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Registered Charity No. 1101114

ACCOUNTS No. 1
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COMPLIANCE DIVISION

SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2009

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 concern the public, particularly when they are controversial; and by undertaking longer-term activities that help the public to understand and use scientific reasoning and evidence.

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

“equipping people to make sense of science and evidence”

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 trusts and foundations, science bodies, companies and individuals. Funding does not entitle any organisation to decision-making authority. Activities are coordinated by a small office team and supported by a wide network of organisations and volunteers from all areas of science and society.

The Board of Trustees is the decision-making body. It meets four times a year. Sense About Science is supported by an Advisory Council, which is a voluntary group providing time and advice. There are currently 12 Trustees.

STATEMENT of TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the 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 £8,258 (2008 – deficit £5,155)

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Increasing the scientific contribution to public debate

Sense About Science was founded after consultation with leading scientific bodies and civic organisations because there was widespread concern that much public discussion of scientific issues paid no regard to evidence. We encourage and work with citizens to identify the insights that help them to assess public discussions about science and evidence and to make demands of them. We work with scientists to explain their reasoning and the evidence they rely upon. We work with networks of intermediaries who disseminate our work or aspects of our approach.

Our trust helps anyone with an audience or constituency from small local groups to national commentators. We 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. We have experience in organizing links between scientists, civic groups and other opinion formers, especially in developing a new method of linking scientific and public discussions. Our message to all bodies who communicate with the public is: if you need help on a difficult or controversial issue of science, contact us.

One of our principal aims was to increase the participation of scientists in public discussions. By April 2009 almost 4,000 scientists and other specialists had enrolled on our database, from Nobel Laureates to postdoctoral fellows. They give their services for free.

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 is led by a group of enthusiastic early career scientists around Standing up for Science workshops, publications and other activities in public participation.

SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Responding to growing public demand

Our responsive work continues to grow. In a monthly period we can handle upwards of 300 substantial enquiries such as:

- From a pancreatic cancer patient group on how to deal with misunderstanding about chemotherapy
- From an autistic society seeking information for its members on how make sense of media stories about new research and miracle cures
- From national association of governors seeking to advise governing bodies on dealing with requests to run clinical trials in schools
- From a nanotechnology forum on development of content for a public facing website

We also respond on a daily basis to subjects coming into media discussion and commission *For The Record* pieces for our website. Subjects include:

- Mouthwash and oral cancer risk, Metro 12th January 2009
- Can perfume make your unborn baby infertile?, Scotland on Sunday September 2008
- Chlorinated water and birth defects, Mail on Sunday, July 2008

Improving public exposure to good science and evidence

Where we identify significant gaps between the way that scientists and specialists understand a subject and how it appears to the public, we seek to address these through collaborative, longer term activities. In 2008-2009 these have included:

- The publication of a briefing booklet, "*Making sense of the radiation*", in response to concerns from the public about mobile phone radiation, Wi-Fi and nuclear power.
- The publication of, "*Making Sense of GM*", which gave context to the genetic modification of plants and responded to the public's questions and misconceptions.
- The publication by our early career scientists network (VoYS) of a "*Detox Dossier*", which details their hunt for the evidence behind detox claims made for products and diets.
- The launch of a guide for people with chronic conditions, "*I've got nothing to lose by trying it*", which weighs up claims about cures and treatments for long-term conditions.
- The launch of an online peer review education resource for Key Stage 4 science teachers.
- The publication of our third *Science for Celebrities* review, a helping hand from scientific bodies to people in the public eye who comment on health and science matters.

Sense About Science also initiated briefings and other activities concerned with promoting evidence and good science, on subjects including evidence-based medicine, chemicals in the environment, food additives and health tests and screening.

Risk Management

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

On behalf of the Trustees

Chairman



Date:

19-1-2010

**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 2009, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

Spilkin Knight
Spilkin Knight
Farriers The Street
Albury Guildford
Surrey GU5 9AE

01/02/2010

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2009**

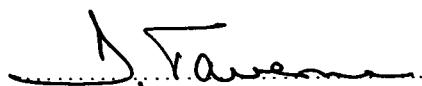
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2009 £	Total Funds 2008 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Grants					
Elsevier Foundation		32,099	-	32,099	-
Hamlyn Foundation		-	26,376	26,376	24,403
Ellerman Foundation		-	10,875	10,875	-
Rayne Foundation		-	3,500	3,500	-
Esmee Fairbairn		15,000	38,592	53,592	-
Amberstone Trust		15,000	-	15,000	25,000
Donations	2	111,245	-	111,245	145,902
Other incoming resources		5,372	-	5,372	947
Interest		<u>2,733</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,733</u>	<u>1,991</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>181,449</u>	<u>79,343</u>	<u>260,792</u>	<u>198,243</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Fundraising and publicity		-	-	-	-
Charitable expenditure					
Costs of activities in furtherance of					
The charity's objects:					
- Staff costs (including training)		136,621	76,144	212,765	172,423
- Bursaries				-	1,250
- Donations		726	-	726	-
- Other project costs		8,117	7105	15,222	11,159
- Running costs	3	9,377	692	10,069	2,734
Management & administration					
Costs	4	<u>7,826</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,826</u>	<u>7,429</u>
		162,667	83,941	246,608	194,995
Governance costs	5	<u>10,524</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,524</u>	<u>5,290</u>
Total resources expended		<u>173,191</u>	<u>83,941</u>	<u>257,132</u>	<u>200,285</u>
Net incoming resources					
- Net movement in funds		<u>8,258</u>	<u>(4,598)</u>	<u>3,660</u>	<u>(2,042)</u>
Total funds at 6 April 2008		<u>112,921</u>	<u>2,355</u>	<u>115,276</u>	<u>117,318</u>
Total funds at 5 April 2009		<u>121,179</u>	<u>(2,243)</u>	<u>118,936</u>	<u>115,276</u>

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

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 5 APRIL 2009**

	Notes	£	2009 £	£	2008 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	1,6		987		1,163
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors		1,873		23,460	
Cash at bank- (Reserve)		126,353		63,626	
Cash at bank		<u>44,704</u>		<u>29,660</u>	
		<u>172,930</u>		<u>116,746</u>	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>54,981</u>		<u>2,633</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>117,949</u>		<u>114,113</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>118,936</u>		<u>115,276</u>
FUNDS					
Restricted funds			(2,243)		2,355
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	8		<u>121,179</u>		<u>112,921</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			<u>118,936</u>		<u>115,276</u>

The financial statements on pages 6 to 9 were approved by the Trustees on
and signed on their behalf by:



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

**SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2009
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 2009
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2	INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds 2009 £	Unrestricted Funds 2008 £
	Income from Donations		
	G E Healthcare	10,000	10,000
	ABPI	3,000	3,000
	Astra Zeneca	17,000	34,000
	BP	-	15,000
	GSK	-	15,000
	Unilever	15,000	-
	Elsevier BV	-	11,046
	Blackwell Publishing	3,000	-
	Project Donations	43,108	42,357
	Other Donations	1,750	2,450
	Individual and Friendship	<u>18,387</u>	<u>13,049</u>
		<u>111,245</u>	<u>145,902</u>

3	RUNNING COSTS	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2008 £
	Events	5,210	-	473
	Papers and Journals	940	-	829
	Travel	2,613	692	889
	Depreciation – owned assets	<u>614</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>543</u>
		<u>9,377</u>	<u>692</u>	<u>2,734</u>

4 **MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHARITY**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2008 £
Rent	5,000	-	4,013
Bank Charges	37	-	23
Telephone	1,146	-	1,482
Postage and Stationery	1,142	-	1,325
Software and Computer Sundries	466	-	487
Sundries	<u>35</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>99</u>
	<u>7,826</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,429</u>

SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2009
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

	Unrestricted Funds 2009 £	Unrestricted Funds 2008 £
5 GOVERNANCE COSTS		
Staff Costs	9,660	4,430
Accountancy Fees	<u>864</u>	<u>860</u>
	<u>10,524</u>	<u>5,290</u>
6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS		Total £
COST OR VALUATION		
As at 6 April 2008		3,407
Additions		<u>438</u>
As at 5 April 2009		<u>3,845</u>
Direct charitable purposes:		
DEPRECIATION		
At 6 April 2008		2,244
Provision for year		<u>614</u>
As at 5 April 2009		<u>2,858</u>
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 5 April 2008		<u>987</u>
At 5 April 2009		<u>1,163</u>
7 CREDITORS	2009 £	2008 £
Deferred Income	52,125	-
Other creditors	<u>2,856</u>	<u>2,633</u>
	<u>54,981</u>	<u>2,633</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 £121,179 (2008 £112,921) for the principal activity of the Trust and restricted funds deficit of £(2,243) (2008 surplus £2,355).		