

Company number: 5224240

Charity Number: 1105918

Omega Research Foundation Ltd

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31st March 2020

Omega Research Foundation Ltd
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st March 2020

Company number 5224240

Charity number 1105918

Registered office and operational address Bridge 5 Mill
22A Beswick Street
Ancoats
Manchester
M4 7HR

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Mike Reed	Chair
Clive Bishop	Treasurer (resigned 2 nd October 2019)
Rick Seccombe	
Natalie Wilkins	
Emilia McElvenney	
Josephine Dresner	
Ian Bell	
Jevon Clayton	
Steven Lindsay	Treasurer (appointed 6 th March 2020)

Company Secretary Fiona Gorton

Bankers The Co-operative Bank plc
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

The Charity Bank Limited
Fosse House
182 High Street
Tonbridge
TN9 1BE

Nationwide Building Society
Kings Park Road
Moulton Park
Northampton
NN3 6NW

Auditors Slade & Cooper Limited
Green Fish Resource Centre
46-50 Oldham Street
Manchester
M4 1LE

Omega Research Foundation Ltd
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31st March 2020

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2020. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Omega Research Foundation at the start of the financial year were to advance the education of the public in the subject of international peace, human rights and the causes of conflict. Part way through the financial year, it was decided to add an object, to promote human rights. The new objects as stated below came into force in June 2019:

- To promote human rights
- To advance the education of the public in the subject of international peace, human rights and the causes of conflict.

The aims of Omega are:

- To monitor the international trade in military, security and police (MSP) equipment in the pursuit of responsibility, transparency and accountability;
- To provide human rights organisations, the media, key decision-makers and the public with timely and accurate case study information on the MSP trade;
- To work with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and media agencies to highlight breaches in regulations governing transfers of MSP equipment;
- To provide torture survivor support groups with information that enables them to seek legal redress from the governments and/or companies that produce and trade MSP equipment.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on promotion of human rights. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set. All activities are undertaken to further the organisation's charitable objectives for the public benefit.

The charity's main objectives for the financial year 2019-20 were:

- To continue work on the three year project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation" 79.35% funded by the European Commission, alongside partners in South Africa, Brazil and Indonesia;
- To work with an increasing range of other partners to provide support and case studies for lobbying and advocacy activities in strengthening controls on the international trade and use of MSP equipment, particularly through the Alliance for Torture Free Trade;
- To continue the maintenance and expansion of Mispo.org, an online photo-database for the recognition and tracing of military, security and police equipment; and other in-house databases;
- To offer reactive research services to highlight issues of concern in countries in conflict or human rights abuse cases.

The aims, objectives and activities of the charity are kept under ongoing review by the trustees to ensure they remain focused on the charity's stated purposes.

This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits arising from the charity's work.

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Achievements and performance

International controls on the trade in torture equipment

During the year significant progress was made towards the development of international controls on the torture trade, and Omega's work played a major facilitating role. Omega and Amnesty International staff provided technical advice and assistance to the European Commission, and members of the Alliance for Torture Free Trade in their efforts to develop and secure adoption of a UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution initiating a process to examine international measures to control the trade in law enforcement equipment and other relevant goods.

Resolution A/RES/73/304, *Towards torture-free trade: examining the feasibility, scope and parameters for possible common international standards*, was adopted by the UNGA on 28 June 2019, with 81 States voting in favour, 20 against, and 44 abstentions. It calls on the UN Secretary General to gather Member States' views on the feasibility and scope of options to establish common international standards for the import, export, and transfer of goods used for capital punishment, torture, and other ill-treatment, and to submit a report to the 74th UNGA Session in October 2020. The Resolution also requests that the UN Secretary General establish a group of governmental experts to examine the feasibility, scope of goods to be included, and draft parameters, for a range of options to establish common international standards in this area, and to submit a report to the 75th UNGA Session in October 2021.

Omega has subsequently been repeatedly consulted by and provided technical advice to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to facilitate effective implementation of the UNGA Resolution. Omega worked with OHCHR on drafting the questionnaire employed in the UN Secretary General's survey of Member States on existing law enforcement equipment trade controls and eliciting their views on developing common international standards in this area. Omega also worked with OHCHR on the UN Expert Consultation/Webinar on Torture-Free Trade in April 2020, and this work continues.

In 2019 an Omega staff member was appointed by the Council of Europe (CoE) Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) as an independent expert consultant, to research and write a "*Draft feasibility study of a legal instrument to strengthen international regulations against trade in goods used for torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the death penalty*". The CDDH "*welcomed the excellent quality*" of the draft Feasibility Study, which was formally presented to the 92nd meeting of the CDDH in Strasbourg on 27 November 2019, where it was adopted. On 12 February 2020, the Committee of Ministers formally adopted the final Feasibility Study, and asked the CDDH to draft the text of the non-binding legal instrument.

An initial draft was prepared by the consultant and CDDH Secretariat, with input from Amnesty International and Reprieve. The final draft non-binding instrument was prepared and submitted by the German and UK CDDH representatives, circulated to all CoE Member States, and the CDDH is scheduled to consider adoption of this non-binding legal instrument at its 93rd meeting, in November 2020.

Capacity-building on documenting torture equipment, its use and trade

In May 2019, Omega presented an awareness session on the tools of torture to 12 staff of the Association for the Prevention of Torture in Geneva, including APT's coordinators for Brazil, Africa and Asia. The session included the types of equipment and restraints of particular concern, identifying and reporting on the 'tools of torture' and the need for international controls on the trade.

In September 2019, Omega, the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute and the Anti Torture Initiative co-organised a training in Mexico for 51 judges, forensic pathologists, and psychologists. The two 2-day workshops integrated Omega's expertise on use of force and tools of

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torture into an existing training programme on the international framework on the use of force, the Istanbul Protocol and documenting physical and psychological torture.

In November 2019, Omega, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and Exeter University co-organised a workshop for the Slovenian National Preventative Mechanism (NPM) on monitoring the use of police equipment. The Slovenian NPM requested this training to assist their monitoring of the use of less lethal weapons by Slovenian law enforcement; Omega contributed specialist knowledge on the different weapons and equipment used and how to document their use.

Consultants for the Brazilian National Justice Council (CNJ) found handcuffs and other restraints were used systematically during custody hearings in 18 of Brazil's 27 states. At the request of the CNJ, Omega developed a draft *Guide to Observing and Assessing the Legality of the Use of Instruments of Restraint in Judicial Hearings in Brazil*, which was translated into Portuguese. Piloting of the draft Guide led to increased engagement with judges, highlighting international standards limiting the use of instruments of restraint in the courtroom. A follow up survey found that the number of states using restraints systematically decreased from 18 to 15 states, with judges in 12 states only very seldomly ordering defendants in custody hearings to be placed in restraints. Feedback is currently being incorporated into a final version of the Guide.

Contributions to other reports, meetings and media articles

Omega submitted papers and briefings to various international organisations and meetings, including the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the UN Committee Against Torture, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, the UN Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Committee for Prevention of Torture in Africa.

Omega identified an image of a tear gas grenade posted on twitter by a protestor in Hong Kong as a CS Grenade manufactured by the UK-based company Chemring. This led to several queries from journalists who later referenced Omega's identification of the weapon in articles about the Hong Kong protests including in the Financial Times and the Independent. Omega's identification was also referenced in press releases by Campaign Against Arms Trade and Amnesty International and retweeted by NGOs, civil society groups, journalists and human rights activists. Media coverage of the incident led to questions about UK export controls being raised in the House of Commons. On 25th June 2019 the then Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt announced that the UK would suspend exports of crowd control equipment to Hong Kong.

Omega continued as an expert member of the Academic Working Group, working with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law looking at Less Lethal Weapons. The group drafted additional guidance for law enforcement personnel on the use of less lethal weapons - The UN Guidance on Less Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement - which was published in November 2019, and has already been used to inform the United Kingdom's new programme seeking proposals for innovative less lethal technologies.

Many researchers and journalists contacted Omega during the year, asking for technical information on equipment used around the world. Examples include:

- Bellingcat - Greek Security Services May Be Using Potentially Lethal Tear Gas Munitions
- Human Rights Watch - Colombia: Abuses Amid Massive Demonstrations; Iraq: Teargas Cartridges Killing Protesters
- CNBC - The Business of Tear Gas
- Forensic Architecture - Triple Chaser

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Strategy

Following an earlier review of the organisation's Information Technology and data systems, Omega staff have been working to secure funding for an IT and database upgrade, started in 2020/21. This upgrade will increase Omega's capacity to collect and record data and will make our information more easily accessible both internally and for selected external partners. Omega will undertake a major strategic planning exercise in 2020/21.

Financial review

At the end of the financial year, Omega was in a strong financial position, with total Reserves of £457,776. Of this, £54,495 was held in restricted reserves to be spent on the European funded project and £25,000 to be spent on the database project, £105,000 in designated reserves to be released over the following two financial years, and £273,281 in general reserves.

Fundraising

The long-term financial viability of Omega depends on continual fundraising, in a climate of shrinking donor funding for human rights work. Omega raises most of its income through grant funding, and in previous years has used professional support from Wootton George Consulting in reviewing some grant applications. Wootton George Consulting are NCVO members and are committed to upholding the standards of the Institute of Fundraising. Omega does not conduct individual giving fundraising, and has received no complaints relating to fundraising activity. In April 2018, Omega started three-year grants from the European Commission through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, and the Oak Foundation, and in January 2019 started a three-year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. While these grants will go a long way to securing the financial position of the organisation until the end of 2021, more is still needed, especially as the Sigrid Rausing Trust have confirmed that their funding will not be renewed after the final instalment of the current grant in 2019/20, and an application for a further three year grant from the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights submitted during the year was not successful. Omega was successful during the year in raising some limited funds towards development of the new database mentioned above. Omega will continue to try to diversify our funding base and find new sources of funds.

Reserves policy

Omega holds *Restricted Reserves*, being unspent funding provided for specific projects, and *Unrestricted Reserves* which can be subdivided *into Designated Reserves*, being the proportion of multi-year core grant funding relating to future years as stated in the grant agreement, and the *General Fund*.

The trustees have reviewed Omega's Reserves Policy and have concluded that an upper and lower limit of reserves held in the General Fund should be set bearing in mind the objective of holding such reserves. That is, reserves in the General Fund are intended to underpin the organisation's solvency and the continuity of its operations. However, the size of these reserves should not be excessive. Excessive reserves would lead to resources being idle and unused for long periods.

In relation to the upper limit the trustees have taken into consideration the experience of the last ten years. In that period Omega has received three grants from the European Commission via the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, each lasting around three years, with fifteen months between the first two, and ten months between the second and third. These grants have typically provided around 70% of the organisation's income. In order to underpin the organisation's solvency during the periods waiting for the next grant receipt or between grants, the trustees consider holding a maximum reserves in the General Fund of a year of basic operating costs to be reasonable. Basic operating costs in 2019/20 are around £300,000 per annum - £25,000 per month.

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In relation to the lower limit should it become apparent that no further major grant is to be expected from the European Commission or from an alternative grant provider, Omega would need to drastically restructure and reduce its size and scope of operations. The trustees estimate that the costs associated with such a restructuring and reduction would amount to five months of basic operating costs which currently would be around £125,000.

Reserves in the General Fund at the end of 2019-20 stood at £273,281 which is between the target limits of £125,000 to £300,000.

Plans for the future

Omega and partners Justiça Global (Brazil), Institute of Security Studies (South Africa), Legal Resources Centre (South Africa) and associates Amnesty International and KontraS (Indonesia) will continue work on the three-year, European funded project, "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation", which started in April 2018.

Omega will continue to promote and facilitate the introduction and strengthening of national, regional and international measures to regulate the trade in "tools of torture". Following the 2019 UN General Assembly Resolution initiating a UN process to examine potential "torture-free trade" measures, we will engage with the EU, States from the Alliance for Torture-Free Trade, and others to encourage development of effective international standards in this area. We will continue to offer research support to NGOs, researchers and journalists working in our areas of interest; develop new partnerships with NGOs and funders to strengthen the organisation for the future; and share our knowledge and skills with likeminded organisations.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7th September 2004 and registered as a charity on 16th September 2004.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

The Omega Research Foundation may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee and determine the rotation in which any additional trustees are to retire. The Trustees are also directors and members of the company. Trustees are recruited following the Trustee Recruitment Policy, which states that vacancies should be advertised and applications invited.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 11 to the accounts.

New trustees go through an induction process and are given the option of training in any aspect of directorship that they feel is necessary.

Trustees meet 4-5 times per year and make decisions on the medium and long term aims and activities of the organisation, including: funding strategies; methods of attaining the organisation's objectives; organisational policies; and staffing levels. The Board of Trustees also monitors the overall performance and achievements of the organisation. The Omega Research Foundation has a principal staff of seven to whom the day to day management of the organisation is delegated. This includes project management and financial administration.

The trustees regularly review the risks to which the Omega Research Foundation is exposed and ensure that adequate systems are in place to manage those risks.

Omega Research Foundation Ltd
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31st March 2020

The trustees spent time at the beginning of the year discussing the Charity Governance Code's principles and recommended practice and how these should be applied to the Omega Research Foundation. This work is now being reviewed to ensure Omega's governance standards remain high.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st March 2020 was 8 (2019: 8). The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

At 31 March 2020 Omega employed six full-time research staff, and a part-time administrative & finance officer. Omega also had two volunteers during the year. Omega operates a flat management structure, with decisions being taken collectively by staff. After two years' service, all staff are paid at the same rate (pro-rata), which is set periodically by the trustees, taking account of inflation and the charity's available resources.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Omega Research Foundation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report 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 these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

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.

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Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31st March 2020

Auditors

Slade & Cooper Ltd were re-appointed as the charitable company's auditors during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 19th November 2020 and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Reed', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Reed, Chair

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Omega Research Foundation Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2020, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the income and expenditure account), the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2020, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 7, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation

trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Christy Yun Hing Lau FCCA CTA
Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of
Slade & Cooper Limited
Statutory Auditors
Green Fish Resource Centre
46-50 Oldham Street
Manchester M4 1LE

Date: 29th January 2021

Omega Research Foundation
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Income from:					
Charitable activities	3	12,449	405,320	417,769	256,596
Investments	4	818	-	818	608
Other income	5	150	-	150	-
Total income		13,417	405,320	418,737	257,204
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	25,309	-	25,309	-
Charitable activities	7	42,756	356,375	399,131	292,664
Total expenditure		68,065	356,375	424,440	292,664
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments		(54,648)	48,945	(5,703)	(35,460)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	9	(54,648)	48,945	(5,703)	(35,460)
Transfer between funds		(15,815)	15,815	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		(70,463)	64,760	(5,703)	(35,460)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		448,744	14,735	463,479	498,939
Total funds carried forward		378,281	79,495	457,776	463,479

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.


Omega Research Foundation
Company number 5224240
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	14	101,159	229,865
Cash at bank and in hand	15	375,908	249,180
Total current assets		477,067	479,045
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	16	(19,291)	(15,566)
Net current assets		457,776	463,479
Total assets less current liabilities		457,776	463,479
Net assets		457,776	463,479
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	17	79,495	14,735
Unrestricted income funds:			
Designated fund: Long term grants	18	105,000	225,000
General funds	18	273,281	223,744
Total charity funds		457,776	463,479

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The notes on pages 14 to 27 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 19th November 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

..... 

Mike Reed (Chair)

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied the exemption available to small charities in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and does not include a Statement of Cash Flows in these Financial Statements.

Omega Research Foundation meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. The charity has one designated fund, the long term grants fund, which holds grant income awarded under multi-year grants. This is transferred to the general fund over the life of the grant.

The remaining unrestricted funds are the general funds of the charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity. Some grants which fall into this category are paid in arrears, after expenditure has already occurred, which can leave restricted funds in deficit for short periods of time.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of fundraising and their associated support costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

h Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

i Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives. There are currently no fixed assets.

j Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

k Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

i Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

m Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

n Foreign currencies

Transactions entered into in currencies other than sterling are included in the accounts after conversion at the bank rate in force on the date.

o Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 10. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within staff costs in note 10, and are allocated between funds in proportion to the allocation of staff time.

The money purchase plan is managed by TPT Retirement Solutions (previously The Pensions Trust) and the plan invests the contributions made by the employee and employer in an investment fund to build up over the term of the plan a pension fund which is then converted into a pension upon the employee's normal retirement year age when eligible for a state pension. The total expense ratio of the plan is 0.69% and this is deducted from the investment fund annually. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employee's contributions. The contributions outstanding at the year-end were £2,071.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

3 Income from charitable activities

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £
European Commission grant	-	320,320	320,320
Oak Foundation grant	-	60,000	60,000
Joffe Charitable Trust	-	20,000	20,000
TREAT grant	-	5,000	5,000
Other income from charitable activity	12,449	-	12,449
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	12,449	405,320	417,769
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Previous reporting period	<i>Unrestricted</i> £	<i>Restricted</i> £	<i>Total 2019</i> £
<i>Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust grant</i>	<i>180,000</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>180,000</i>
<i>Oak Foundation grant</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>60,000</i>	<i>60,000</i>
<i>Other income from charitable activity</i>	<i>16,596</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>16,596</i>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	196,596	60,000	256,596
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

4 Investment income

Current reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 £
Income from bank deposits	818	-	818
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	818	-	818
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Previous reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2019 £
Income from bank deposits	608	-	608
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	608	-	608
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

5 Other income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020	2019
Compensation from bank	150	-	150	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	150	-	150	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

All other income is unrestricted.

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

6 Cost of raising funds

	2020 £	2019 £
Staff costs	19,521	-
Accommodation	739	-
Governance costs (see note 8)	771	-
Support costs (see note 8)	4,278	-
	25,309	-
	25,309	-

All expenditure on cost of raising funds is unrestricted.

Cost of raising funds was not so significant in the previous period as to need showing separately

7 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Staff costs	232,948	189,295
Accommodation	8,814	8,819
Publishing (including websites)	3,344	2,989
Travel	10,728	23,783
Training provision	165	2,767
Research	4,476	3,633
Evaluation	642	-
Fundraiser's fees	350	-
Share of grant relating to partner organisations	77,421	13,420
Governance costs (see note 8)	9,199	4,540
Support costs (see note 8)	51,044	43,418
	399,131	292,664
	399,131	292,664
	2020 £	2019 £
Restricted expenditure	356,375	243,755
Unrestricted expenditure	42,756	48,909
	399,131	292,664
	399,131	292,664

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Current reporting period	Support £	Governance £	Total 2020 £
Catering & venue hire for meetings	-	881	881
Staff costs	21,390	5,855	27,245
Office costs	33,932	738	34,670
Audit fees	-	2,496	2,496
	55,322	9,970	65,292
	55,322	9,970	65,292
 Allocated as follows:			
Cost of raising funds	4,278	771	
Charitable activities	51,044	9,199	
	55,322	9,970	
	55,322	9,970	
 Previous reporting period			
	Support £	Governance £	Total 2019 £
<i>Catering & venue hire for meetings</i>	-	656	656
<i>Staff costs</i>	25,345	2,773	28,118
<i>Office costs</i>	15,174	1,111	16,285
<i>Audit fees</i>	2,208	-	2,208
<i>Recruitment costs</i>	691	-	691
	43,418	4,540	47,958
	43,418	4,540	47,958

The charity has one activity and therefore support costs are not apportioned.

There were no significant costs of raising funds in the previous reporting period and therefore support costs were not apportioned.

9 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2020 £	2019 £
Auditor's remuneration - audit fees	1,900	1,900
Auditor's remuneration - other	180	-

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

10 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	245,179	191,513
Social security costs	22,276	16,712
Pension costs	12,259	9,188
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	279,714	217,413
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Allocated as follows:		
Cost of raising funds	19,521	-
Charitable activities	232,948	189,295
Support costs	21,390	25,345
Governance costs	5,855	2,773
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	279,714	217,413
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2019: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 7 (2019: 6).

The average full time equivalent number of staff employed during the period was 6 (2019: 5).

Omega operates a flat management structure, with decisions being taken collectively by staff. The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the staff team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £282,714 (2019: £220,413).

11 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the management committee nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2019: Nil).

One member of the management committee received travel and subsistence expenses during the year totalling £263. (2019: £90).

Aggregate donations from related parties were Nil (2019: Nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2019: Nil).

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

12 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
European Commission	320,320	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	320,320	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The European Commission grant was the second annual payment to cover 79% of costs on the project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation" on which substantive work started on 1st April 2018. The first payment was received before the start of the prior year. Some of the grant was unspent at the year end (see note 17).

13 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

14 Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Grants receivable	90,000	225,000
Trade debtors	5,750	-
Prepayments and accrued income	5,409	4,865
	101,159	229,865
	101,159	229,865

Grants receivable consists of half of a 3 year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. These amounts are held in the Long term grants designated fund (see note 18). The amounts recoverable in more than one year is £45,000 (2019: £105,000).

15 Cash at bank and in hand

	2020	2019
	£	£
Short term deposits	231,418	130,738
Cash at bank and on hand	144,490	118,442
	375,908	249,180
	375,908	249,180

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Short term compensated absences (holiday pay)	7,650	6,991
Other creditors and accruals	2,946	2,280
Taxation and social security costs	8,695	6,295
	19,291	15,566
	19,291	15,566

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

17 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
European Commission	11,235	320,320	(296,375)	15,815	50,995
Oak Foundation 1	3,500	37,050	(37,050)	-	3,500
Oak Foundation 2	-	22,950	(22,950)	-	-
Joffe Charitable Trust	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Trust for Research and Education on the Arms Trade	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Total	14,735	405,320	(356,375)	15,815	79,495
Previous reporting period	<i>Balance at 1 April 2018 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2019 £</i>
European Commission	189,651	-	(187,255)	8,839	11,235
Oak Foundation 1	-	37,600	(34,100)	-	3,500
Oak Foundation 2	-	22,400	(22,400)	-	-
Total	189,651	60,000	(243,755)	8,839	14,735

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
European Commission	Funding for the project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation".
Oak Foundation 1	Matched funding to cover up to 20.65% of the project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation"
Oak Foundation 2	Funding to continue work on the European "Anti Torture" Regulation, and work on the Alliance for Torture Free Trade
Joffe Charitable Trust; Trust for Research and Education on the Arms Trade	Funding for development of a new research database. This will take place in 2020-21.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity. Some grants which fall into this category are paid in arrears, after expenditure has already occurred, which can leave restricted funds in deficit for short periods of time.

18 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2020 £
General fund	223,744	13,417	(68,065)	104,185	273,281
Designated fund: Long term grants	225,000	-	-	(120,000)	105,000
	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>
	448,744	13,417	(68,065)	(15,815)	378,281
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Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2019 £
General fund	189,288	17,204	(48,909)	66,161	223,744
Designated fund: Long term grants	120,000	180,000	-	(75,000)	225,000
	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>
	309,288	197,204	(48,909)	(8,839)	448,744
	<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>

Omega Research Foundation

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds
Long term grants fund	Income from multi-year core grants, currently from the Sigrid Rausing Trust (3 year grant ending in 2019/20) and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (3 year grant starting in January 2019), to be transferred to the general fund over the life of the grant, following the grant agreement.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current reporting period	General fund £	Long term grants fund £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	273,281	105,000	79,495	457,776
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	273,281	105,000	79,495	457,776
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Previous reporting period	<i>General fund</i> £	<i>Long term grants fund</i> £	<i>Restricted funds</i> £	<i>Total</i> £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	223,744	225,000	14,735	463,479
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	223,744	225,000	-	463,479
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>