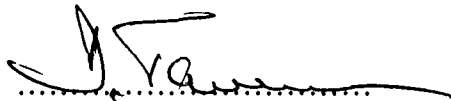
During the year, Sense About Science established new advisory panels on chemicals and nuclear energy. We initiated briefings and other activities concerned with promoting evidence and good science, on bird flu, the weather and climate change, MRSA, radiation, MRI scans, pesticides, and e-numbers.

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE  
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Tamm', written over a dotted line.

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 2006, which are set out on pages 6 to 10.

**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 2006**

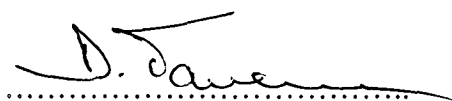
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2006 £	Total Funds 2005 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
<b>Grants</b>					
Amberstone Trust		25,000		25,000	25,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation			27,800	27,800	31,085
<b>Donations</b>	2	146,175		146,175	38,940
Sponsorship		-		-	5,370
Other incoming resources		569		569	52
Interest		100		100	-
Gift Aid		<u>39</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>731</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>171,883</u>	<u>27,800</u>	<u>199,683</u>	<u>101,178</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Costs of generating funds					
Fundraising and publicity		-		-	-
Charitable expenditure					
Costs of activities in furtherance of The charity's objects:					
- Staff costs		87,363	23,011	110,374	72,332
- Donations		-	-	-	80
- Other projects		8,207	-	8,207	-
- Running costs	3	9,899	1,659	11,558	5,174
Management & administration					
Costs	4	<u>2,437</u>	<u>5,850</u>	<u>8,287</u>	<u>2,835</u>
		107,906	30,520	138,426	80,421
Governance costs	5	<u>3,821</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,821</u>	<u>2,544</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>111,727</u>	<u>30,520</u>	<u>142,247</u>	<u>82,965</u>
<b>Net incoming resources</b>					
- Net movement in funds		<u>60,156</u>	<u>(2,720)</u>	<u>57,436</u>	<u>18,213</u>
<b>Total funds at 6 April 2005</b>		<u>(17,107)</u>	<u>26,810</u>	<u>9,703</u>	<u>(8,510)</u>
<b>Total funds at 5 April 2006</b>		<u>43,049</u>	<u>24,090</u>	<u>67,139</u>	<u>9,703</u>

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form part of these accounts.

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 5 APRIL 2006**

	Notes	2006 £	2005 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	1,6	526	574
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash at bank		69,945	13,102
<b>CREDITORS:</b> amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>3,332</u>	<u>3,973</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>66,613</u>	<u>9,129</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>67,139</u>	<u>9,703</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Restricted funds		24,090	26,810
Unrestricted funds:			
General funds	8	<u>43,049</u>	<u>(17,107)</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		<u>67,139</u>	<u>9,703</u>

The financial statements on pages 6 to 10 were approved by the Trustees on  
and signed on their behalf by:

  
.....

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE  
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2006  
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 2006**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**2 INCOMING RESOURCES**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2006 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2005 £</b>
<b>Income from Donations</b>		
G E Healthcare	12,000	-
Amersham	10,000	-
ABPI	3,000	-
Astra Zeneca	15,000	-
BP	15,000	15,000
GSK	13,000	10,000
Pfizer	-	10,000
Elsevier BV	34,165	-
Project Donations	36,335	-
Other Donations	2,363	-
Eli Lilly	-	2,000
SGM	-	1,000
Society for Endocrinology	-	300
Individual and Friendship	<u>5,312</u>	<u>640</u>
	<u>146,175</u>	<u>38,940</u>

**3 Running costs**

	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2005 £</b>
Events	742	-	-
Peer Review	2,646	-	1,896
Conferences and Events	153	-	201
Young Scientist Pack	2,088	-	750
Internet and Web	306	842	335
Papers and Journals	247	-	-
Recruitment	-	-	83
Travel	3,478	197	1,718
Depreciation – owned assets	<u>239</u>	<u>620</u>	<u>191</u>
	<u>9,899</u>	<u>1,659</u>	<u>5,174</u>

**4 Management and administration  
of the charity**

	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2005 £</b>
Rent	220	4,000	-
Moving Costs	159	-	-
Telephone	654	183	1,064
Postage and Stationery	1,363	1,066	1,664
Software and Computer Sundries	-	343	74
Repairs	-	92	-
Sundries	<u>41</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>33</u>
	<u>2,437</u>	<u>5,850</u>	<u>2,835</u>

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE**  
**YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2006**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

	Unrestricted Funds 2006 £	Unrestricted Funds 2005 £
<b>5 Governance costs</b>		
Staff Costs	2,998	1,898
Accountancy Fees	<u>823</u>	<u>646</u>
	<u>3,821</u>	<u>2,544</u>
<b>6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>Total £</b>
<b>COST OR VALUATION</b>		
As at 6 April 2005		765
Additions		<u>811</u>
As at 5 April 2006		<u>1,576</u>
Direct charitable purposes:		
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>		
At 6 April 2005		191
Provision for year		<u>859</u>
As at 5 April 2006		<u>1,050</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>		
At 5 April 2006		<u>526</u>
At 5 April 2005		<u>574</u>
<b>7 CREDITORS</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	£	£
Social security	1,915	-
Other creditors	<u>1,417</u>	<u>3,973</u>
	<u>3,332</u>	<u>3,973</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 £43,049 (2005 deficit (£17,107)) for the principal activity of the Trust and restricted funds of £24,090 (2005 £26,810). Restricted funds arise from a Grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to pay for the salary of a Membership Coordinator and costs associated with setting up a membership scheme.