

## EQUITY

### STATEMENT TO MEMBERS ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNION'S ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

#### AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 32A OF THE TRADE UNION AND LABOUR RELATIONS (CONSOLIDATION) ACT 1992

#### Income and expenditure

	£
Total income	8,748,630
Total expenditure	(8,796,146)
Realised and unrealised gains on investments and profit on disposal of fixed assets	2,448,122
Actuarial gain on pension scheme	590,000

£5,998,364 of total income comprised payments in respect of membership.

#### Political Income and Expenditure

The figures above include £nil income and £nil expenditure in respect of the political fund.

#### Salaries and Benefits

	Salary	Employer's National Insurance contributions	Pension contributions	Benefits	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Christine Payne General Secretary	114,531	14,622	6,000		135,153

The President and all members of the Executive Council were not paid any amount in respect of salary or benefits.

### **Irregularity Statement**

A member who is concerned that some irregularity may be occurring, or has occurred, in the conduct of the financial affairs of the union may take steps with a view to investigating further, obtaining clarification and if necessary securing regularisation of that conduct.

The member may raise any such concern with such one or more of the following as it seems appropriate to raise it with: the officials of the union, the trustees of the property of the union, the auditor or auditors of the union, the Certification Officer (who is an independent officer appointed by the Secretary of State) and the police.

Where a member believes that the financial affairs of the union have been or are being conducted in breach of the law or in breach of the rules of the union and contemplates bringing civil proceedings against the union or responsible officials or trustees, he should consider obtaining independent legal advice.

## **Independent Auditor's Report to Equity**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Equity (the 'union') for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Changes in Equity, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 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 union's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its result 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 Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

### **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 union 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 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 audit opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

- the Executive Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate, or
- the Executive Council has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the union'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 Executive Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Honorary Treasurer, 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.

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.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the union and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the financial report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters to which the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us, in accordance with the requirements; or
- the union has not maintained a satisfactory system of controls over its transactions in accordance with the requirements; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of the Executive Council**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Equity Council's Responsibilities, the Executive Council is 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 Executive Council determines 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 Executive Council is responsible for assessing the union'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 Executive Council either intend to liquidate the union 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 Councils website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to Equity, as a body, in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the union 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 union as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

BDO LLP

BDO LLP  
Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor  
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Date: 11 February 2020