

2019/20

IMPACT REPORT & ACCOUNTS

BREAST CANCER UK LTD

CHARITY NO. 1138866 | COMPANY NO. 7348408

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About Breast Cancer UK

More than 55,000 people in the UK are diagnosed with breast cancer every year and it is predicted that 1 in 7 women will get breast cancer at some point in their lives. Yet over a quarter of breast cancers are preventable.

Avoiding certain chemicals and making simple changes to diet and lifestyle can reduce many people's risk. Breast Cancer UK's mission is to prevent breast cancer through scientific understanding, education, collaboration and policy change.

Our charitable objectives

1. to advance health and save lives by encouraging a preventative approach to breast cancer
2. to educate and raise awareness of the preventable risk factors for breast cancer and provide practical information to help people reduce their risk; and
3. to support scientific research that helps us to understand and address the preventable risk factors for breast cancer.

Our approach to prevention:

Science: We support scientific research that helps us to understand and address the preventable risk factors for breast cancer.

Education: We educate and raise awareness of the preventable risk factors for breast cancer and provide practical information to help people reduce their risk.

Advocacy: We campaign for policies that support the prevention of breast cancer.

Our guiding principles:

Breast Cancer UK believes prevention is possible: we believe more can be done to help prevent breast cancers by addressing environmental and lifestyle risk factors.

We are evidence based: our work is based on scientific evidence with sources clearly identified.

We champion high environmental and ethical standards: partnering with companies and suppliers whose own ethical and environmental policies match these standards.

We believe in the right to know: we want to empower people by giving them the information they need about the preventable risk factors for breast cancer, so they can make informed choices.

We believe in collaboration: we will actively identify, seek and establish collaborations with other stakeholders (e.g. charities, think tanks, companies, government and scientific institutions) to ensure we are effective in delivering our goals.

A word from the Chair and CEO

We are very pleased to present our Annual Report and Accounts for FY1920. We have had a busy year marked by a change in leadership. After six years as CEO of the Charity Lynn Ladbrook passed on the reins to Thalie Martini. Lynn was a strong lobbyist for the breast cancer prevention message. In 2018 Lynn worked with the board of trustees on a review of BCUK's charitable objectives which, whilst continuing to emphasise the importance of raising awareness of environmental and chemical breast cancer risk factors was broadened to include all modifiable breast cancer risk factors including lifestyle. Thalie also has a background in prevention from the work that she did in Public Health in Australia and for Diabetes UK. She is committed to promoting breast cancer prevention through the funding of independent and innovative research and by extending the charity's reach.

This year marked the beginning of the charity's digital transformation through a new website launched in September 2019 which strengthens how we communicate and share our vital breast cancer prevention messages. This is the first step towards updating our digital platforms to bring clarity of purpose, engage a wider and more diverse audience and increase the visibility of our science, education and advocacy work.

Breast Cancer UK continued its efforts to understand the causes of breast cancer through ongoing support of a number of scientific research grant projects covering areas such as the role of nuclear receptors in breast cancer and the links between bisphenols and breast cancer. We also continued to support emerging scientists through co-funding PhD Studentships with Animal Free Research UK (AFRUK) to investigate the effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) on breast density, and the University of Leeds to investigate the role of oxysterols in triple negative breast cancer.

We continued to highlight evidence to policy makers of the population wide impact that systemic promotion of primary prevention of breast cancer can have on reducing cases and suffering from the disease. While the uncertainty of a Brexit outcome remained, we pressed the Government to maintain alignment with EU regulations on chemicals, making the case along with our NGO partners, to keep current protections from harmful chemicals in place and to strive for an even better regulatory system to protect the UK population now and in many years to come. While the debate and dialogue continue, our commitment is to keep sharing the evidence and raise public awareness and action on these issues post Brexit.

This year we took time to speak to our supporters and our education ambassadors as part of a review of our outreach education programme. In doing so we updated our ambassador presentations to make our breast cancer prevention education more informative and empowering, spurring people around the country to take active steps to reduce their risk of breast cancer.

We have robust board and committee structures and processes aimed at providing support and challenge to the team. These were independently evaluated during the year and found to be effective. The board has been strengthened by recruiting trustees with a broad range of skills and experience including in the fields of science, human resources and accountancy. We thank the trustees for their time and effort and commitment to the cause.

We have a dedicated and talented team working tirelessly to bring accessible breast cancer prevention information and awareness to women and men across the country, to drive and inform policy decisions that put prevention first and to support high quality scientific research to uncover the evidence that informs all that we do, ensuring we can achieve the greatest impact. We thank them for their continuing dedication and hard work.

Of course, none of this work would be possible without the generosity of our donors and fundraisers who are the enablers of all our breast cancer prevention work. We thank them whole heartedly for supporting us and believing in our cause.



Mary Davies
Chair



Thalie Martini
CEO

Our strategic goals for 2019-2022 – Helping to prevent breast cancer

This year we launched our strategic plan 2019-2022 which extends our commitment to provide high quality scientific information on the environmental and chemical risk factors for breast cancer to include information and advice on all modifiable risk factors, including lifestyle risk factors. By providing information and education on all risk factors of breast cancer, we believe we will help more people understand what they can do to effectively reduce their risk of breast cancer.

Over the last year we have continued to work towards our strategic goals summarised below. We have worked even harder to fulfil our charitable objectives and meet the expectations of our beneficiaries. Whilst historically, we have focused on environmental chemicals that are linked to breast cancer, the Board agreed in 2017 that in order to be truly effective at preventing breast cancer, we must address all preventable risk factors, including lifestyle risk factors. So our work has seen a marked shift and uplift in activity around lifestyle risk factors, whilst continuing to support and promote investment and understanding of the impact of harmful chemicals.

Our strategic goals underpin our approach to prevention in the following three ways:

1. We support scientific research that helps to understand and address the preventable risk factors for breast cancer.

Our advice and information on lifestyle risk factors for breast cancer is informed by the breadth of existing research linking factors such as poor diet, weight gain and drinking too much to breast cancer risk. There remains however a significant gap in understanding of how, why and when multiple exposures to certain harmful chemicals act to increase risk. As such, our science and research investment continues to be focussed on understanding how these harmful chemicals, known as Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs), can increase risk. Fostering and building a community of scientists and researchers interested in breast cancer prevention is another means by which we plan to boost investment, innovation and effectiveness in research.

2. We educate and raise awareness of the preventable risk factors for breast cancer and provide practical information to help people reduce their risk

We continue to offer high quality scientific information on the environmental and chemical risk factors for breast cancer but have now expanded our advice and awareness raising to include further information on all modifiable risk factors, including lifestyle risk factors. In this way, we believe we can help more people understand what they can do to effectively reduce their risk of breast cancer. Reducing significantly the number of breast cancer cases requires us to be more effective at reaching younger women who can take action early, and so minimise their risk of breast cancer later in life. We have taken steps to increase our reach across age groups by enhancing our ambassador programme, growing our digital presence and messaging and by working with others to make advice more accessible and reducing risk easier to achieve for all.

3. We campaign for policies that support the prevention of breast cancer

While we can all take individual action to reduce our risk, national and local policies that promote healthier environments and facilitate access to preventative health advice could in the long term deliver even greater health benefits. Breast Cancer UK calls for cancer strategies that mainstream prevention and acknowledge a broad range of risk factors.

We will continue to shape and inform policy making in the UK and in the EU, to improve consumer protections, promote cancer prevention policies and a precautionary approach. Breast Cancer UK is committed to speaking out for prevention. We are often the only UK cancer charity that urges greater focus on prevention and frequently the only UK cancer charity to address the issue of environmental chemicals. This annual report shows how we have performed against these objectives and how we intend to ensure continued impact in the years ahead.

1. Science and Research

Our priorities are:

- Funding high quality scientific research on the potential consequences of exposure to low dose environmental chemicals.
- Working to identify and address data gaps in our understanding of risk and causation.
- Collating and sharing new data to understand the potential links between harmful chemicals and breast cancer.
- Strengthening our independent scientific research panel, to ensure our advice, data and research is of the highest quality.
- Hosting and taking part in scientific conferences to promote understanding about the prevention and causation of breast cancer.
- Working with others to co-fund research into prevention and causation of breast cancer.

2. Education and Awareness

Our priorities are:

- Continuing to grow our library of information and advice on our website and via social media to include all modifiable risk factors for breast cancer.
- Building the strength and reach of our Ambassador programme so that more people can access help and advice on prevention.
- Carrying out audience research that will help us to more effectively reach younger women and make our materials more engaging.
- Working with a wide range of organisations, companies, charities and individuals to ensure our messages are reaching those that will benefit most.
- Working with others to help make solutions more accessible and prevention far easier to achieve.

3. Policy Change

Our priorities are:

- Working with a wide range of policy makers and scientific experts to help identify practical policies that promote the primary prevention of breast cancer.
- Empowering and enabling our supporters to speak out in support of a preventative approach.
- Generating campaigns that promote the primary prevention of breast cancer.
- Building meaningful collaborations that help us to secure change for the better.
- Campaigning for policies, laws and regulations that protect and improve our health and that of the environment?
- Supporting policies in the run up to and beyond Brexit that promote the precautionary principle and prioritise the protection of human health.

Overview of the year (April 2019 to March 2020)

<p>Quarter 1</p> <p>April to June</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Director of NHS England, Sustainable Development Unit calling for action on environmental pollutants to be integrated in NHS Prevention Strategy • Launch new 'reduce your risk' leaflet • Submit policy proposals to DEFRA calling on the Environment Bill to maintain EU environmental principles post-Brexit.
<p>Quarter 2</p> <p>July to September</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch new brief covering all breast cancer risk factors • Policy recommendations on the environmental and human health impact of harmful chemicals featured in Environment Audit Committee report on 'Toxic Chemicals in Everyday Life' • Launch updated brief on aluminium salts in antiperspirants.
<p>Quarter 3</p> <p>October to December</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of our new website with 'reduce your risk' quiz • Launch 'Lunch for Life' campaign supporting people to understand the link between diet and breast cancer risk • Submit evidence to several government consultations including the prevention green paper, new food contact material legislation and EU consultation on cosmetics. • Present award for poster prize at 2019 BACR Special Conference on Breast Cancer, Newcastle Gateshead. • New Ambassador presentation is completed • Independent board effectiveness review undertaken • Meeting with MEPs and ECHA at European Parliament to call for urgent legislative action on EDCs. MEPs later passed a resolution calling on the EU to publish a chemicals strategy that puts health and the environment first. • Announce new research grant to Dr Elisabete Silva to investigate how EDCs and a high fat diet affect breast cancer • Support campaign leading to a ban on the toxic pesticide Chlorpyrifos across the EU.
<p>Quarter 4</p> <p>January to March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Became a member of the UK Chemicals Stakeholder Forum • Launch brief on nutrition and breast cancer • Meeting with in DEFRA's Chemicals Strategy team to discuss the human health impact of chemicals to inform the forthcoming UK Chemicals strategy. • Meeting with DEFRA REACH team to call for the UK to retain a robust framework for regulating chemicals post-Brexit. • Celebrate British Science Week and International Women's Day with an interview featuring Professor Valerie Speirs, a leading scientist in the field of breast cancer research and a BCUK grant recipient. • Set up working group on harmful chemicals in partnership with ChemTrust, Cancer Prevention and Education Society and Alliance for Cancer Prevention.

Trustee Report: Our Activities and Achievements

The Science Programme 2019/2020

Our objectives were to:

- Invest in high quality, independent scientific research projects at Universities within the UK
- Bring relevant, high quality data and new research findings into the public arena, and
- Grow our own scientific expertise and reputation in the field of breast cancer prevention.

Breast Cancer UK funds scientific research projects that explore the link between breast cancer and potentially harmful chemicals found in everyday products and the environment. While there is much evidence to show that lifestyle factors such as alcohol consumption and poor diet can influence breast cancer, there is less research on the effects of environmental chemicals on breast cancer risk. Our grants programme aims to help fill the gap in our knowledge and understanding of this area of breast cancer risk.

Breast Cancer UK's Grant Funding Programme

Since the launch of our grants funding programme in 2015 we have allocated over £265,000 worth of grants to independent scientific research. For the FY2019/20 we supported four ongoing research projects.

Co-funded PhD studentships

We currently fund two PhD studentships, which began in October 2018 and will continue until October 2021. One of the studentships was awarded to **Professor Valerie Speirs** from the Aberdeen University, and her student, **Ms Kerri Palmer**. Their project is co-funded by the charity **Animal Free Research UK** and examines the effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals on breast density. They aim to understand whether certain chemical exposures can lead to a high breast density - which is a significant risk factor for breast cancer. The research also aims to develop animal free research methods and uses a pioneering 3D breast cell culture system. To understand the impact of chemicals on humans, we believe using human breast tissue, not animal models, is necessary (for more details see our research highlights).

The other PhD studentship was awarded to **Dr James Thorne** and his student, **Mr Alex Websdale**, from the University of Leeds. Alex's studentship is co-funded by the University of Leeds. Their project investigates the role of oxysterols in promoting ¹triple negative breast cancer progression. Oxysterols are chemicals thought to be associated with increased risk, recurrence and spread of breast cancer. They are produced in the body from the break-down of cholesterol. They may also enter the body following consumption of certain types of food, for example meat cooked at high temperature.

Their results show cholesterol is modified by enzymes in breast tumours to produce specific types of oxysterols that cause hormone receptor negative breast cancers to become resistant to chemotherapy.

¹ Triple negative breast cancer refers to a sub-type of breast cancer which doesn't express receptors for oestrogen, progesterone or HER2 protein. It is often more aggressive than other types of breast cancers and more difficult to treat, as most therapies target hormone or HER2 receptors. Around 15% of breast cancers are triple negative and it is more common in younger women and BRCA1 mutation carriers.

The presence of particular oxysterols and enzymes that produce them may therefore be useful indicators of whether a patient is going to suffer a breast cancer recurrence.

Levels of oxysterols in the body may be controlled by changes to the diet. Future work will explore how enzymes that produce oxysterols function, and which cells in the breast tumour are responsible for their activity. The project will also investigate whether a diet rich in fruit and vegetables can alter oxysterols produced by the body, thereby helping to prevent breast cancer recurrence.

Research projects

Dr Michael Antoniou and **Dr Robin Mesnage** from King's College London are investigating the cancer-causing potential of bisphenol combinations in breast cells. Bisphenol substitutes are being increasingly used to replace bisphenol A (BPA), which is a substance of very high concern due to its endocrine disrupting properties (for more details see our research highlights).

Research carried out by **Dr Laura Matthews**, from the University of Leeds, aimed to identify which nuclear receptors play a role in breast cancer. She also examined which environmental chemicals could disrupt these receptors and therefore affect breast cancer risk.

Nuclear receptors are cellular proteins which regulate diverse functions such as reproduction and metabolism. Dr Matthews' study compared nuclear receptor activity in normal breast tissue and different types of breast cancer tissue. She identified several nuclear receptors which drive an aggressive form of breast cancer known as triple negative breast cancer. She also identified chemicals, including detergents, antiseptics and insecticides, which disrupt nuclear receptors in a similar way to alterations seen in triple negative breast cancer. Her data suggest that exposure to common everyday chemicals may increase the risk of developing triple negative breast cancer, a difficult-to-treat type of breast cancer. Her project will be completed at the end of April 2020.

New grant award

In February 2019, we launched a new grant funding round. Scientists were invited to submit applications for research projects which demonstrate a contribution to Breast Cancer UK's charitable objective to further research into breast cancer prevention, with a specific focus on endocrine disrupting chemicals.

In November 2019, we were delighted to award a grant of £43,360 to **Dr Elisabete Silva**, from the University of Brunel London, along with colleagues, Drs Ruth MacKay, Sibylle Ermler and Emmanouil Karteris. Dr Silva and colleagues will examine the impact of mixtures of endocrine disrupting chemicals and saturated fats (that may result from a high fat diet) on early stages of breast cancer, using an exciting new three-dimensional breast cancer model system known as "Breast-on-chip". This method of culturing different types of breast cells more closely mimics how breast cells behave in the body. It is hoped their results will provide a framework for further public information and practical advice on ways to reduce exposure to environmental chemicals that contribute to breast cancer risk. The project is due to begin early 2020.

About Our Grant Programme

Breast Cancer UK is committed to funding high quality research that will help us to better understand the causes and risk factors for breast cancer. To ensure we only fund research of the highest quality, we have a rigorous grant application process.

- We typically have one grant funding round each year.
- We do not fund research which involves animal testing.
- We only fund projects that are ethically approved.
- We have very clear application criteria and only fund research into breast cancer prevention.
- We prioritise research that helps us to understand the link between environmental chemicals and breast cancer.
- All grant applications are peer reviewed by two members of our Independent Scientific Panel or an expert in the relevant field.
- The Panel members review the applications based on merit.
- The Panel includes independent experts in the field of oncology, public health, endocrinology, epidemiology, toxicology and other biological sciences.
- Successful grant applicants must abide by certain criteria - failure to do so could result in a grant being withdrawn.
- The Science Committee makes the final decision on which applications will receive an award. The Committee includes Trustees with a scientific and research background and our Head of Science, who is a former research scientist.

Independent Scientific Review panel

Breast Cancer UK's Independent Scientific Review Panel was established in September 2016 to help strengthen our science and grant funding program by providing expert scientific advice, specialist knowledge and expertise to staff and Trustees on subjects and themes relating to the various risk factors for breast cancer, including the links associated with exposure to harmful chemicals and those associated with diet and lifestyle.

Panel members independently peer review all grant applications received by the charity and peer review the organisation's body of scientific literature to ensure it is of a good scientific standard, meets Information Standard criteria and is based on sound scientific principles.

The panel currently comprises 17 members, all independent scientists or clinicians. Details of panel members can be found online at <https://www.breastcanceruk.org.uk/about-us/our-people/our-science-panel/>

Research Funding Impact

Breast Cancer UK was delighted to learn that Dr Laura Matthews' BCUK-funded research was selected by the Society for Endocrinology as being of potential interest to the worldwide media. The society released a **press statement** during their annual conference in Brighton. The research was reported in numerous media outlets, including **ITV news**, **medical xpress** and the **Scotsman**, who highlighted the potential for the research to identify environmental risk factors and new targets for treating an aggressive form of breast cancer.

Breast Cancer UK previously funded a pilot project whose aim was to develop a method to detect the accumulation of oxysterols in breast tissue samples and cell culture. This recently completed pilot project led to publication of a new [research paper](#) (Hutchinson et al (2019). ER-Negative Breast Cancer Is Highly Responsive to Cholesterol Metabolite Signalling. *Nutrients* 2019, 11, 2618; doi:10.3390/nu11112618).

Case Studies: Research Funding

Research Project: Evaluating the cancer-causing potential of bisphenol mixtures in primary mammary epithelial cells

Award: £45,000 to Dr Michael Antoniou and Dr Robin Mesnage

The project aims to investigate the effects of combinations of bisphenols on breast cancer initiation and growth, using human breast cells grown in 3-dimensional (3D) cell culture.

Bisphenols, including bisphenol A (BPA), are compounds used in the manufacture of certain types of plastics, including those commonly used in food packaging. Because of concerns about the safety of BPA, due to its ability to mimic oestrogen and cause detrimental health effects, plastics manufacturers are replacing BPA with other types of bisphenols. In previous Breast Cancer UK funded research, Dr Antoniou and Dr Mesnage found that six bisphenol substitutes could also mimic oestrogen; some were even more oestrogenic than BPA.

Their results demonstrated the potential for bisphenols to stimulate the growth of a pre-existing hormone-dependent breast cancer; what they didn't show was whether bisphenol substitutes can initiate breast cancer development. The current research investigates if bisphenol mixtures can disrupt the growth of normal breast cells in a manner that suggests they could go on to become cancerous.

Mixtures of endocrine disrupting chemicals, including those that can mimic oestrogen, can have potent biological effects at concentrations at which they are inactive when tested individually. Different concentrations of bisphenol mixtures, including BPA, BPS, BPF, BPAP, BPAF, BPZ and BPB, are being tested for oestrogenic effects using human breast cells grown in 2D and 3D cell culture systems.

The work is being done in collaboration with Dr Elisabete Silva at Brunel University, London. Dr Silva has expertise in 3D breast cell culture, which is more representative of breast architecture than standard 2D breast cell culture systems, and can reproduce features of malignant changes which can be observed microscopically and monitored using molecular biology methods including transcriptomics (gene expression analysis). The project started January 2018 and is due to be completed in April 2020.

Project: Examining how endocrine disrupting agents may modulate activity of fibroblasts generated from breast tissue of high and low mammographic density.

Award: £90,000 from BCUK & Animal Free Research UK to Professor Valerie Speirs; the PhD studentship was awarded to Ms Kerri Palmer.

The research examines the effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals on breast density.

Breasts are made up of glandular tissue and fat tissue, held together by connective tissue, which contains cells known as fibroblasts. High breast density means there is a greater amount of connective and glandular tissue, compared to fat tissue. Women are 4-5 times more likely to get breast cancer if they have high breast density compared to those with low breast density.

Breast density is partly inherited but is also influenced by the environment. It increases in response to hormones such as oestrogen, although how this occurs at the cellular level is unclear. Environmental factors that increase breast density include diet, alcohol and synthetic hormones such as hormone replacement therapy. Currently, it is unknown whether endocrine disrupting chemicals which mimic oestrogen contribute to changes in breast density. It is also unclear why high breast density increases breast cancer risk, however it is believed to be associated with the activity of fibroblasts, which are known to respond to hormones.

This project is investigating the effects of oestrogen mimics on fibroblasts generated from human breast tissue, using a novel 3D *in vitro* human mammary gland model. This model uses different breast cell types grown together and represents the human breast more closely than standard cell culture or animal models. The research will examine the effects of four oestrogen mimics on human fibroblasts derived from breast tissue of different breast density, to understand how these might affect breast density and in turn drive breast cancer development. One of the oestrogen mimics Kerri is investigating is BPA.

In a published comment * on a research paper which describes a new method to measure BPA in humans, in the journal *The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology*, Kerri and Val express their concerns that levels of BPA in the human body have been underestimated significantly. According to Kerri “We’re concerned that widely accepted analytical methods may be underestimating the levels of BPA. The ubiquitous use of this chemical in everyday products means we may be continuously exposed at higher levels than previously thought throughout our lifetime. Being able to accurately determine BPA levels is fundamental to understanding its potential effects on human health”.

The long-term objectives of the project are to identify biochemical pathways which mediate breast density, which could be modified to reduce the risk of breast cancer, and ultimately, identify a strategy which will help prevent breast cancer.

Kerri’s PhD project began in October 2018 and expected to be completed by October 2021

*Palmer and Speirs (2019). BPA and risk assessment. *The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology*. Correspondence 8(4): 269. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landia/article/PIIS2213-8587\(20\)30068-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landia/article/PIIS2213-8587(20)30068-1/fulltext)

Collaborations



Prize Winner, Neha Tabassum, pictured with our Head of Science, Dr Margaret Wexler and Professor Rob Clarke, co-organiser of the event, University of Manchester.

Breast Cancer UK's head of science attended the British Association for Cancer Research special conference on New Developments in Breast Cancer Research – From the Lab to the Clinic, sponsored by Breast Cancer Now. The meeting, held on October 9th - 11th in Gateshead Newcastle, included talks on the most recent breast cancer research.

Breast Cancer UK was pleased to be given an opportunity to sponsor a poster prize. Congratulations to Neha Tabassum (pictured left) and Cereser Biancastella for their winning poster, "Study of the mutational landscape of normal and pregnant breast to predict pregnancy associated breast cancer risk".

Their research aims to understand why women who have children at a later age, or have no children, have a higher risk of breast cancer compared to those who have children at a younger age. Also pictured is Professor Rob Clarke, co-organiser, University of Manchester.

Bringing scientific information into the public arena.

As well as producing research-based publications, leaflets, and content on our website and social media, Breast Cancer UK believes it is important to help people make sense of the often complex and sometimes contradictory scientific information before them. This year we have continued to provide plain English, no nonsense guides to the science behind our message on prevention. We have featured news items, blogs and interviews on a range of topics including a new Meet the scientist series of interviews featuring PhD student **Mr Alex Websdale** and an interview with **Professor Valerie Speirs** to celebrate International Women's Day.

In order to provide more comprehensive information on all of the risk factors associated with breast cancer we released a scientific briefing on **Breast Cancer risk factors** in July 2019, which was put together using our stringent Information Production Policy. We also released a scientific briefing on **Nutrition and Breast Cancer** in January 2020, and wrote a series of blogs which focussed on healthy eating, including **20 healthy living tips for 2020, A Healthy Festive Feast with a difference and Can eating your greens, reds and oranges reduce your risk of breast cancer?**

Future plans for the Science Programme

In 2018 Breast Cancer UK organised the first ever UK Round Table meeting on breast cancer prevention hosted by **Professor Philippa Darbre** at the University of Reading. Plans were in place to host a follow-up meeting in March 2020 in Leeds, hosted by University of Leeds researchers and grant recipients' **Dr James Thorne** and **Dr Laura Matthews**. The meeting's aim was to generate a multi-authored, peer-reviewed article on breast cancer prevention, which highlighted significant research gaps. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was postponed until 2021.

In future, we plan to strengthen our literature associated with nutrition and breast cancer by writing about the impact of pesticides on breast cancer and whether organic food might affect risk. We are also planning a new briefing on the impact of bisphenols on breast cancer.

Our Education Programme

Our objectives were to:

- Develop educational advice for members of the public who want to know more about lifestyle and environmental risk factors for breast cancer
- Improve access to practical solutions that help people take direct action to reduce their risk
- Reach and engage more young women with our message
- Grow and consolidate our ambassador programme so that we help more people understand how to reduce their risk.

Breast Cancer UK provides trustworthy information and advice for all who want to reduce their risk of breast cancer. In the last year we expanded our advice and information to include all lifestyle risk factors and continue to grow and improve our ambassador programme. We also launched a brand new website designed to better engage a wider audience with accessible information relevant for women and men of different backgrounds and ages.

New website and flyer

Designed to engage diverse audiences in all walks of life to easily navigate information that is relevant to them, our **new website** was launched in October 2019. We are now better able to reach more diverse audiences with our lifesaving breast cancer prevention messaging through engaging and interactive content relevant to people at different stages in life. Our new look website marks the beginning of a digital transformation aimed at increasing positive behavioural change and increasing our credibility and authority in breast cancer prevention. Last year we also launched a new **'reduce your risk of breast cancer'** leaflet which contains new information on how we can all reduce our risks of developing breast cancer.

A healthy diet, high in fruit, vegetables and nuts, organic when possible, will help keep your weight healthy and lower your risk of breast cancer and its recurrence.



alcohol, eating a healthy diet, and trying to avoid exposures to EDCs. Early exposures to these chemicals may lead to an increased risk of breast cancer for your child later in life.



increase the risk of female breast cancer also apply to you.

breastcanceruk.org.uk

Chemicals to watch out for

Here's a quick checklist of some chemicals to avoid. For more detailed information about why these are harmful, and how you can avoid them, visit breastcanceruk.org.uk



Product	Hormone Disrupting Chemical (EDC)
Cosmetics & personal care products Makeup, shampoo, cleansers Perfume, hair dyes, hair products 	Parabens e.g. ethyl paraben, methyl paraben, propyl paraben, butyl paraben Phthalates e.g. diethyl phthalate (DEP); may be listed as "parfum" or "fragrance" Triclosan 
Household & industrial products PVC plastic, e.g. toys, food containers, carpets, packaging, construction materials, flooring, cables Detergents, cleaning cloths, cleaning sprays, toys, carpets, chopping board Water bottles, food contact materials, till receipts, computer casings Stain protection for furniture, non-stick cookware, food packaging, floor waxes, cleaners, textiles 	Phthalates e.g. diisononyl phthalate (DINP); may be listed as "parfum" or "fragrance" Triclosan Bisphenols e.g. BPA, BPZ, BPS, BPAF, BPB  Poly- & perfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) e.g. PFAS or PFOA
Processed food e.g. crisps, sausages, bacon, ready meals 	Parabens (E215, E216, E218, E219)

Our Ambassador programme

Launched in 2016, our Ambassador Programme has been the face of our education outreach programme. Delivered by dedicated education volunteers, we have reached audiences in their workplaces and their communities with our important breast cancer prevention messages.

Following a review of the programme in 2018, last year we took the lessons learnt to overhaul the talks to improve our messaging and maximise reach and impact. The result was the development of a brand new presentation and the delivery of a new ambassador training package towards the end of year. Part of this overhaul was to develop a business case for expanding our reach through a new recruitment drive of Ambassadors and through the development of online education tools.

Future plans for our educational programme

With the advent of COVID-19, we will have to refocus our efforts to ensure our education outreach can continue to achieve impact safely and remotely. We are looking forward to increasing our audiences by further rolling out our digital transformation through the development of a comprehensive digital learning tool. The tool will be designed to provide women and men across the country with engaging and bespoke learning to make it more straight forward to understand their risk of breast cancer and how to take active steps to reduce their risk.

Our Advocacy programme

Our objectives for the last year were to:

1. Encourage a preventative approach by campaigning to improve legislation and public health policy which helps to promote the primary prevention of breast cancer.
2. Work at both EU and UK level for policy and regulatory changes that help to protect against breast cancer
3. Raise the profile of our key messages amongst political decision makers by establishing a network of activists to help us make our message heard.

This year, Breast Cancer UK's advocacy work has focused on campaigning for improved public health and environmental protections from harmful chemicals with links to increased breast cancer risk. We have sought to shape policy making in the UK and EU, to improve consumer protections, promote cancer prevention policies and retain a precautionary approach to prevent breast cancer.

UK Advocacy, Campaigning, and Impact

Overview

We raised awareness amongst Ministers, Parliamentarians and public health officials of the need to put prevention first by acknowledging exposure to low levels of carcinogenic and endocrine disrupting chemicals as potential breast cancer risk factors. Over the last year, we registered a record number of submissions towards relevant consultations, select committee inquiries and green papers to provide insight, and influence the UK policy making process.

Despite an extremely challenging policy environment, due to Brexit uncertainty and then the Covid-19 pandemic, we have seen a number of welcome policy changes that support the primary prevention of breast cancer. These include: The Department of Health committing to put prevention at the heart of future public health plans, the Environmental Audit Committee calling for improved public health protections from harmful chemicals and DEFRA extending their timetable for transferring data on chemicals from the EU into the new UK REACH chemicals regime.

In May 2019, we submitted **policy proposals** to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on the new Environment Bill. We welcomed the bill's publication and called on DEFRA to ensure it does not dilute existing EU Environmental principles post-Brexit, including the precautionary principle which has contributed greatly towards reducing breast cancer risk. We called on DEFRA to ensure legally binding targets would support environmental objectives; that the new Office of Environmental Protection would be independent from Government and that chemicals would form part of its remit. We **wrote** to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to highlight these concerns and to provide actionable policy proposals to address them.

In July 2019, the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) published its **report** on 'Toxic Chemicals in Everyday Life'. We submitted **written evidence** to the committee in March, in which we called for enhanced regulation of harmful chemicals which disrupt our hormones and for the UK to remain a member

of the EU REACH system to maintain existing public health and environmental protections. The Committee's resulting report acknowledged the growing problem of chemicals pollution and we were delighted that the Committee accepted Breast Cancer UK's policy recommendations in full.

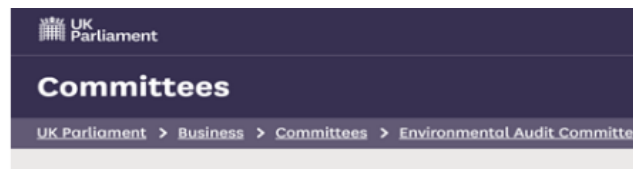
The **report** illustrated how harmful chemicals are now "ubiquitous in humans and the environment". Our evidence was picked up by national media and parliamentary news sites including the BBC, Business Insider, Huffington Post and EAC press release highlighting the urgent need for UK chemicals policy to reduce public exposure to harmful chemicals linked to breast cancer and other public health conditions.



Toxic chemicals: How safe is your furniture?

© 16 July 2019

“Breast Cancer UK said some banned flame retardants can cause cancer while others still use interfered with hormones, including oestrogen, thereby potentially increasing the risk of breast cancer.”



Government accused of stalling on action to reduce exposure to toxic chemicals in homes

16 July 2019

“Breast Cancer UK suggests the UK, along with the US, has the highest levels of flame retardants in human body fluids, with legacy Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in breast milk in the highest concentrations in women here and in the US. There is a growing body of research that some flame retardants pose a threat to human health and the environment.”

A core problem has been inadequate UK chemicals regulation. The Committee's recommendations included: Giving public health bodies responsibilities to recommend restrictions on harmful chemicals, banning substances of high concern within food contact materials, introducing a UK bio-monitoring programme and ensuring the UK retains alignment with EU REACH as the 'global standard' of chemicals regulation. We call for these recommendations to be implemented without delay.

In October 2019, we provided a detailed submission to the publication of the Prevention Green Paper in which we welcomed the Government's intention to put prevention at the heart of the public health agenda. However, we urged the government to acknowledge the impact of environmental pollutants on the nation's health and the need for greater investment in research into the causes of the disease. This would help us to better understand the impact of harmful chemicals on increased breast cancer risk. We outlined how a healthier environment as well as healthier lifestyles are essential to reduce cancer incidence rates.

In March 2020, we submitted **policy proposals** to the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee's inquiry on the impact of Covid-19 on the charity sector. We called for an emergency stabilisation fund for the sector and for reforms to the furlough scheme to enable charities like us to continue our vital work to prevent breast cancer during the first wave of the pandemic.

Brexit

With Brexit negotiations ongoing, we are campaigning for the UK to remain part of EU REACH (Regulation, Evaluation, Authorisation & Restriction of chemicals) to maintain existing public health and environmental protections from harmful chemicals. We have continued to engage proactively with DEFRA calling for the UK to retain a robust chemicals framework to avoid becoming a dumping ground for harmful chemicals.

Collaboration

In January 2020, we became members of the **UK Chemicals Stakeholder Forum** which has given us the opportunity to directly contribute to important policy discussions and join relevant working groups. In March 2020, we set up a new UK working group on harmful chemicals with the ChemTrust, Cancer Prevention and Education Society and Alliance for Cancer prevention to share intelligence, develop joint initiatives and expand our ability to inform UK Chemicals policy.

Engagement

Over the past year, we have held meetings with DEFRA's REACH and chemicals teams, The Department of Health's Prevention team, Sonia Roshnick (Director, Sustainable Development Unit) and Shadow Charities Minister Rachel Maskell MP. We have written to **DEFRA Secretary of State, Environment Minister, Public Health Minister** and **Minister for Civil Society**. We attended a number of conferences including UK Chemicals Stakeholder Forum Meetings, Public Health England Conference, EDC-Free Annual Meeting, Royal Society of Chemistry Conference on UK Chemicals strategy, EU Annual Forum on Endocrine Disruptors and the Dark Waters Parliamentary event.

EU Advocacy, Campaigning and Impact



Breast Cancer UK joined with our EU Partners to call for urgent action on hormone disrupting chemicals

Overview

Despite the UK's formal departure from the European Union on 31st January 2020, we have contributed towards a number of positive policy changes at an EU Level that will impact and support breast cancer prevention in the UK. These included: a ban on Bisphenol A in till receipts in the EU, restrictions on the toxic pesticide Chlorpyrifos, and the introduction of the EU's cancer plan and chemicals strategy.

In May 2019, we submitted **comments** to the European Commission's consultation on Food Contact Materials (FCMs). In our response, we highlighted how the EU's legislative framework was not fit for purpose as the majority of FCMs are presently not covered and harmful chemicals are overlooked. We called for the Commission to ensure future legislation delivered a high level of protection for human health, through assessment of chemicals, effective enforcement and transparency.

In November 2019, our Public Affairs Officer Kit Bowerin **travelled** to the European Parliament alongside colleagues from the Health and Environment Alliance and EDC-FREE Europe group to call for urgent action on EDCs. We met with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and European Chemicals Agency officials to highlight how harmful chemicals in everyday products may be increasing breast cancer risk and other public health conditions. Over thirty MEPs attended the event and indicated their readiness to support legislative action to deliver an EDC-free future.



Our Public Affairs Officer Kit Bowerin meeting with ECHA Director Bjorn Hansen)

In January 2020, we responded to the EU Fitness check on legislation with regards to EDCs. We called for the EU to introduce criteria for identifying EDCs, ensure uses of EDCs; in consumer products are prohibited, strengthen protections for vulnerable groups and close regulatory loopholes which allow EDCs to enter toys, food contact materials and cosmetic products.

Following this, the EU published its **Europe’s ‘Beating Cancer plan’** and **‘Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability’** which contained commitments to develop criteria for identifying EDCs, ban use in consumer products and introduce legislative measures to reduce exposure to carcinogens. We will continue to work closely with our friends and partners at HEAL and EDC-FREE Europe post-Brexit.

After many years of campaigning, we have at long last observed welcome steps towards introducing new policy measures to promote the primary prevention of breast cancer at both UK and EU level. However, as the UK prepares to leave the EU Transition Period and develop its own Chemicals regime, we will be operating in a new policy environment, one which may be harder to influence and potentially less receptive to public health and environmental concerns.

Accordingly, we are developing a new advocacy plan in coordination with our Science programme to maximise our future impact. We intend to strengthen our focus on harmful chemicals to influence forthcoming UK Cancer and Chemicals strategies, grow our network of supporters and engage stakeholders to help put prevention first.

Future Plans

In order to continue to drive forward our **strategic goals**, we have set business objectives for the year ahead to ensure we stabilise, grow and maximise our charity's impact through

1. Knowing and connecting with our audiences
2. Delivering clear scientific data, education and policy that focusses on impact
3. Building and sustaining effective partnerships to optimise our impact

Our aim is to remain agile, innovate and adapt to the changing social, health and financial environment by applying evidence and learning to everything we do. Our scientific and prevention work has never been more relevant and we must forge ahead with increasing our appeal and impact so that we can be ever more effective at reducing breast cancer rates. To achieve this, we must now push forward an ambitious agenda to enable us to invest in more research to bridge the gap in our understanding of the causational links with breast cancer risk. We must reach more people with our critical awareness raising to gain greater support for our cause, change individual behaviours and policy decisions too. We will implement a comprehensive Fundraising Strategy that will help us to raise the funds needed to fulfil these goals. We will continually assess our work, monitor our impact and adjust our activities to ensure we continue to maximise our impact and demonstrate value for money to all funders.

Financial Review

The Directors present their report with financial statements of the Company for the period ended 31st March 2020. In preparing this report the Directors have taken advantage of some of the special exemptions applicable to small companies.

Principal funding sources

Total funds raised this year was £401,897. The largest source of income this year (£328,685) was made up of individual donations and community fundraising. In all cases, donations are unsolicited and come from those people affected in some way by breast cancer and who choose to donate or fundraise for our cause. Of this figure £ 32,201 was received as restricted donations for scientific research. £25,000 was allocated to the Breast-on-Chip project. The remaining £5,541 was restricted by the donor to the Breast Density and Oxysterols projects. This year we also received a number of generous and once again unexpected legacies (£69,161).

We continue to partner with smaller companies and individuals too and would particularly like to thank them for their ongoing support.

Charitable Expenditure

We spent 81% (£383,044) on charitable activities this financial year and 19% (£90,961) on raising funds.

This year our largest area of expenditure was on our education programme (£135,453). This reflects continued work to enhance and expand our ambassador outreach education programme to reach and engage with more people on a wider range of risk factors.

Our second largest expenditure was our science programme (£128,242) reflecting our support for four ongoing research projects and the award of a new funding grant of £43,360 to **Dr Elisabete Silva**, from the University of Brunel London.

As reported in last year's annual report this year we continued to invest in staff resources – recruiting to two new posts and investing in staff training. This is to help us to have even greater impact. We have recruited two new part-time members to our fundraising and development team to support our charities growth and engagement to enable us to reach our ambitious goals.

Reserves policy

Purpose of the Reserves

The charity holds reserves to provide funding to support the continuation of the charitable aims and objectives and the ability to meet financial commitments in the event of a significant unforeseen reduction in income or increase in operational costs.

Level of Reserves

The level of reserves is set by giving consideration to the uncertain nature of the charity's income (which relies entirely on donations, legacies and grants) and the recurrent expenditure and financial commitments

the charity has. The charity has limited overheads arising from accommodation as we do not have a central office space. Hence our main financial commitments and running costs arise from staffing and research grants.

In the event of a significant reduction in income, the trustees believe that six months is an appropriate time period in which to seek new income streams to continue the charity's work or, if these are not available, to reduce staff numbers and costs. These reserves would also allow for the financial implications of any unexpected emergency or need to significantly increase operational expenditure.

Designated Funds

The charity is committed to funding research into the chemical and environmental causes of breast cancer. Research grant applications from independent academic institutions are considered periodically and approved at Board level.

Designated funds represent funds approved by the Board for future spending on research grants and other projects that aim to deliver our charitable objectives. The level of designated funds is updated throughout the year to reflect the amount of funds set aside for future projects until the funds are either committed to a project or a decision is made to un-designate them if a project does not go ahead.

Free Reserves

Breast Cancer UK is committed to a programme of activity that meets our charitable objectives. Given the uncertain nature of legacies, budgets are prepared on the assumption that only in cases where we have already been formally notified, are they included in income. As a result, sudden large legacies or donations that are received during the financial year can result in reserves being held that are in excess of Breast Cancer UK's reserves policy (free reserves) after allowing for designated funds. To help us address this we have established a "Priority Project List" to identify a pipeline of activities that deliver on our charitable objectives and are aligned with our strategic plan, that excess legacies or unexpectedly large donations can be used to fund if considered appropriate at the time they occur.

Authority, Monitoring and Reporting

Ongoing monitoring of the reserves is undertaken during the year by the CEO, Finance Manager and Finance Trustee. At the time mid-year financial results are available, when budgets are revisited, the reserve position including how funds are allocated should be reported to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee meeting and the Board.

Reserve Policy Review

The Reserves Policy will be reviewed annually by the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee in February and approved by the Board of Trustees in March reviewing in detail the reserve position and taking into account prevailing conditions in the charity sector and short-term and medium-term plans for the charity.

At the Board meeting of March 2020, Trustees determined that £220,000 should be held in emergency reserve. This represents 6 months' of expenditure. The total reserve level is considered to be sufficient to

allow for the financial implications of a downturn in income or need to significantly increase operational expenditure.

Excess Free Reserves at year end of 2019/20 amounted to £120,334. With anticipated negative impact on income from key income streams such as individual and community giving, we are taking a precautionary approach with a view to ensuring we can weather the storm of the pandemic and the financial crisis ahead.

Results and closing position

The charity's expenditure exceeded income this year by £72,109. This deficit was anticipated as part of our investment to grow the team to maximise impact and is 47% less than that initially projected at the 2018/19-year end. Thus, our closing position remains stable and is stronger than anticipated ensuring we enter the unpredictable year ahead with confidence to weather the storm.

Structure Governance and Management

Structure

Breast Cancer UK is a charitable company limited by guarantee (registration number 07348408), registered on the 8th November 2010 and registered as a charity on the 15th August 2001 (registered charity number 1138866). The company was established under Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

Our charitable objectives are as follows:

1. to advance health and save lives by encouraging a preventative approach to breast cancer.
2. to educate and raise awareness of the preventable risk factors for breast cancer and provide practical information to help people reduce their risk; and
3. to support scientific research that helps us to understand and address the preventable risk factors for breast cancer;

Governance

The Directors of the Company, who are listed on the last page of this report are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the Company's articles are known as members of the Board of Trustees.

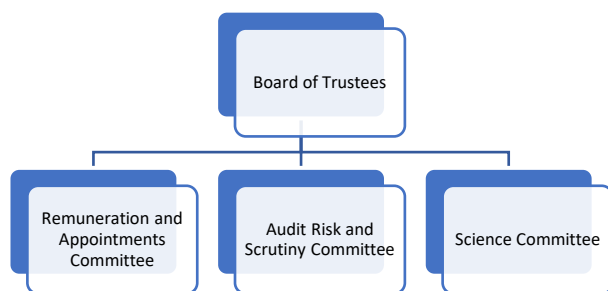
All members of the Board of Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 3 to the accounts. A number of trustees have suffered with breast cancer or are close to people who have suffered from the disease. They use their own experience in this area to assist the charity.

In recruiting Trustees, the members seek to ensure the charity benefits from a broad range of different skills and expertise. Skills and expertise represented on the board include science and policy, medicine, cancer services, governance, law, accountancy, fundraising, PR, business management and IT. In the event of skills or individuals being lost due to retirements or resignations, the charity advertises for specific skills and interviews are carried out to ensure the most appropriate appointments are made.

This year we were sad to say goodbye to Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney and Professor Deidre Kelley. After a number of years with the charity, Elspeth stood down from her position as Finance Trustee of the charity at the end of her term. Elspeth brought a wealth of expertise and commitment to Breast Cancer UK, whose key role as Finance Trustee was instrumental in supporting the charity's financial stability and growth. Elspeth will be missed and her huge contribution to the charity is greatly valued by all. Having only joined the charity in late 2018, Deirdre's time with the charity was cut short due to increasing work commitments.

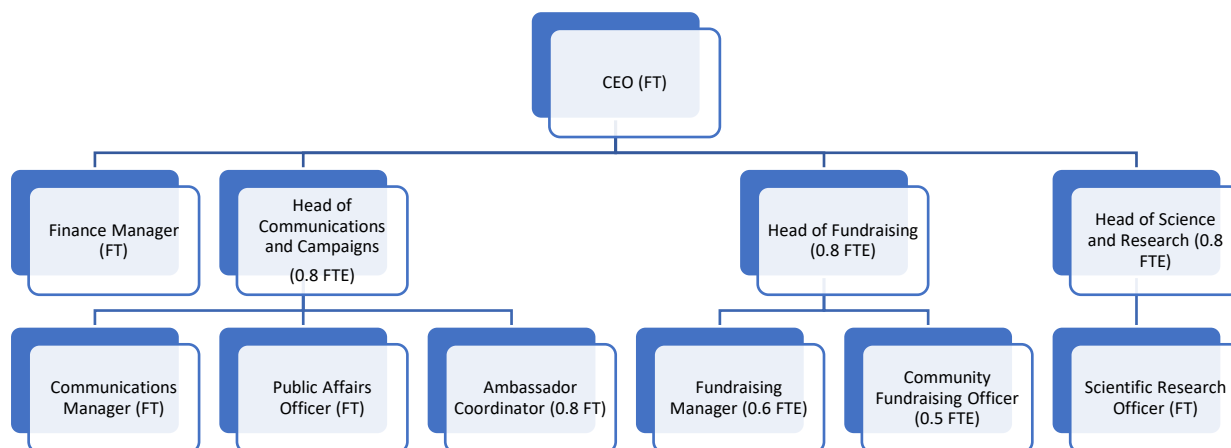
We were delighted to welcome Femi Otukoya who brought 15 years of public sector finance leadership experience to the charity and took up the role of Finance Trustee. We also welcomed, Dr Nichole Taske, Mark Jarvis, Margot Black and Sharon Nash to our Board of Trustees this year.

The work of the charity is overseen by the Board of Trustees and relevant committees. A new committee structure was agreed in October 2018 to improve efficiency and accountability.



Staff

In 2019/20, Breast Cancer UK consolidated its restructure starting the year with reinforced capacity across its teams, starting with ambitious plans to optimise cross organisational outputs and achieve organisational growth and greater impact.



Breast Cancer UK’s staff are our greatest asset and we are committed to supporting every employee to reach their potential, and achieve personal goals which in turn will assist the organisation to achieve its objectives. This year we undertook a review of our staff performance appraisal processes to incentivise staff performance and ensure staff can grow and evolve professionally. A discretionary performance based indexation will be introduced in 21/22. In March the board approved a consolidated pay award of 1% in line with our Remuneration Policy.

Having been with the charity for over seven years, the last six of which as CEO, Lynn Ladbrook stepped down in June 2019. Lynn took the charity through a significant period of transformational change, team expansion and growth in impact and we were sorry to see her go but thank her for all her hard work and contribution to the charity. In September 2019 a new CEO, Thalie Martini took up her post. Thalie brings over 20 years prevention experience in leadership roles in both the public health and charitable sectors. She is committed to making breast cancer prevention a policy and public health priority.

Risk Management

A risk register is established, risk management sits with the CEO and the Senior Management Team and ownership sits with specific Committees and the Board. The Committees of the Board of Trustees and the Board itself reviews the Risk Register at each meeting and it is updated regularly. Mitigating actions are considered and reviewed regularly. All policies and processes are under rolling review to ensure we are compliant with regulation.

Statement of public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission's General Guidance on public benefit.

Our charitable objectives are enshrined in our Memorandum of Association and Trustees to ensure that the charity's activities are carried out for the public benefit. In July, these articles were formally amended with a special resolution passed to amend our 'objects' clause through our three new strategic approaches: to advance health and save lives by encouraging a preventative approach to breast cancer; to educate and raise awareness of the preventable risk factors for breast cancer and provide practical information to help people reduce their risk and; to support scientific research that helps us to understand and address the preventable risk factors for breast cancer. This report allows us to show how our charitable funds are spent and the impact that this has on those that access our information or use our services, as well as on the wider challenge to reduce breast cancer incidence rates.

By Order of the Board

Mary Davies (Chair and Director of the Board of Trustees)

Breast Cancer UK Limited

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

The trustees (who are also the directors of Breast Cancer UK Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Financial Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

07348408 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1138866

Registered office

St. George's House
14 George Street, Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire, PE29 3GH

Trustees

Mrs M G Davies

Mrs R E Freeborough

Dr A S Giles

Dr A Kakavouli

Miss E J Kendall

Mrs E M Mackeggie Gurney (resigned 9.4.20)

Dr L Teixeira (resigned 2.7.20)

Mrs J G M Tolentino-Deludet

Ms W Clark

Prof D Kelly (resigned 10.10.19)

Ms M H Black (appointed 9.4.20)

Mr M Jarvis (appointed 7.4.20)

Ms S R Nash (appointed 7.4.20)

Mrs O Otukoya (appointed 18.12.19)

Dr N Taske (appointed 11.12.19)

Independent Examiner

George Hay Partnership LLP

Chartered Accountants

St George's House, George Street

Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 3GH

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 25 January 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Mary Davies

Chair of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Breast Cancer UK Limited

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Breast Cancer UK Limited ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

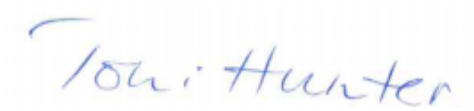
Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Toni Hunter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Mrs Toni Hunter
ICAEW
George Hay Partnership LLP, Chartered Accountants
St George's House, George Street
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 3GH

Date: 25 January 2021

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £	31.3.19 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		365,646	32,201	397,847	395,519
Investment income	2	<u>4,050</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,050</u>	<u>3,636</u>
Total		369,696	32,201	401,897	399,155
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		90,961	-	90,961	80,120
Charitable activities					
Campaign costs		119,349	-	119,349	89,719
Education costs		131,453	4,000	135,453	138,230
Science costs		103,242	25,000	128,242	77,117
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total		445,005	29,000	474,005	385,186
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(75,310)	3,201	(72,109)	13,969
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		463,077	(50,634)	412,443	398,474
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>387,767</u></u>	<u><u>(47,433)</u></u>	<u><u>340,334</u></u>	<u><u>412,443</u></u>

Balance Sheet 31 March 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £	31.3.19 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	7,877	-	7,877	9,086
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>441,824</u>	<u>339</u>	<u>442,163</u>	<u>533,195</u>
		449,701	339	450,040	542,281
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(33,918)	(26,250)	(60,168)	(83,338)
		<u>415,783</u>	<u>(25,911)</u>	<u>389,872</u>	<u>458,943</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)					
		415,783	(25,911)	389,872	458,943
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		387,767	(47,433)	340,334	412,443
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(28,016)	(21,522)	(49,538)	(46,500)
		<u>387,767</u>	<u>(47,433)</u>	<u>340,334</u>	<u>412,443</u>
NET ASSETS					
		387,767	(47,433)	340,334	412,443
FUNDS					
	11			387,767	463,077
Unrestricted funds				(47,433)	(50,634)
Restricted funds					
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u>340,334</u>	<u>412,443</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2020.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

Balance Sheet - continued
31 March 2020

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 25 January 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mary Davies

.....
Chair of Trustees

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

The charity operates a capitalisation policy of £500, meaning that any expenditure below this threshold is charged to the Statement of Financial Affairs as an expense.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds 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.

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

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2020**

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.20	31.3.19
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>4,050</u>	<u>3,636</u>

3. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Finance £	Information technology £
Campaign costs	4,630	6	1,989
Education costs	4,625	5	1,989
Science costs	<u>4,766</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2,050</u>
	<u>14,021</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>6,028</u>
	Human resources £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Campaign costs	13,994	2,482	23,101
Education costs	13,994	2,483	23,096
Science costs	<u>14,416</u>	<u>2,558</u>	<u>23,795</u>
	<u>42,404</u>	<u>7,523</u>	<u>69,992</u>

Activity

Management

Finance

Information technology

Human resources

Governance costs

Basis of allocation

proportion of charitable activities

proportion of charitable activities

proportion of charitable activities

proportion of charitable activities

proportion of charitable activities

The proportion of charitable activities is allocated equally between Campaign, Education and Science costs.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2020**

3. SUPPORT COSTS continued

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management

	Campaign costs	Education costs	Science costs	31.3.20 Total activities	31.3.19 Total activities
	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	333	332	343	1,008	1,008
Telephone	60	59	61	180	146
Postage and stationery	252	251	259	762	1,037
Sundries	515	515	530	1,560	1,184
Travel and accommodation	3,235	3,234	3,332	9,801	7,322
Subscriptions	<u>235</u>	<u>234</u>	<u>241</u>	<u>710</u>	<u>2,484</u>
	<u>4,630</u>	<u>4,625</u>	<u>4,766</u>	<u>14,021</u>	<u>13,181</u>

Finance

	Campaign costs	Education costs	Science costs	31.3.20 Total activities	31.3.19 Total activities
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank charges	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>30</u>

Information technology

	Campaign costs	Education costs	Science costs	31.3.20 Total activities	31.3.19 Total activities
	£	£	£	£	£
Website and IT costs	<u>1,989</u>	<u>1,989</u>	<u>2,050</u>	<u>6,028</u>	<u>5,833</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2020**

3. SUPPORT COSTS continued**Human resources**

	Campaign costs £	Education costs £	Science costs £	31.3.20 Total activities £	31.3.19 Total activities £
Salaries	12,007	12,008	12,372	36,387	30,895
Social security	1,052	1,052	1,083	3,187	2,574
Pensions	439	438	451	1,328	891
Training	379	379	390	1,148	9,136
Staff related costs	<u>117</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>1,585</u>
	<u>13,994</u>	<u>13,994</u>	<u>14,416</u>	<u>42,404</u>	<u>45,081</u>

Governance costs

	Campaign costs £	Education costs £	Science costs £	31.3.20 Total activities £	31.3.19 Total activities £
Trustees' expenses	219	219	226	664	556
Trustees' meetings and training	1,234	1,234	1,271	3,739	2,626
Accountancy fees	<u>1,029</u>	<u>1,030</u>	<u>1,061</u>	<u>3,120</u>	<u>3,120</u>
	<u>2,482</u>	<u>2,483</u>	<u>2,558</u>	<u>7,523</u>	<u>6,302</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2020 nor for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Trustees' expenses

	31.3.20 £	31.3.19 £
Trustees' expenses	<u>664</u>	<u>556</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2020**

5. STAFF COSTS

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

	31.3.20	31.3.19
Management and administration	1	1
Fundraising	2	2
Campaigns, Science and Education	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
	10	9

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Restricted funds £	Total funds £	funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	368,336	27,183	395,519
Investment income	<u>3,636</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,636</u>
Total	371,972	27,183	399,155
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	78,720	1,400	80,120
Charitable activities			
Campaign costs	89,719	-	89,719
Education costs	138,230	-	138,230
Science costs	<u>77,117</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>77,117</u>
Total	383,786	1,400	385,186
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(11,814)	25,783	13,969
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>474,891</u>	<u>(76,417)</u>	<u>398,474</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	463,077	(50,634)	412,443

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2020**

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

		Computer equipment £
COST		
At 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020		<u>3,721</u>
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020		<u>3,721</u>
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 March 2020		<u><u>-</u></u>
At 31 March 2019		<u><u>-</u></u>

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.20	31.3.19
	£	£
Monies owed	5,050	6,834
Gift aid debtor	1,730	2,252
Prepayments	<u>1,097</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>7,877</u></u>	<u><u>9,086</u></u>

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.20	31.3.19
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-
Trade creditors	1,347	2,085
Social security and other taxes	108	1,633
Accruals	3,120	3,120
Grants payable	<u>55,594</u>	<u>76,500</u>
	<u><u>60,169</u></u>	<u><u>83,338</u></u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2020**

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.3.20	31.3.19
	£	£
Deferred grants	<u>49,538</u>	<u>46,500</u>

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.19	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.20
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund	383,077	(28,442)	-	354,635
Website Development Fund	35,000	(26,508)	-	8,492
Science Grant Budget	<u>45,000</u>	<u>(20,360)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,640</u>
	463,077	(75,310)	-	387,767
Restricted funds				
Breast Density Research Project	(26,328)	5,541	-	(20,787)
Funding for Ambassador Training	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
Oxysterols project	(28,306)	1,660	-	(26,646)
Breast Chip Research	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>(50,634)</u>	<u>3,201</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(47,433)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>412,443</u>	<u>(72,109)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>340,334</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2020**

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £	
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund	369,695	(398,137)	(28,442)	
Website Development Fund	-	(26,508)	(26,508)	
Science Grant Budget	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,360)</u>	<u>(20,360)</u>	
	369,695	(445,005)	(75,310)	
Restricted funds				
Breast Density Research Project	5,541	-	5,541	
Funding for Ambassador Training	-	(4,000)	(4,000)	
Oxysterols project	1,660	-	1,660	
Breast Chip Research	<u>25,000</u>	<u>(25,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	
	<u>32,201</u>	<u>(29,000)</u>	<u>3,201</u>	
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>401,896</u>	<u>(474,005)</u>	<u>(72,109)</u>	
Comparatives for movement in funds				
	At 1.4.18 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.19 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund	474,891	(11,814)	(80,000)	383,077
Website Development Fund	-	-	35,000	35,000
Science Grant Budget	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>45,000</u>
	474,891	(11,814)	-	463,077
Restricted funds				
Breast Density Research Project	(31,417)	5,090	-	(26,327)
Funding for Ambassador Training	-	4,000	-	4,000
Oxysterols project	<u>(45,000)</u>	<u>16,693</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(28,307)</u>
	<u>(76,417)</u>	<u>25,783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(50,634)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>398,474</u>	<u>13,969</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>412,443</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2020**

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	371,972	(383,786)	(11,814)
Restricted funds			
Breast Density Research Project	6,490	(1,400)	5,090
Funding for Ambassador Training	4,000	-	4,000
Oxysterols project	<u>16,693</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,693</u>
	<u>27,183</u>	<u>(1,400)</u>	<u>25,783</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>399,155</u>	<u>(385,186)</u>	<u>13,969</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.18 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund	474,891	(40,256)	(80,000)	354,275
Website Development Fund	-	(26,508)	35,000	8,492
Science Grant Budget	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,360)</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>24,640</u>
	474,891	(87,124)	-	387,767
Restricted funds				
Breast Density Research Project	(31,417)	10,631	-	(20,786)
Funding for Ambassador Training	-	-	-	-
Oxysterols project	(45,000)	18,353	-	(26,647)
Breast Chip Research	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>(76,417)</u>	<u>28,984</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(47,433)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>398,474</u>	<u>(58,140)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>340,334</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2020**

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	741,667	(781,923)	(40,256)
Website Development Fund	-	(26,508)	(26,508)
Science Grant Budget	<u>-</u>	<u>(45,360)</u>	<u>(20,360)</u>
	741,667	(853,791)	(112,124)
Restricted funds			
Breast Density Research Project	37,031	(1,400)	30,736
Funding for Ambassador Training	4,000	(4,000)	-
Oxysterols project	18,353	-	18,353
Breast Chip Research	25,000	(25,000)	-
	<u>59,384</u>	<u>(30,400)</u>	<u>28,984</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>801,052</u>	<u>(859,191)</u>	<u>(58,140)</u>

12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

	31.3.20 £	31.3.19 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	328,685	287,809
Legacies	<u>69,161</u>	<u>107,710</u>
	397,846	
	395,519	
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	<u>4,050</u>	<u>3,636</u>
Total incoming resources	401,896	399,155
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Salaries	60,825	39,512
Social security	5,015	3,236
Pensions	1,764	1,331
Consultancy fees	-	13,920
Promotional activities	8,937	10,208
Subscriptions	1,212	1,790
Telephone	303	161
Printing, postage and stationery	1,156	867
Recruitment, training and support	3,070	1,424
Donor entry fees	4,895	4,435
Donor platform fees	<u>3,784</u>	<u>3,236</u>
	90,961	80,120

Breast Cancer UK Limited**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2020**

(Continued)

Charitable activities

Campaign, Science and Education salaries	179,610	146,836
Campaign, Science and Education social security	16,429	13,053
Campaign, Science and Education pensions	5,194	3,581
Telephone	334	15
Postage and stationery	13	32
Advertising	25	577
Science grants	45,360	-
Website and software costs	20,776	8,493
Subscriptions	1,727	2,293
Literature design and print	1,969	1,734
Travel	1,364	2,478
Consultants	-	14,652
Exhibitions and conferences	874	754
Ambassador project	36,770	36,459
Recruitment and Training Costs	2,607	3,682
	<u>313,052</u>	<u>234,639</u>

Support costs**Management**

Insurance	1,008	1,008
Telephone	180	146
Postage and stationery	762	1,037
Storage	1,560	1,184
Travel and accommodation	9,801	7,322
Subscriptions	710	2,484
	<u>14,021</u>	<u>13,181</u>

Finance

Bank charges	16	30
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Breast Cancer UK Limited**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2020**

(Continued)

Information technology		
Website and IT costs	6,028	5,833
Human resources		
Salaries	36,387	30,895
Social security	3,187	2,574
Pensions	1,328	891
Training	1,148	9,136
Staff related costs	354	1,585
	<u>42,404</u>	<u>45,081</u>
Governance costs		
Trustees' expenses	664	556
Trustees' meetings and training	3,739	2,626
Accountancy fees	3,120	3,120
	<u>7,523</u>	<u>6,302</u>
	_____	_____
Total resources expended	<u>474,005</u>	<u>385,186</u>
Net (expenditure)/income	<u>(72,109)</u>	<u>13,969</u>