Registered number: 03317333

The Expert Witness Institute (A company limited by guarantee)

Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 October 2022

Company Information

President

Lord Hodge

Directors

Sir Martin Spencer (Chair) Mr Christopher David Turner Mr Colin James Holburn Mr Edward John Picton Mr Mark Richard Broadbent

Mr Michael Anthony Pilgrem (Treasurer)

Mr Peter Andrew Mulhern Ms Saba Naqshbandi Dr Kathryn Newns

Lady Justice, Geraldine Mary Andrews (appointed 1 November 2022)

Ms Claire Elizabeth Berrington (appointed 1 November 2022)

Mr Daniel Andres Correa Acosta Rubio (appointed 1 November 2022)

Mr Richard Peter Taylor (appointed 1 November 2022)

Company secretary

Mr Simon Mark Berney-Edwards

Registered number

03317333

Registered office

10 Montfort Rise

Redhill Surrey RH1 5DU

Accountants

Kreston Reeves LLP Chartered Accountants

Montague Place

Quayside

Chatham Maritime

Chatham Kent ME4 4QU

Bankers

Coutts & Co 440 Strand London WC2R 0QS

HSBC 18 High Street Reigate Surrey RH2 9AY

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Chairman's statement For the year ended 31 October 2022

The chairman presents his statement for the period.

2021/22 continued to provide a challenging operating environment as the UK emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic and increasing inflation has caused a cost-of-living crisis. But as the Institute completed its transition to become an entirely virtual operation and, alongside planned reinvestment in staff capacity, this has enabled the team to be more flexible and take advantage of more opportunities which have had a demonstrable impact on our financial and operational performance during the year. As a result, we have finished 2021/22 with a surplus and are in a strong financial position.

The four strategic objectives of the EWI are to:

- 1. Enhance our impact by growing membership
- Support the development and improve the quality of experts within the community
- 3. Advocate on behalf of the Expert Witness community
- 4. Ensure an excellent, sustainable, and effective membership body

The rest of this report is structured using these headings to demonstrate how our activities have contributed to our strategic objectives.

Enhance our impact by growing membership

Membership has held steady in 2021/22 and whilst we finished the year just under our target for personal membership, we had hoped that we would over-perform. Some of this has been attributed to the challenges in getting membership applications assessed. A large number of upgrade applications for the new Certified level as well as some challenges with the availability of assessors meant the team had to pause active recruitment of some membership levels. The Institute has taken action on this, and both cleared the backlog and increased the number of assessors to be able to deal with larger fluctuations in assessments.

Corporate Membership continues to be a slow burn activity, but we have had some success during the year, and we are expecting some new corporate members in the early part of the new financial year.

We have continued to develop partnerships with other organisations as a way of reaching out to other experts and expanding awareness of the Institute.

We now have agreements in place with Mesothelioma UK, Chartered Institute of Information Security, and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Support the development and improve the quality of experts within the community

A key success for 2021/22 was the launch of the Core Competency Framework for Expert Witnesses which was launched in January 2022. The core competencies framework for Expert Witnesses sets out the attributes, knowledge, and skills that experts must develop if they wish to act as an Expert Witness. By the 31st October 2022, the Core Competency Framework had been downloaded 257 times.

We delivered 33 events during 2021/22 (7 more than the previous year) with 548 delegates (up by 111 from the previous year). Of particular note was the inclusion of a joint medico-legal conference and certification assessment day run in partnership with Resolve Medicolegal. In addition, a further 24 event recordings were purchased, and we ran a bespoke training programme for a Company.

Our application to have Certification validated by the SQA was successfully approved at the beginning of June with the qualification being awarded 15 credit points at Level 11.

Certification has received some endorsements from members of the Judiciary and Barristers which we can use within our marketing materials. The scheme was soft launched in the summer and as at 31st October 2022 there had been 40 applications.

Our monthly e-newsletter continues to perform well and the click-through rate continues to perform well above industry standards.

Chairman's statement For the year ended 31 October 2022

During the year we delivered two editions of Expert Matters which has now become a digital magazine. We continue to provide information and advice through our Member Helpline and this service is highly valued by members.

We have also completed a significant amount of work restructuring the resources section on the website to create a new Knowledge hub. A key change to structure has been moving from the 'type' of resource to the 'subject' to make it easier for users to find the support they want. In addition, we have now exposed the Knowledge hub so that all web visitors can see the existence of the content but only members can see member-only resources. We hope that this will encourage potential members to join if they see what they could have access to.

Advocate on behalf of the Expert Witness community

EWI continues to seek opportunities to be an advocate on behalf of the Expert Witness community and has received limited coverage in online media. We have featured in the media 12 times (up from 3 last year) including in a piece in the Financial Times relating to the Equal Representation of Expert Witnesses Pledge (https://www.ft.com/content/baff530f-1088-4aac-86bd-e9ebb80e8c89)

During 2021/22 EWI responded to the fixed costs in clinical negligence claims consultation, a further request from the Forensic Science Regulator for feedback, the Civil Justice Council's consultation on Costs, and, at the suggestion of new Governor Daniel Correa, made contact with the ICC International Centre for ADR to encourage them to consider using our Find an Expert Directory when looking for addition Experts.

We now have a far more accurate picture through Google Analytics of the number of searches on the Directory. In Q4 we saw an increase of searches and referrals on the same period last year. We are also now tracking when a searcher has clicked on the member's website rather than the 'Contact Expert' button. This has demonstrated that a similar number of searches are choosing to visit the expert's website rather than using the 'Contact Expert' button.

Provide an excellent, sustainable and effective membership body

At the AGM, Claire Berrington, Daniel Correa, Richard Taylor, and The Right Hon. Lady Justice Geraldine Andrews DBE and I, were appointed to the Board.

Kay Linnell, Richard Porter, and Michael Tibbatts did not stand for re-election. The Institute offers its thanks to them for their contribution to the EWI. However, special mention should be made of Kay Linnell's significant contribution to the EWI and Board in spearheading the development of expert witness certification, representing the organisation and the importance of expert evidence in Europe, and most importantly providing strong financial management, leadership, and oversight of the Institute in her role as Treasurer.

Losing a Treasurer after so many years of service can be destabilising for an organisation but we are pleased to confirm that Michael Pilgrem has stepped up into the role with the transition being made before the end of the financial year. His experience on the Finance and Operations Committee and as a Board member will ensure the required continuity.

The Board agreed to reinvest in staff capacity during 2021/22 and in January 2022, Heather George joined the team as Training and Events Manager and Wiebke Morgan increased from 3 to 4 days per week, increasing the team from 2.4FTE to 3.2FTE. This increase has enabled the Chief Executive to spend more time on advocacy and other strategic developments.

Chairman's statement For the year ended 31 October 2022

In a year where Expert Witnesses have faced increasing scrutiny, it has never been more important to have a credible voice for expert witnesses, highlighting the critical role they play in our justice system. I believe the EWI does, and will increasingly, play a significant role in championing the best interests of our members and their contribution. I encourage you to engage with your Institute and take advantage of all it has to offer.

Name

Sir Martin Spencer Author Spencer.
Chairman
28/4/2023

Treasurer's report For the year ended 31 October 2022

I would like to reiterate the Chairman's thanks for the many years of service to the Institute of my predecessor, Kay Linnell.

Results for the year ended 31 October 2022

The Institute's objectives do not include the making of profit, but the Governors seek to ensure that the Institute's annual turnover from subscriptions from members and other sources covers the annual costs of its various activities, and that it also has adequate reserves. During 2022, the net assets of the Institute increased by £6,412 to £68,947 and were then equivalent to about 18% of its administrative costs for 2022. The Governors aim to increase gradually the Institute's reserves further.

Turnover for 2022 was £383,135, an increase over the prior year of £20,967 (5.8%). Most turnover, £295,212, was from subscriptions from members, a reduction compared to the prior year of £8,223. The fall was due, in part, to changes in the composition of members; a reduction in the number of Organisational Members and their subscriptions was not offset fully by an increase in Personal Members and their subscriptions. Turnover from membership applications was £6,280 (2021 - £8,685).

An important contributor to turnover was £31,715 of income from a conference held jointly with Resolve Medicolegal, for which there was no equivalent in 2021. The Institute's other courses, events and similar activities contributed £46,443 to turnover for 2022 (2021 - £49,997).

Total administrative costs for 2022 were £377,888, an increase over the prior year of £83,702 (28.4%). They included £27,217 directly attributable to the joint conference with Resolve Medicolegal. Costs associated with the Institute's staff were £167,126, an increase over the prior year of £33,646 (25.2%). The average monthly number of employees increased to 5 (2021 - 4).

Costs associated with the Institute's leased premises, including the cost of the surrendering its lease of £30,436, were £50,318 for 2022, an increase over the prior year of £4,756. The Institute also incurred removal and storage costs on leaving its premises of £2,029.

The Institute makes use of information technology, including its membership database and website. The associated costs for 2022 were £90,673, an increase over the prior year of £7,789. These costs are expected to fall during 2023.

The costs of the Institute's publications and other public relations activities, including printing and postage, for 2022 were £6,274, an increase over the prior year of £2,889. The Institute plans to increase further its investment in these activities.

The direct costs of the Institute's certification activities for 2022 were £6,658. There were no corresponding costs in the prior year.

Other administrative costs for 2022, including the costs of the Institute's other courses, events and similar activities, were £27,467, a decrease over the prior year of £1,408.

Strategic report (continued)
For the year ended 31 October 2022

Financial position as at 31 October 2022

The Institute's fixed assets as at 31 October 2022 comprised its remaining equipment and furniture after leaving its former premises, which are almost all fully depreciated, and its website, which is fully depreciated. Consequently, the net assets of the Institute are almost entirely represented by its net current assets. As at 31 October 2022, the Institute's most significant current assets were its cash, cash equivalents and short-term cash deposits of £130,470 (2021 - £129,535) and its most significant current liabilities were accruals of £12,206 (2021 - £18,635), and annual subscriptions received in advance of the year in question of £52,024 (2021 - £47,603).

Following the surrender of its premises lease, the Institute's commitments under non-cancellable operating leases have reduced to £1,920 as at 31 October 2022 (2021 - £34,506). It also had commitments under agreements for the use of software via hosted services of £17,251 as at 31 October 2022 (2021 - £86,256).

Mr Michael Anthony Pilgrem (Treasurer)

Director

28/04/2023

Directors' report For the year ended 31 October 2022

The Directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2022.

Principal activity

The Institute's activities are directed towards the achievement of its objects, which are the support of the proper administration of justice and the early resolution of disputes through fair and unbiased expert evidence. To this end major priorities are the provision of training and the dissemination of information to members to maintain and enhance the standards and status of experts.

Directors

The Directors who served during the year were:

Sir Martin Spencer (Chair) Mr Christopher David Turner Mr Colin James Holburn Mr Edward John Picton Miss Kay Linnell, FCA, MBA, FCIArb, FEWI (retired 31 October 2022) Mr Mark Richard Broadbent Mr Michael Anthony Pilgrem (Treasurer) Mr Michael Shaun Tibbatts (retired 31 October 2022) Mr Peter Andrew Mulhern Mr Richard Porter MSc, FRCOG (retired 31 October 2022) Ms Saba Nagshbandi Dr Kathryn Newns

Small companies note

In preparing this report, the Directors have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

Month Spencer.

This report was approved by the board on 28^{14} April 2023 and signed on its behalf.

Sir Martin Spencer (Chair)

Director

Directors' responsibilities statement For the year ended 31 October 2022

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' 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. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Company's financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting 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 in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent chartered accountants' review report to the directors of The Expert Witness Institute For the year ended 31 October 2022

We have reviewed the financial statements of The Expert Witness Institute for the year ended 31 October 2022, which comprise the Statement of income and retained earnings, the Balance sheet and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 7, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Accountants' Responsibility

Our objective is to express a conclusion based on our review of the financial statements. We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2400 (Revised), 'Engagements to review historical financial statements' and ICAEW Technical Release TECH 09/13AAF 'Assurance review engagements on historical financial statements'. ISRE 2400 (Revised) requires us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. ISRE 2400 (Revised) also requires us to comply with the ICAEW Code of Ethics.

Scope of the Assurance Review

A review of the financial statements in accordance with ISRE 2400 (Revised) is a limited assurance engagement. We have performed procedures, primarily consisting of making enquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, applying analytical procedures and evaluating the evidence obtained. The procedures performed in a review are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK). Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements have not been prepared:

- so as to give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 October 2022, and of its
 profit for the year then ended;
- in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Independent chartered accountants' review report to the directors of The Expert Witness Institute (continued) For the year ended 31 October 2022

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Company's directors, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 25 November 2021. Our review work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's directors those matters that we have agreed to state to them in a reviewer'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 Company and the Company's directors, as a body, for our review work, for this report or the conclusions we have formed.

Kreston Reeves LLP

Chartered Accountants Montague Place Quayside Chatham Maritime

Chatham Kent

ME4 4QU

2 May 2023

Statement of income and retained earnings For the year ended 31 October 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover	383,135	362,168
Administrative expenses	(377,888)	(294,186)
Operating profit	5,247	67,982
Interest receivable and similar income	1,143	115
Profit before tax	6,390	68,097
Tax on profit	22	(5)
Profit after tax	6,412	68,092
Retained earnings at the beginning of the year	62,535	(5,557)
Profit for the year	6,412	68,092
Retained earnings at the end of the year	68,947	62,535
The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements.		

The Expert Witness Institute (A company limited by guarantee) Registered number: 03317333

Balance sheet

As at 31 October 2022

	Note		2022 £		2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	5		96		193
Current assets					
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	6	7,268		5,785	
Current asset investments	7	30,000		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		100,470		129,535	
	•	137,738	•	135,320	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one	_				
year	8	(68,887)		(72,978)	
Net current assets			68,851		62,342
Net assets		,	68,947	-	62,535
Capital and reserves				:	
Profit and loss account			68,947		62,535
				:	

The directors consider that the Company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and members have not required the Company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A - small entities.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on

Sir Martin Spencer (Chair) Director

Mr Michael Anthony Pilgrem (Treasurer) Director

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

April 2023

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 October 2022

1. General information

The Expert Witness Institute is a private company limited by guarantee, and is incorporated in England and Wales with the registration number 03317333. The address of the registered office is 10 Montfort Rise, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 5DU

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise specified within these accounting policies and in accordance with Section 1A of Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

2.2 Going concern

The Directors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Company to continue as a going concern. The Directors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2.3 Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Company and the revenue can be reliably measured. Revenue is measured as the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

Subscriptions from members

Subscriptions from the Company's members are received, or receivable, by the Company in respect of years ended 31 October. Such subscriptions are recognised as turnover in the year to which they relate.

Rendering of services

Revenue from a contract to provide services is recognised in the period in which the services are provided in accordance with the stage of completion of the contract when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the amount of revenue can be measured reliably;
- it is probable that the Company will receive the consideration due under the contract;
- the stage of completion of the contract at the end of the reporting period can be measured reliably; and
- the costs incurred and the costs to complete the contract can be measured reliably.

2.4 Interest income

Interest income is recognised in profit or loss using the effective interest method.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 October 2022

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.5 Pensions

Defined contribution pension plan

The Company operates a defined contribution plan for its employees or contributes to a defined contribution plan nominated by its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Company has no further payment obligations.

The contributions are recognised as an expense in profit or loss when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Company in independently administered funds.

2.6 Taxation

The tax expense represents current tax.

The Company has not earned any profits from training or similar activities provided to members or non-members, after the attribution and allocation of the costs of performing those activities. The Directors consider that the Company is not liable to tax on any profits arising from other activities generating income from members.

The Company has not recognised any deferred tax asset relating to past losses on activities, as it is not probable that such losses will be recoverable against future taxable profits.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets under the cost model are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Equipment and furniture - 33% straight-line basis Website - 33% straight-line basis

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in profit or loss.

2.8 Debtors

Short-term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 October 2022

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

2.10 Creditors

Short-term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.11 Financial instruments

The Company only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors and creditors, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in ordinary shares.

3. Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 5 (2021 - 4).

4. Taxation

Factors that may affect future tax charges

At the balance sheet date, the Company has taxable losses carried forward of £40,295 (2021 as restated: £18,086).

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 October 2022

5. Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment and furniture £	Website £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 November 2021	13,631	57,255	70,886
Disposals	(7,825)	-	(7,825)
At 31 October 2022	5,806	57,255	63,061
Depreciation			
At 1 November 2021	13,438	57,255	70,693
Charge for the year on owned assets	97	-	97
Disposals	(7,825)	-	(7,825)
At 31 October 2022	5,710	57,255	62,965
Net book value			
At 31 October 2022	96		96
At 31 October 2021	193		193

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 October 2022

6. Debtors

		2022 £	2021 £
		-	
	Trade debtors		147
	Prepayments and accrued income	7,218	5,611
	Tax recoverable	50	27
		7,268	5,785
7.	Current asset investments		
		2022	2021
		£	£
	Short-term cash deposits	30,000	-
	,		
8.	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		
		2022 £	2021 £
	Trade creditors	120	272
	Other taxation and social security	3,857	3,114
	Other creditors	680	3,354
	Accruals	12,206	18,635
	Subscriptions received in advance	52,024	47,603
		68,887	72,978

9. Company status

The Company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the Company in the event of liquidation.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 October 2022

10. Financial commitments

At 31 October 2022 the Company had future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:

	2022 £	2021 £
Not later than 1 year Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,002 918	30,157 4,349
	1,920	34,506

During the year, the premises lease was surrendered at a cost of £30,346.

At 31 October 2022 the Company had total future minimum payments under agreements for the use of software via hosted services of £17,251 (31 October 2021 - £86,256).

11. Controlling party

The Company does not have an ultimate controlling party.