



00618612

Company Registration No NI 20701

Registered Charity No. XN48801

THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
(a company limited by guarantee and not having share capital)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2008



THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Contents	Pages
Directors, officers and advisors	1
Directors' annual report	2 to 3
Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the accounts	4
Statement of financial activities	5 to 6
Statement of total recognised gains and losses	7
Balance sheet	8
Notes to the accounts	9 to 15

**THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND ADVISORS
DURING 2007-2008**

Directors

Colin Low - Lord Low of Dalston (Chairman)
Terry Moody
Kevin Carey
Allan Suttie
Kevin Geeson

Company Secretary

Kevin Geeson

Any executive decisions relating to the shell charity are taken by the Company Secretary.

Solicitors

Bernard Campbell and Company
91-93 Victoria Street
Belfast
BT1 4QB

Bankers

Ulster Bank Limited
376/378 Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 3FB

Registered office

RNIB Northern Ireland
40 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BA

THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

The Directors of the Blind Centre for Northern Ireland (or "the Blind Centre or "BCNI") present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2008. The Directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Directors, officers and advisors

Directors, officers and advisors are listed on page 1.

Governance and structure

The Blind Centre for Northern Ireland is a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital constituted under the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 and is a registered charity, number XN48801. The charity was set up in November 1978. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association which have been altered by a special resolution adopted on 31st March 2007. The Memorandum and Articles of Association are reviewed by the directors on an annual basis to ensure that our governance arrangements are appropriate and effective. The Memorandum and Articles of Association allow for up to 16 directors to be appointed. One quarter of the directors are to be registered blind or partially sighted. Appointment and removal of directors is made by RNIB. When new directors are appointed they are given an introduction to the work of The Blind Centre with the information they need to fulfil their roles, which includes information about the role of directors and charity law.

On 31 March 2007 the Blind Centre merged with the Royal National Institute of Blind People ('RNIB'), a charity incorporated by Royal Charter (no. 226227). From that date BCNI became a wholly owned subsidiary of RNIB. The majority of its employees and all operational activities were transferred to RNIB, as were the assets and liabilities. The services continue to be provided by RNIB Northern Ireland. BCNI continues to exist as a shell charity to receive donations, which will be ring-fenced for the Blind Centre. It ceased to employ staff during the year.

Governance of the Blind Centre is the responsibility of the Directors, of which there were 5 on 31 March 2008.

The Directors are not remunerated. 3 of the 5 Directors are visually impaired.

Risk management

Post merger the risk management process is handled by RNIB on behalf of the Directors.

Strategies

BCNI exists as a shell charity to receive donations, which will be transferred to RNIB for use in the promotion of the Blind Centre.

Financial review and results

All of the Blind Centre's operational activities were transferred to RNIB at 31 March 2007 and therefore, the Statement of Financial Activities includes no substantive operational costs after that date. Income received post merger has been credited to the appropriate income category in the SOFA and then gifted to RNIB.

Reserves policy

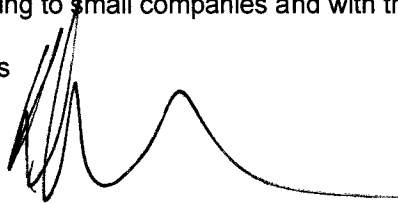
As at 31 March 2008 the Blind Centre for Northern Ireland shell charity had no reserves. All donation and legacy income is gifted over to RNIB during the year.

**THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT**

Special provision relating to small companies

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provision of part VIII of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 relating to small companies and with the financial reporting standard for smaller entities.

On behalf of the Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

27 January 2009

THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN
RESPECT OF THE ACCOUNTS

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue to operate.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING
AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

	Notes	Unrestricted £	2008 £	2007 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income:				
Donations and gifts	2	15,172	15,172	63,283
Legacies		-	-	87,105
Health service		30,210	30,210	73,072
Activities for generating funds:				
Other income		1,202	1,202	199,659
Investment income	3	4,435	4,435	-
Incoming resources from charitable activities:				
Health service contracts		-	-	426,970
Cash sales of tapes		-	-	8,167
Holiday income		-	-	8,496
Total Incoming Resources		51,019	51,019	866,752
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of generating funds				
Cost of generating voluntary income:	4	542	542	13,233
Charitable activities:				
Cost of providing charitable services:	5	8,696	8,696	810,839
Governance	6	(169)	(169)	9,059
Total Resources Expended	7	9,069	9,069	833,131
Net Resources before Gift to RNIB		41,950	41,950	33,621

**THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING
AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

	Unrestricted £	2008 £	2007 £
Net Resources before Gift to RNIB	41,950	41,950	33,621
Gift to RNIB	326,400	326,400	-
Net movement in funds	<u>(284,450)</u>	<u>(284,450)</u>	<u>33,621</u>
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2007	284,450	284,450	250,829
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2008	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>284,450</u>

The charity's income and expenses all relate to discontinued operations.

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

**THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

The company has no recognised gains or losses in the year other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities. The Company's Statement of Financial Activities is equivalent to an Income and Expenditure Account and accordingly two separate statements are not required.

THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2008

	Notes	£	2008 £	£	2007 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets			-		214,054
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	-		33,986	
Cash at bank and in hand		90,632		162,993	
		90,632		196,979	
CREDITORS: amounts					
falling due within one year	11	90,632		126,583	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			-		70,396
Net Assets			-		284,450
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds - general reserve	12		-		105,472
Unrestricted funds - designated funds	12		-		178,978
			-		284,450

The directors confirm that the company was exempt from audit under Article 257A(1) of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 and that no notice has been deposited under Article 257B(2) of the Order requiring the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements. The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Article 229 of the Order and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with Article 234 of the Order and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Order relating to the financial statements, so far as is applicable to the company.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part VIII of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 relating to small companies and with the financial reporting standards for smaller entities.

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Board and were signed on its behalf.

Director

Date:

27/01/09

Director

Date:

27/01/09.

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these accounts.

THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and follow the recommendations of the revised Statement of Recommended Practice entitled "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" approved by the Accounting Standards Board.

Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the Charity are the Directors named on page 1. In the event of the Charity being wound up the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per Director of the Charity.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are accounted for in the SOFA on an accruals basis when the Charity is certain that it is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Any donation or legacy income received is gifted over to RNIB.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Where costs can be directly related to an activity heading in the SOFA they are so classified. Where the costs cannot be directly attributed, they are allocated to activities on a basis which is appropriate to the use of the resource.

- Fundraising costs, including the associated publicity, are those incurred in raising voluntary income, including grants.
- Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the strategic management of the charity, including compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds represent donations and other incoming resources less resources expended other than those attributable to restricted funds.

Restricted funds represent income and expenditure applied for the specific purposes identified by each donor.

Designated funds represent amounts set aside from unrestricted funds at the discretion of the Directors for particular purposes.

Legacy income

Legacies are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receipts basis. Assets received in a form other than cash are brought into account at either an estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised on their conversion into cash.

Costs

Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent. Governance costs relate to the general costs of running the charity such as the costs of meetings, audit and statutory compliance and include any costs which cannot be specifically identified to another expenditure classification.

THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Depreciation

Fixed assets are capitalised at the cost to the Centre. In the case of donated assets this is taken to be the estimated value to the Centre of the asset. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at rates which are sufficient to write them down to their residual value over their expected useful lives, as follows:

Leasehold property	-	2% per annum
Tape Studio	-	20% per annum
Office equipment	-	20% per annum
Motor vehicles	-	20% per annum

'Netting off' of income and expenditure

A minimum of 'netting off' of income and expenditure and of assets and liabilities has taken place in the financial statements. However, holiday support, aids for display and social activity expenditure has been shown net as the revenues arising from these costs are clearly identifiable.

Cash flow statement

A cash flow statement has not been prepared as the company has claimed exemption under Articles 254 to 257 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

2. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM DONATIONS AND GIFTS

	2008 £	2007 £
Individuals and Corporate Donors	15,172	58,074
Charitable Foundations	<u>-</u>	<u>5,209</u>
	<u>15,172</u>	<u>63,283</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2008 £	2007 £
Interest on short term deposits	4,401	-
Interest on Building Society account	<u>34</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>4,435</u>	<u>-</u>

4. ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED ON GENERATING FUNDS

	Activities undertaken directly £	2008 £	2007 £
Staff costs	542	542	8,744
Fundraising expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,489</u>
	<u>542</u>	<u>542</u>	<u>13,233</u>

THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

5. ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly £	2008 £	2007 £
Staff costs	-	-	568,801
Travel and subsistence	-	-	77,680
Printing and stationery	-	-	11,137
Telephone	-	-	8,604
Electricity	-	-	5,564
Insurance	4,831	4,831	8,360
Depreciation - property	-	-	4,702
Depreciation - tape studio	-	-	2,530
Depreciation - office equipment	-	-	20,224
Depreciation - motor	-	-	6,303
Postage	-	-	2,087
Holiday support	-	-	5,696
Subscriptions and periodicals	-	-	1,545
Miscellaneous expenses	1,293	1,293	17,292
Social activities - net	-	-	13,680
House maintenance and repairs	-	-	4,201
Professional fees	2,115	2,115	25,158
Tape department	-	-	3,057
IT Fees	-	-	11,680
Rent	-	-	9,000
Bank interest and fees	457	457	679
Advertising	-	-	2,859
	<u>8,696</u>	<u>8,696</u>	<u>810,839</u>

6. ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED ON GOVERNANCE

	Activities undertaken directly £	2008 £	2007 £
Audit and accountancy	<u>(169)</u>	<u>(169)</u>	<u>9,059</u>
	<u>(169)</u>	<u>(169)</u>	<u>9,059</u>

THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

7. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Staff costs £	Depreciation £	Other costs £	2008 £	2007 £
Charitable activities	-	-	8,696	8,696	810,839
Fundraising expenses	542	-	-	542	13,233
Governance	-	-	(169)	(169)	9,059
	<u>542</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,527</u>	<u>9,069</u>	<u>833,131</u>

8. STAFF COSTS

	2008 £	2007 £
Staff costs comprise:		
Gross salaries	-	505,725
Social security	-	67,976
Pension	542	3,844
	<u>542</u>	<u>577,545</u>

The staff costs in 2008 refer to an insurance policy on the life of the previous Chief Executive.

	2008 No.	2007 No.
The average number of persons employed, including part time staff during the year was:		
Full time	-	22
Part time	-	14
	<u>-</u>	<u>36</u>

No remuneration was paid, and no expenses were reimbursed to any director during the year.

THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

All of the tangible fixed assets, with a net book value totalling £214,054, were gifted to RNIB on merger.

10. DEBTORS

All of the debtors and prepayments totalling £33,986 were gifted to RNIB on merger.

11. CREDITORS - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2008 £	2007 £
Inter-company Balance - RNIB	86,032	-
Accruals	4,600	126,583
	<u>90,632</u>	<u>126,583</u>

12. FUNDS

	Designated funds £	General reserve £	Total £
Income	-	51,019	51,019
Expenditure	-	9,069	9,069
Gift to RNIB	178,978	147,422	326,400
Net movement in funds	<u>(178,978)</u>	<u>(105,472)</u>	<u>(284,450)</u>
Funds at 31 March 2007	178,978	105,472	284,450
Funds at 31 March 2008	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The general reserve represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

The designated fund had been set up to assist in identifying those funds that were not free funds and it represented the net book value of property in the organisation.

THE BLIND CENTRE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

13. COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2008 the company had no annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as the operational lease transferred to RNIB on merger.

	2008 £	2007 £
Operating leases which expire within one year	-	9,000
	-	9,000

14. LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

The Blind Centre for Northern Ireland is a company limited by guarantee. The liability of the members is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

15. TAXATION

BCNI is a registered charity and accordingly is not liable to tax on its charitable income, nor on its realised capital gains.