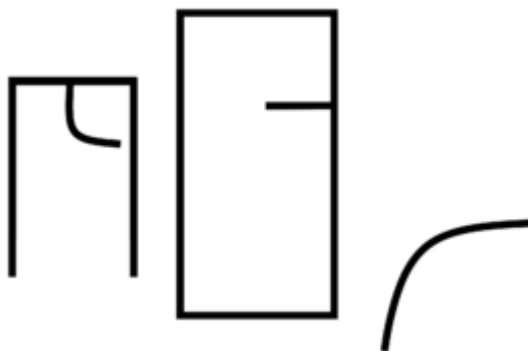


The Museum of Brexit
Charity number 1193259



First Report and Financial Statements
for the partial year since establishment
26 JAN 2021 to 1 APR 2021

The Museum of Brexit
Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements
for the Financial Period from 26 JAN 2021 to 1 APR 2021

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Details

Name: The Museum of Brexit

Number: 1193259

Address: 4, Lynton Mansions, McAuley Close, London SE1 7BW

Structure and governance

Names of the Trustees of the Charity (ie the listed trustees)

Dr Lee Rotherham Appointed: 2021 as a first trustee, Chairman

Mr Alex Deane Appointed: 2021 as a first trustee

Mr James Reynolds Appointed: 2021 as a first trustee, acting Treasurer

Names of Trustees for the Charity (ie not listed trustees, but operating in support)

Name: Gawain Towler Appointed: 2021 Press officer

Names and Addresses of Advisors

Bank account pending over this accounting period

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of Governing Document: Constitution, current dated 20 JAN 21

How the Charity is Constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods:

Trustees of the Charity are recruited from subject matter experts with a known capacity for fairness and balance, on a recommendation by a Trustee of the Charity approved by an absolute majority of Trustees of the Charity. Trustees for the Charity are first subject to formal or informal interview by whichever trustees are available at the time but including the Chairman.

Until such time as the number of such Trustees is increased beyond five, appointment to posts is by the process of consent and common accord.

All new Trustees are provided with a copy of the Governing Document (Constitution) and the most recent Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements, accompanied by an oral briefing by the Chairman on recent developments and strategy.

Decision-making

Strategic-level decision making is taken by Trustees collectively. This may be done informally and remotely, provided that all Trustees consent to the arrangement. To simplify and accelerate decision-making Trustees have the authority to delegate oversight of particular staff to named Trustees, in particular over fundraising and media ops. The overseeing Trustee should refer to fellow Trustees on a matter that affects strategic policy. This process is to be formalised on the establishment of a regularly paid staff.

Volunteers

Policy on volunteers is similarly to be developed and codified in due course. Over this reporting period, volunteerism has taken two forms. Firstly, a number of individuals have supported the collection plan by acting as drop off points (dops). This process will accelerate in the new reporting year, but will be collapsed when the collections are then centralised. Secondly, Mr Gawain Towler has been operating as the voluntary press officer and has been of considerable service in this regard. His status will be reviewed in the next reporting year depending on the success in fundraising, as it is may remain time consuming and this may require being set on a proper financial footing to compensate.

Committees and working groups

There were no committees and working groups. This is an area to be developed over the coming year with particular respect to an academic advisory council.

Affiliation

There was no affiliation to an external group. There has been contact with the Museums Association and membership will be considered in due course. Trustees turned down an offer to offer to chair/host an event at the 2021 MA annual conference, on the basis of focusing on establishing the museum.

Risk management

An informal assessment has been taken of the major risks to which the charity is transitionally exposed. At this stage these are predominantly reputational, in the absence of property or other assets. Foremost among these is the intent to be fair and balanced in our delivery, a point that has been repeatedly emphasised by the Museum in media and social media output.

With fundraising and property acquisition, completely new risks emerge, and these will be considered accordingly in due course and set out in a document.

There were no “untoward incidents” occurring (as required by the Charity Commission to report).

Objectives and activities

Objects

The objects of the CIO are

The advancement of education and heritage for the public benefit by:

- (a) establishing and operating a museum and associated library and archives; and
- (b) public educational programmes in the topics of Sovereignty, Democracy, Good Governance, Trade, European Cooperation and the history of the UK’s membership of the European Union.

Activities

The Museum of Brexit delivers the above through the following core mechanisms

- The establishment of a museum
- The establishment of an associated academic library
- The establishment of associated historic archives
- A future planned outreach programme, to be developed on the creation first of the above

Thematically, areas of key interest involve British and European History, with particular reference to post-war European integration; the history of British Euroscepticism, and its continental counterparts; and the topics raised during the 2016 referendum including models of free trade, sovereignty, territoriality, and the distinct traditions behind Common Law and Parliamentary governance. Selection and presentation of material will be fair and balanced.

The period of reporting for this document involves a short period of only some two months prior to the launch of the fundraising campaign - a prerequisite to establishing the museum and associated elements - and during which the established collection process involving county drop off points had necessarily been suspended because of Covid. Both the fundraising and the development of the collection, along with details on any site obtained, will consequently be covered in the next annual report.

Statutory Declaration on Public Benefit

The trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Achievements and performance

Executive Summary

The constitution of the charity designates 1 April as the annual reporting point. As the Museum of Brexit was recognised as a charity only in late January 2021, this generates a very short reporting period for its first year of only two months. The report for the year to APR 22 will consequently contain significantly more reporting.

For the period running up to the reporting period, the priorities of the museum were twofold. The first was to pursue charitable status, a process that in tandem encouraged the development of doctrine and further planning. The second was to keep in being the established drop off points and maintain the support of individuals who had pledged artefacts, so that on the lifting of Covid restrictions these could be reopened and revisited. The latter emphasis structurally was, in military terms, of keeping the project a “force in being”.

Over the two month reporting period, emphasis has been on developing an initial outline fundraising strategy, and of generating media awareness of movement in anticipation of fundraising to begin in earnest.

Activity Report

The fundraising falls into the next reporting period and will be covered in depth there, along with work subsequently done to identify and recce a final shortlist of sites for consideration by the Trustees. A list of points for consideration has already separately been generated to help Trustees at that moment in time compare the relative merits and downsides both of locations and of sites.

The immediate priority at the point of becoming a charity was to submit paperwork to HMRC, to secure charitable status in relation to donations and future fundraising. This was subsequently obtained.

The number of identified Drop Off Points has remained steady despite lockdown. One has been temporarily suspended and another is set to close, but three are set to be launched: the variable throughout has been changes to access depending on Covid, which has mostly prevented their use. The plan is to relaunch the network and expand it once restrictions lift, before subsequently centering the aggregated collection within the next reporting year, with a single secure collection point in play – ideally the end host site, if fundraising and backer approaches have matched expectations.

The critical element over this short period is that we have succeeded in obtaining extensive national and international reporting of the museum having acquired charitable status, thereby positioning itself to begin fundraising. The response has matched our targets and has included prominent pieces in the Sunday Telegraph, Guardian, Sunday Express, Independent, Times, and Spectator, BBC Radio 4, Irish radio, and Finland’s leading newspaper as well as a large number of major francophone outlets internationally; but also Civil Society News, the Art Newspaper, Third Sector, and the

Museum Association with a particular interest in policy dynamics and our commitment to fairness and balance. The widespread coverage has generated public awareness of movement on the project and has positioned us well for prominent donor approaches to take place in the forthcoming year.

This is completely in accord with, and a necessary precursor to, fulfilling our charitable objectives. Operating a museum, archives and library first requires obtaining a site, which is itself dependent upon fundraising. With Covid hindering collection of materiel, that preparation of strategic ground provided the obvious and best focus of attention to progress our mission over the two months in question.

We have also entered into promising communications with the Museums Association. We will review the option of joining the MA subsequently.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

26 January 2021 to 1 April 2021

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds previous years £
				Zero funds held previously
Income				
Donations	0	0	+0	
Charitable activities	0	0	+0	
Total grants	0	0	+0	
Total charitable activities	0	0	+0	
Other trading activities	0	0	+0	
Investments	0	0	+0	
Total income	0	0	+0	
Expenditure				
All items	0	0	-0	
Total Expenditure	0	0	-0	
Net income/expenditure	0	0	0	
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds	0	0	0	
Reconciliation of funds	0	0	0	
Total funds brought forward	0	0	0	
Total funds carried forward	0	0	0	

BALANCE SHEET 1 April 2021

	Total Funds 1 APR 2020 £	Total Funds 1 APR 2019 £
Fixed assets:		
Tangible assets		
Net book value	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Total fixed assets</i>	-	-
Current assets:		
Debtors	0	0
Cash at bank and in hand	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Total current assets</i>	0	0
Liabilities:		
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	0	0
Prepaid Income	-	-
Total current liabilities	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Net current assets</i>	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Total net assets</i>	0	0
The funds of the charity:		
Restricted income funds	0	0
Unrestricted funds	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total charity funds	0	0

Financial review

As at the close of the very short reporting period, for reasons previously stated, the charity held no funds, no assets, no investments, and no reserves. It had no creditors, potential outstanding liabilities, outstanding charges for services, or debtors. No funds or assets are held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

A policy will be developed in relation to long term loans of items for the museum; at present we have made note of offers but not accepted possession of items not provided as outright donations, in order to avoid liability issues in case of loss or damage during storage. That policy will likely identify four types of donations: outright donations; donor-recorded donations where best effort would be followed to return an item to the original donor if part of the collection is ever dispersed; long term loans, which will be discouraged in favour of the above wherever possible; and loans for temporary exhibitions, to be set out in a distinct space within the museum.

Developing the above will involve first determining a cataloguing mechanism, and then setting up both an item registering system and in tandem a computer archive at the point of centralising the collection, so there are several hurdles to cross in turn.

Individual items have already been donated to the museum via the drop off point system, with the encouragement to supply information on their provenance. None of these are presently identified as being of significant financial value. Insurance policy will be reviewed as donated items are centralised and building assets obtained. Several charity insurance entities have already speculatively offered their services.

A formal reserves policy will be developed as fundraising progresses. Our initial targets involve fundraising £650,000 to establish a museum, with a further target of £350,000 to establish a long term reserve. End policy will be tailored according to the level and rate of success in this.

The next financial year shall see the development of a fundraising plan targeting both small scale and individual high value donors. This will include personal approaches and also wider appeals, with a relaunched website. The target is extremely ambitious;

- to have secured a museum site within the next reporting year;
- to have expanded and relaunched drop off points to accommodate post-Covid contact, and then centralise the end collection on the site;
- to audit and catalogue that collection;
- to identify key gaps with a view to subsequently begin to plug them;
- to approach historic figures in pursuit of individual iconic or representative items;
- to agree a general design and presentation outlook as to how the museum is physically arranged;
- to recruit key staff to help deliver this;

In general terms this simply means we wish to place the project on a footing as near to physical launch as can be delivered by the finances raised (a critical variable) within the timeframe.

We have committed in advance to following best practice in fundraising and data protection.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Lee Rotherham</i> (signed electronically)
Full name(s)	Dr Lee Stuart Rotherham
Position	Chairman
Date	22 September 2021