

**The Association for Science and Discovery Centres**

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

Year Ended

31 March 2020



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**THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES**  
**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2020**

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The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020. These have been subject to independent examination.

**Charity name:** The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

**Charity registration number:** 1129312

**Company registration number:** 6798106 (England and Wales)

**Registered Office and operational address:** Suite 101 QC30  
30 Queen Charlotte Street  
Bristol BS1 4HJ

**Bankers:** Co-operative Bank  
PO Box 250, Skelmersdale  
Lancashire WN8 6WT  
  
Barclays Bank  
Bristol Queens Square RMS 2  
Leicester LE87 2BB

**Accountant:** Blenheim, Chartered Accountants  
Elm House, 10 Fountain Court  
New Leaze, Bradley Stoke  
Bristol BS32 4LA

*ASDC Website - [www.sciencecentres.org.uk](http://www.sciencecentres.org.uk)*

**Trustees and Directors**

Ben Ward (Chair)	Winchester Science Centre
Scot Owen (Treasurer)	Techniquest Glyndwr
Charles Bishop	National Space Centre
Stephen Breslin	Glasgow Science Centre
Hermione Cockburn	Dynamic Earth
Linda Conlon	Centre For Life
Bryan Davies	Catalyst Science Discovery Centre
Karen Davies	Science Museum Group
Lauren Deere	Thinktank Birmingham Museums Trust (resigned 31 May 2020)
Tudor Gwynn	Eureka!
Elizabeth Hodge	Aberdeen Science Centre (resigned 20 November 2019)
Bridget Holligan	Science Oxford
Linda Leuchars	Dundee Science Centre (resigned 31 May 2019)
Terence O'Connor	STFC (resigned 25 July 2019)
Alison Robinson	NERC
Donna Speed-Grenfell	We The Curious (appointed 20 November 2019)

**Secretary**

Dr Penny Fidler

**Executive Team**

Dr Penny Fidler, Chief Executive Officer

Shaaron Leverment, Deputy CEO

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### *Governing document*

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated and registered as a charity on 21 January 2009. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

### *Appointment of Trustees*

Under the requirements of ASDC's Memorandum and Articles of Association there shall be no fewer than eight and not more than sixteen Trustees in office.

One third of the Trustees retire from office each year, being those who have been longest in office since their appointment. A retiring Trustee is eligible for re-election.

### *Induction of Trustees*

Trustees are invited to meet the executive team and familiarise themselves with the aims of the organisation. They are given an induction pack which includes the Memorandum and Articles of Association (which includes the objects of the Charity); Charities Commission guidelines on becoming a Trustee; and forms for signature.

### *Management*

The board of trustees delegate day to day decisions to the senior management team who report back to the board when the board meets on a quarterly basis. The board of trustees are responsible for setting the pay for the Chief Executive taking into account the responsibilities of the role.

## **Objectives and Activities**

### *Objectives of the organisation*

To serve and support Science and Discovery Centres and related organisations, in the UK and beyond, fostering learning and engagement in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics for the public benefit.

The trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and report on these activities below.

*Vision* - A society where people of all backgrounds in all parts of the UK are intrigued, inspired and involved with the sciences.

*Mission* - To bring together the ASDC membership to play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science.

### **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The major risks to which the charity is exposed are the lack of sustainable core funding and the impact of Covid-19 on funding sources and on the national network of Science Centres, and the subsequent impact this may have on the ASDC business model of efficiently delivering national STEM programmes. Other risks relate to human resources with just a small team of 4. Risks are addressed on a case by case basis and any relevant changes to systems or procedures are made to manage those risks. The Charity's risk register is reviewed at every meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board").

## **Operational Report**

### **Overview**

The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is the vibrant national charity that brings together the UK's leading science engagement organisations to play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science. This has never been more important as we, as a sector, a nation and a global society struggle with the dual challenges of Covid-19 and climate. The impacts of Covid-19 have been significant and had just begun in the Financial year 2019- 2020 upon which we report here.

Within the ASDC membership are over 60 of the nation's largest publicly accessible science centres, discovery centres, environment centres, science museums and scientific bodies. Together our vision is for a society where people of all backgrounds and in all parts of the UK are inspired and can get involved with the sciences. We strive towards these goals through knowledge exchange programmes, information sharing and by creating and delivering a series of National STEM Programmes that engage millions of people. Equity, inclusion and addressing climate change are at the heart of ASDC's work and central to most of our funded national STEM programmes.

In recent years, the ASDC network of Science Centres and Museums has engaged over 25 million people each year, with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) through their science exhibitions, community and inclusion programmes and schools and public programmes. This included over twelve million girls and women, making it a powerful national infrastructure to inspire more girls into science and engineering as well as engaging many children and families from under-represented communities who can explore and discover the sciences in their leisure time with family and friends. In addition, many millions of school students investigate the sciences through hands-on curriculum-linked science education programmes.

ASDC has had a busy and effective eleventh year in operation, delivering national strategic STEM learning programmes, a national conference at the Science Museum, London, a range of other collaborative meetings and working with Government, research councils, trusts and national partners, and bringing the UK-wide membership together to advance the field of Science Engagement in the UK.

### **The impact of Covid-19**

In March 2020, Covid-19 hit the UK. Since then, ASDC has played a central leadership role and support role for UK Science Centres since coronavirus first became a clear threat.

The ASDC team have re-focused significant resource from mid-March and across the spring of 2020 running weekly National Coronavirus Resilience Meetings each Wednesday since March 11<sup>th</sup> for up to 50 CEOs and senior staff, lobbying DCMS and BEIS for a national emergency fund to which science centres can apply, delivering a national campaign across social media and the press, advocating for the sector with partners, and creating resources, datasets and strategies so that members can more easily advocate for their own science centres direct with central government. We also created a Coronavirus section of the ASDC website with hundreds of resources, re-opening guidelines and latest information. Staff at all levels in science centres have told us they have really appreciated this national forum of support, knowledge exchange and learning through these difficult times.

### **Other STEM activities**

Within the current year before Covid-19, ASDC has created and is delivering nine national STEM programmes, including a national environment programme, a communities programme with physics, a programme embedding change in science centres around inclusion and science capital, an online climate hub, a space programme, a spaceports programme, and a major public artwork on Mars.

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES**  
**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)**

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ASDC were also delighted to see the delivery in progress of the twelve capital projects funded through the 'Inspiring Science Fund'. ASDC lobbied for this programme over many years to secure the £30 million funding. It is funded by BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) and The Wellcome Trust and is the first major capital investment in the UK Science and Discovery Centre Sector for a decade.

Information about all ASDC activities and projects can be found on the charity's website [www.sciencecentres.org.uk](http://www.sciencecentres.org.uk) and regular updates are via twitter @sciencecentres.

ASDC has an office in central Bristol and has an executive team of 4.2 FTE staff, namely the CEO, the deputy CEO (0.6), an executive assistant, a projects manager and a communications manager (0.6).

**ASDC Project Activities & Description of Restricted Funds**

As a major part of ASDC's work to nationally and collectively advance the field, ASDC creates and seeks funding for UK-wide leading-edge STEM learning and engagement programmes. Each programme aims to make specific and strategic improvements across the UK informal learning sector and has involved 100,000 to two million public participants. ASDC has created a robust model which has received international acclaim to deliver these programmes in communities across the country using local knowledge and providers. For each national programme ASDC have created the programme and resources with national and international scientific and engagement experts, then trained, equipped and supported UK Science and Discovery Centres to deliver the programme with their local communities, tailored by them using their local knowledge for a more inclusive approach. ASDC also awards grants to the selected science centres to assist their delivery as they engage schools, teachers and families around specific areas of STEM.

Through these innovative STEM programmes, ASDC has also pioneered low-cost ways to achieve major large-scale multi-centre evaluations of informal science learning of thousands of school children looking at their interest and enthusiasm in STEM following an intervention. We have also undertaken postcode data analysis which shows we are reaching all areas of society through our schools programmes and have undertaken two of the world's largest evaluations of schoolchildren's learning at science centres.

In this financial year, The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) successfully devised and secured funding to run nine National STEM Programmes, as follows:

1. Destination Space 2B: A national space exploration programme funded by the UK Space Agency
2. Destination Space 2C: A Spaceports programme for remote communities
3. Explore Your Universe: Phase 4, funded by STFC
4. Operation Earth: A National Environment Programme funded by NERC
5. Science Museum Group Academy
6. Mars: An Artist-led science-art project
7. The Climate Hub, supported by The Scottish Government
8. The Audience and Impact Research Programme, funded by UKRI
9. The STFC 2020 Programme

***Destination Space2B: A national space exploration programme***

Destination Space Phase 2B is a national STEM engagement programme led by ASDC and funded by the UK Space Agency. This programme has developed hands-on activities, resources and training packs on the ExoMars mission searching for life on Mars, and the UK role in The James Webb Space Telescope. It also shares with families and children the latest on satellites and their applications, and the proposed UK Spaceports. ASDC created the resources and trained 13 UK science centres to run the full programme nationally to reach over 200,000 people. The centres, when they re-open, will continue to deliver the programme which completes by March 31 2021.

In addition, in partnership with the UK Space Agency we trained and equipped the 13 Science Centres to run a big celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Moon Landing in their communities, with tens of thousands of people involved. As part of this we created and operated the UK-wide collaborative Moon Portal [www.Moon50.uk](http://www.Moon50.uk) to collate UK events, so STEM, arts and other providers could share events and resources through this national resource, and reuse for future moon events. Over a hundred big events were listed and the Moon50 website was linked from the BBC website, the Guardian and other sites for the public.

***Destination Space 2C: A Spaceports programme for remote communities***

We are delighted to be working again in partnership with the UK Space Agency and Launch UK to share the science around the UK's new and potential Spaceports in Scotland, Cornwall and North Wales which will become operational in the next few years. These will make the UK a world leader in small satellites, from their design and build to launch and applications here on earth. Of the 54 essential climate variables, about half are measured by satellites from space and as such they constitute an important part of humanity's ability to address our climate-related impact on our planet. This programme is working with very rural communities, schools and families across the highlands and islands of Scotland and other areas to share the science around their potential spaceports.

These programmes follow on from ASDC's national programme Destination Space 1, which celebrated British Astronaut Tim Peake's mission into space. This programme engaged 914,646 people (children, young people, adults and the wider family group) in space workshops, family space shows and meet the expert events. Of these 152,348 were schoolchildren brought by teachers to learn about the latest space science and STEM careers in curriculum-linked hands-on space workshops. In addition, 1,135,786 people also visited the space exhibits and exhibitions made possible by this ASDC programme, bringing the overall total for Destination Space to well over 2 million people.

As an example of our research, an independent academic evaluation of over 12,000 school children in Destination Space workshops showed not only did it reach widely, but that girls and boys were equally inspired on all measures of interest and engagement across the programme. Further, the postcode analysis showed there was no difference in engagement and interest between children from schools in the most deprived areas of the UK as compared to the most privileged on the indices of multiple deprivation.

The evaluation of these 12,000 school students also showed that 23% of the children taking part were from the most disadvantaged 20% of the indices of multiple deprivation. This is particularly interesting as this programme was not specifically targeting schools in areas of deprivation and is a proxy for school visits in general to science centres. This is the first time the postcodes of such a large schoolchildren cohort has been assessed.

***Explore Your Universe: Phase 4, funded by STFC***

Another of ASDC's flagship STEM programmes is the highly successful 'Explore Your Universe', funded by The Science and Facilities Research Council (STFC). Now in its 4<sup>th</sup> phase, ASDC has selected eight Science Centres and their community partners to pioneer new approaches to make their organisations and learning programmes more inclusive, and to build relationships and share approaches that last. ASDC has also pioneered new and innovative evaluation tools for community groups as part of this national programme, that will likely be used more widely across the science engagement sector.

Over its life, ASDC's Explore Your Universe has created a major step-change in the way science centres engage schools and the public with the latest physics, engineering and astronomy across the UK. The original resources for this high-end practical physics and engineering programme were created in partnership with the National Space Centre and scientists and engineers. ASDC has selected, trained and equipped 23 UK Science Centres and universities to run the programme nationally.

In the first two phases, 347,008 people (families and school children) took part in physics and engineering workshops and shows. In just the first phase, 45,852 met and spoke with a scientist or engineer. Evaluation of the first 4,500 students showed both boys and girls said it inspired them equally. There was also no difference in interest and enjoyment between boys and girls across the range of our physics workshops.

The academic evaluation of Explore Your Universe found that:

- 77% of boys and 80% of girls were more interested in studying science following our one-hour workshop.
- 91% of girls who participated in the family show said the experience had made them more interested in science.

In Phase 3, ASDC focussed on reaching disadvantaged families, schools and communities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. 39,273 children and adults took part, from a range of communities in the top 25% on the indices of multiple deprivation including remote areas, a prison and children excluded from school. Postcode data analysis shows that 97% of the outreach schools taking part were in the top 25% of the indices of multiple deprivation or geographically very remote from STEM opportunities.

***Operation Earth Phase 2: A National Environmental Science Programme with NERC***

ASDC is delighted to be working again in partnership with The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) for a communities and inclusion programme focussed on sharing environmental science with children and families who would be unlikely to have come to a science centre. ASDC have selected eight science centres to take part and are developing the content with academics and science centre experts. This programme was just getting started when Covid-19 hit and all the science centres closed, and we have had to recast the entire programme as a result.

In Phase 1 of Operation Earth, ASDC successfully created the content and equipment (including The Earthy Suit), in partnership with The Natural History Museum in London, Eden Project in Cornwall and Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. ASDC then trained, equipped and awarded grants to eleven selected Science Centres to run the entire programme and trained 40 scientists to share their science and NERC's world-leading environmental research. The science centres together reached 201,442 people in the first 10 months with the very latest in environmental science, and ASDC were invited by The Prime Minister's Office to Number 10 to present Operation Earth.



***Science Museum Group Academy***

ASDC is delighted to be partnering with the Science Museum Group (SMG) to deliver a national training programme on inclusion for Science Centre professionals that focuses on how to use the concept of science capital in their day to day science engagement practice and how to embed this change across their organisations. For this national programme, ASDC selected 15 Science and Discovery centres to explore and pilot new approaches working with Science Capital, a concept which gives valuable insight into why some people engage with STEM, and why some do not. It also helps us to frame and shape experiences in more equitable ways to support STEM engagement.

***Mars: An artist-led science project***

ASDC have also worked with artist Luke Jerram to create a seven metre 'Mars' artwork. This has been funded by The UK Space Agency and STFC who shared the costs, and ASDC has instigated and managed the process. Covid-19 impacted the completion of the artwork at the end of March and in we had to wait until June for the balloon makers to reopen and complete the artwork. As travel opens up the Mars artwork will go on display around the UK and world. It is the 'sister' artwork to two other ASDC projects with the same artist, 'Moon' which has been seen by many millions around the world, and 'Earth' which highlights the fragility of our planet.

***The Climate Hub***

This project is supported by The Scottish Government to create a hub for science engagement professionals to share great activities, shows, resources and digital materials to engage children and families with climate change. It will have the address of [www.climatehub.uk](http://www.climatehub.uk) and the development has been postponed due to Covid-19. It was to go online in the run up to the major global climate conference COP26 which was in November 2020 in Glasgow, but has be postponed to November 2021.

***The Audience and Impact Research Programme***

This programme is funded by UKRI through the National Forum for public engagement, in partnership with the National Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE), the British Science Association and University College London. It is a mini-national research programme to assess how science centres and other science engagement communities measure their impact, who they reach and who they don't reach.

***The STFC 2020 Programme***

This programme was awarded just before we went into lockdown due to Covid-19 and involved grants to community groups and others, as well as support for various meetings. ASDC is discussing and renegotiating timeframes and what is now possible with this grant due to the lockdown.

***Core Activities***

The majority of ASDC income is achieved through competitively bidding for funding to run national strategic science learning programmes. This is combined with a small proportion of unrestricted income from membership subscriptions and the national conference.

***Strengthening the sector by bringing staff together to share knowledge and best practice***

ASDC convened a variety of professional development and knowledge exchange events, meetings and conference calls for science engagement practitioners across the UK including the two-day 2019 National Conference and AGM. The ASDC website and greater activity on social media increased the sharing of programmes details, sector-wide resources, best practice and the latest news. Most recently these have all been focussed on Coronavirus resilience, support and knowledge exchange.

***Acting as the sector body for UK Science and Discovery Centres***

ASDC is well established as the representative body for the UK Science and Discovery Centre sector with a national and international reputation as leaders in informal science learning. ASDC is frequently approached by European and National organisations, Government and learned societies for advice. This has included working with Government and Parliament, representing the sector on the National Forum for public engagement, as well as participating in events, including within Government and at Number 10.

***Raising the profile of UK centres here and abroad.***

Over the year, ASDC raised the profile of the work of UK Science and Discovery Centres and Museums by promoting their strategic capabilities as a major infrastructure for science learning. This includes sitting on advisory boards of national and international initiatives and giving talks across the UK and Europe about the work of the UK science centres and how they innovate and adapt to engage the public and schools with STEM.

***Championing Climate and Inclusion***

In this year, ASDC has strongly championed climate science and the need to use our collective influence and voice to highlight the science and the need to use an evidence-based approach to action and policymaking in this area. We have also championed the role of Science Centres in engaging more widely, building science capital and addressing unconscious bias to work towards creating a more equal and inclusive society and STEM workforce.

***Acting as a central source of information for our members***

ASDC shared with its members the latest opportunities, funding and sector developments via a regular newsletter and through targeted emails, social media and the ASDC website. These include funding opportunities, conferences, Government initiatives, Parliamentary consultations, and international and national research on the impact of Science Centres.

***ASDC Membership Fees***

In April 2018 the Board of Trustees reviewed the ASDC membership categories and agreed there would now be the two categories of membership given below:

1. **Full ASDC membership:**
  - a. Science-based visitor attractions
  - b. National partners which include research councils and learned societies
2. **Supporting Partners** (for other commercial partners)

The 2019 - 2020 ASDC membership fees were:

- Major UK Science and Discovery Centres and National Museums, with a turnover above £1.5 million: £1,000
- Small Science Centres and Museums with turnover of under £1.5 million: £555
- Smaller Science Centres with turnover of less than £300,000: £370

**Financial Overview**

*Overview*

The total income for the period was £512,268 (2019: £441,744). Total expenditure for the year was £530,681 (2019: £444,304) giving a deficit of £18,413 (2019: deficit of £2,530).

*Reserves and Investment Policies*

In order to provide on-going financial stability, the organisation aims to hold reserves at a level that will provide funds to cover a minimum of twelve months of costs in the event of a failure to secure funding. Currently we have £261,307 (2019: £312,253) in unrestricted reserves which, along with expected income during the current year, we consider sufficient.

The organisation does not currently have a formal investment policy.

### **Future Plans**

As the UK national membership charity for UK Science Centres, we will focus on leadership and support across the UK sector at this uniquely challenging time. This will be balanced by delivering current funded programmes and securing sufficient project and other support to secure ASDC's future.

The impacts of Covid-19 have been significant on the Science Centre sector. Due to Covid-19, the UK's entire lively and successful national network of charitable Science Centres in every city and region of the UK, had to close its doors in mid-March. These robust and entrepreneurial STEM education charities had their entire incomes cut off overnight, from all revenue streams including family ticket sales, events booking, conferencing, school bookings, car parks, cafes and shops. Together they engaged millions of children and adults each year with all areas of science, from health and the environment to physics and technology as well as families from some of our most disadvantaged communities.

As over 90% of ASDC income is for projects which we train and equip Science Centres to run, the covid-19 impacts on ASDC relate in 2020-21 to considerable additional time needed on all projects we lead to renegotiate time frames and deliverables, and adapt programmes with funders and science centres, so they are still deliverable by science centres within the context of Coronavirus. We have around 50 grants operating in UK Science Centres, and where delivery is delayed, we will need to delay our grant claims. We are currently adapting and re-developing much of the delivery into remote and online activities for most projects, and when the centres re-open the picture will become clearer.

ASDC will continue to deliver and re-develop our nine national STEM programmes. All nine projects are currently planned to be completed on or before 31 March 2021, and are still scheduled to do this, albeit with fully re-negotiated and adapted deliverables, new activities and re-negotiated contracts with science centres. However, further local and national lockdowns, key staff at science centres being made redundant and other variables due to Covid-19 may change this.

ASDC is looking to adapt its business model as we expect that delivery with communities and science centres in a hands-on interactive way will remain unpredictable for at least the next 2 years until 2022. This has already begun in March when we re-negotiated the Wellcome UKRI programme proposal. It is our hope that funders may be more inclined than ever before to fund ASDC for sector wide support activities to enable ASDC to better support the sector, in a way that is funded.

### ***Coronavirus Resilience Programme***

Due to Covid-19, ASDC negotiated the revision of an existing funding application with The Wellcome Trust and UKRI to run a national support and resilience programme for UK Science Centres, including digital and remote delivery of activities. This was re-submitted in May and we have a good indication it will be funded albeit at a lower funding level than we proposed. If this grant is approved, it will fund ASDC for a national support role in some areas. ASDC will seek other funding to make up the difference to enable us to offer a full package of support for the sector. The huge support role the ASDC team has undertaken from March until July 2020, has been funded from ASDC reserves.

ASDC intends to continue regular Coronavirus Resilience meetings by Zoom, to bring the sector together to share knowledge, approaches and planning at this difficult time. These ASDC meetings have focused on sharing and understanding the latest grants, furlough schemes and other opportunities that science centres can access providing a valuable forum for CEOs and senior managers to ask questions and share knowledge especially around financial planning and modelling of different scenarios.

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES**  
**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)**

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***2020 National Conference***

ASDC also took the decision early to cancel the 2020 National Conference in Glasgow and re-schedule this to October 2021 in the same venue. This is positioned in the run up to COP26 in Glasgow, which has also been re-scheduled to 2021 in Glasgow. This has freed up significant staff time and enabled some of the support work.

***Coronavirus: Government Submissions & Lobbying on behalf of the sector***

Since March 2020, ASDC has undertaken a significant amount of lobbying and this will continue into the future. The main staff time is in compiling sector wide information, involving large data collection exercises and compiling and analysing data that changes weekly or monthly for centres as new announcements are made by Government. The challenge we face in collecting data is that many with knowledge are on furlough or will be made redundant, and re-opening dates are also shifting in response to Covid-19 which affect all the financial modelling. ASDC will continue to represent the sector to BEIS, DCMS and funders to show the significant and urgent need for emergency funding for UK Science Centres.

***ASDC's Strategic objectives for the coming year are:***

- To champion UK science centres and museums and their significant role in STEM learning and engagement, and their need for funding to survive the impacts of Covid-19.
- To provide leadership for the sector during this time of Covid-19
- To support resilience through knowledge exchange across the sector and between members.
- To promote and champion greater equity, diversity and social and inclusion across STEM.
- To champion engaging the public with issues around climate change
- To support our membership.
- To advocate for the sector owing to the impact of Covid-19

**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company 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 FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019) ;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES**  
**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)**

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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.

**Small Company Exemptions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

**Trustee – Ben Ward**

Date:

**Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Association for Science and Discovery Centres**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2020 which are set out on pages 14 to 23.

*Responsibilities and basis of report*

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

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

*Independent examiner's statement*

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of The ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

*Signed:*

Stuart Crisp BSc FCA  
Corrigan Accountants Limited  
The Tramshed  
25 Lower Park Row  
Bristol BS1 5BN

*Date:*

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Statement of Financial Activities including Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Income from</b>					
Charitable activities	3	-	425,140	425,140	357,678
Other trading activities	4	86,779	349	87,128	84,096
<b>Total income</b>		<b>86,779</b>	<b>425,489</b>	<b>512,268</b>	<b>441,774</b>
<b>Expenditure on</b>					
Charitable activities		137,584	393,097	530,681	444,304
<b>Total expenditure</b>	5	<b>137,584</b>	<b>393,097</b>	<b>530,681</b>	<b>444,304</b>
<b>Net expenditure</b>		<b>(50,805)</b>	<b>32,392</b>	<b>(18,413)</b>	<b>(2,530)</b>
Transfers between funds		(141)	141	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(50,946)</b>	<b>32,533</b>	<b>(18,413)</b>	<b>(2,530)</b>
Total funds at 1 April 2019		312,253	-	312,253	314,783
<b>Total funds at 31 March 2020</b>	14	<b>261,307</b>	<b>32,533</b>	<b>293,840</b>	<b>312,253</b>

All income and expenditure is derived from the charity's continuing activities.  
All gains and losses recognised during the year are included above.

The notes on pages 16 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	9	149,037	167,584
Cash and bank balances		216,994	219,843
		<u>366,031</u>	<u>387,427</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>			
	10	(72,191)	(75,174)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>293,840</u>	<u>312,253</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>293,840</u>	<u>312,253</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>			
Restricted funds	12	32,533	-
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	12	261,307	312,253
<b>Total charity funds</b>	12	<u>293,840</u>	<u>312,253</u>

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

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

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

Trustee – Ben Ward

Trustee – Scot Owen

The notes on pages 16 to 23 form part of these financial statements.



**THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES**  
**Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2020**

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	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(18,413)</b>	<b>(2,530)</b>
Adjustments for:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	18,547	(87,970)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(2,983)	(12,683)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>(2,849)</u>	<u>(103,183)</u>
Cash at the beginning of the year	<u>219,843</u>	<u>323,026</u>
Cash at the end of the year	<u><u>216,994</u></u>	<u><u>219,843</u></u>

## **1 Accounting policies**

### *Basis of accounting*

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in UK and Ireland (FRS102) (Effective January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres 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 policies.

### *Going concern*

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have a significant impact on the economy, which may in turn affect the charity. The trustees have considered the impact of this issue on the charity's current and future financial position. Much of the charity's income for the next 12 months is agreed and the charity currently holds reserves of £293,840 of which only £32,533 is restricted. The trustees consider that the charity has sufficient reserves to mitigate any adverse impacts of Covid and continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved.

### *Income*

Income comprises

- (a) Revenue grants in respect of the science and discovery centre projects;
- (b) Membership and conference delegate fees.

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy when any performance criteria or conditions attached to the income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, and when receipt of the income is considered to be probable.

Income received in advance for contracts and where criteria or conditions are attached to the income is deferred until the conditions or criteria for recognition are met.

### *Fund accounting*

Unrestricted General Funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for a specific purpose by the donor or statutory body. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis. Descriptions of the restricted funds are contained in the trustees' report.

### *Resources expended*

External costs of projects are those costs directly incurred in connection with the various projects carried out by the Charity.

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 charged directly to the projects where possible. Irrecoverable VAT is treated as a cost to the charity and analysed between appropriate expenditure headings.

Governance costs are those costs incurred in connection with compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and have been allocated against Charitable Activities.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis.

#### *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.

#### *Debtors*

Grant and contract debtors are recognised at the settlement amounts due after any discounts. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

#### *Cash at bank and in hand*

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash or short term deposits with maturity date less than 3 months from the opening of the deposit.

#### *Creditors*

Creditors and provision are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer to a third part in settlement of the obligation and when it can be measured reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after any discounts due.

#### *Pension scheme*

The charity pays contributions into a group personal pension scheme on behalf of the employees. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

#### *Operating leases*

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred.

## **2 Legal status of the charity**

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. Details of the charity's registered office and registered number are given in the Report of the Trustees. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability on respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

**3 Charitable activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Grants	-	425,140	425,140	357,678
	<u>-</u>	<u>425,140</u>	<u>425,140</u>	<u>357,678</u>

During the year income was received towards running the charity and certain activities the charity undertakes. Of the £425,140 received in 2020, £Nil is included within unrestricted funds (2019: £Nil) and £425,140 has been received that is restricted to certain projects (2019: £357,678). Funds are claimed and recognised as contractual obligations are met.

**4 Other trading activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Membership income	30,880	-	30,880	32,580
Annual conference	31,555	-	31,555	29,219
Other income	24,344	349	24,693	22,297
	<u>86,779</u>	<u>349</u>	<u>87,128</u>	<u>84,096</u>

**5 Expenditure**

	External cost of projects £	Support costs £	2020 £	2019 £
Purchases	230,222	-	230,222	138,206
Salaries	-	160,738	160,738	184,450
Pension contribution	-	6,295	6,295	8,314
Recruitment and temporary staff	561	19,756	20,317	6,246
Staff training and welfare	-	181	181	96
Travel and subsistence	12,550	5,867	18,417	19,991
Entertaining	222	938	1,160	920
Premises costs	-	19,356	19,356	19,648
Telephone and fax	-	5,260	5,260	5,440
Postage and stationery	3,191	2,995	6,186	2,348
Subscriptions	-	1,522	1,522	427
Bank charges	294	192	486	497
Irrecoverable VAT	16,201	8,512	24,713	20,591
Insurance	112	3,058	3,170	3,848
Computer costs	1,911	5,951	7,862	8,001
Sundry expenses	4	316	320	205
Accountancy fees	6,210	10,948	17,158	15,199
Consultancy fees	-	2,460	2,460	1,200
Advertising and PR	-	73	73	-
Other marketing costs	2,983	1,538	4,521	8,298
Legal and professional fees	-	264	264	379
	<u>274,461</u>	<u>256,220</u>	<u>530,681</u>	<u>444,304</u>

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES**

**Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)**

**5 Expenditure (continued)**

Of the £530,681 expenditure, £137,584 has been charged to unrestricted funds (2019: £84,732 charged to unrestricted funds) and £393,097 has been charged to restricted funds (2019: £359,572 charged to restricted funds).

**6 Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on income falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects

**7 Net incoming resources**

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:-	2020	2019
	£	£
Cost of independent examination	1,300	1,200
Directors' remuneration	-	-
Operating leases	10,840	10,840
	<u>10,840</u>	<u>10,840</u>

**8 Salaries**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Salaries	148,825	170,647
Social security costs	11,913	13,803
Pension contributions	6,295	8,314
	<u>167,033</u>	<u>192,764</u>

The staff costs of the charity are shown above. The average number of employees (and full time equivalents) in the year was:

	2020	2019
	number	number
Management	2	2
Administration	2	3
	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>

Number of employees with emoluments (excluding Employers' pension)	2020	2019
	number	number

Between £60,000 and £70,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
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The key management personnel of the charity are the trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits paid to the key management personnel were £93,424 (2019: £91,736).

**9 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	144,312	161,808
Other debtors and prepayments	4,725	5,776
	<u>149,037</u>	<u>167,584</u>

**10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	63,061	65,032
Tax and social security	6,302	4,486
Other creditors	1,528	4,456
Accruals and deferred income	1,300	1,200
	<u>72,191</u>	<u>75,174</u>

**11 Commitments under operating leases**

At 31 March 2020 the charity had annual commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Operating lease commitments	<u>-</u>	<u>10,840</u>

The charity entered a new five-year lease on 13 April 2020 with annual commitments of £11,000.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 (continued)

12 Statement of funds

	At 1 Apr 19 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 20 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	312,253	86,779	(137,584)	(141)	261,307
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Climate Hub	-	10,000	(1,440)	-	8,560
Engaging Environments	-	50	(51)	1	-
Explore Your Universe 4	-	100,000	(98,705)	-	1,295
Forum: Impact Survey	-	-	(2,695)	-	(2,695)
Mars	-	18,810	(18,950)	140	-
NERC 2	-	42,000	(32,486)	-	9,514
Science Museum Group Academy	-	50,299	(31,633)	-	18,666
Destination Space 2B	-	100,000	(142,358)	-	(42,358)
Destination Space 2C	-	63,140	(54,257)	-	8,883
STFC 2020	-	41,190	(10,522)	-	30,668
		425,489	(393,097)	141	32,533
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>312,253</b>	<b>512,268</b>	<b>(530,681)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>293,840</b>

*Transfers between funds*

Expenditure in excess of restricted funding received has been transferred from unrestricted funds.

*Restricted funds*

Details of the restricted funds are included in the Report of the Trustees on pages 5 - 8.

Comparative statement of funds

	At 1 Apr 18 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 19 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	310,917	84,096	(84,732)	1,972	312,253
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Earth	-	27,488	(27,488)	-	-
Cimulact	-	18,635	(18,635)	-	-
Hypatia	-	11,164	(8,911)	(2,253)	-
Explore Your Universe 3	2,404	-	(2,404)	-	-
Explore Your Universe 4	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
EYU 4 Capital	-	33,000	(33,000)	-	-
Secret World of Gases	-	32,631	(32,631)	-	-
Operation Earth	-	53,760	(53,760)	-	-
Science Museum Group Academy	-	-	(281)	281	-
Destination Space 2A	1,462	-	(1,462)	-	-
Destination Space 2B	-	131,000	(131,000)	-	-
	3,866	357,678	(359,572)	(1,972)	-
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>314,783</b>	<b>441,774</b>	<b>(444,304)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>312,253</b>

13 Analysis of prior year statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £
<b>Income from</b>			
Charitable activities	-	357,678	357,678
Other trading activities	84,096	-	84,096
<b>Total income</b>	<b>84,096</b>	<b>357,678</b>	<b>441,774</b>
<b>Expenditure on</b>			
Charitable activities	84,732	359,572	444,304
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>84,732</b>	<b>359,572</b>	<b>444,304</b>
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>(636)</b>	<b>(1,894)</b>	<b>(2,530)</b>
Transfers between funds	1,972	(1,972)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>(3,866)</b>	<b>(2,530)</b>
Total funds at 1 April 2018	310,917	3,866	314,783
<b>Total funds at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>312,253</b>	<b>-</b>



**14 Funds**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Fund balances are represented by:				
Current assets	333,498	32,533	366,031	387,427
Current liabilities	(72,191)	-	(72,191)	(75,174)
	<u>261,307</u>	<u>32,533</u>	<u>293,840</u>	<u>312,253</u>

**15 Pensions**

The pension charge amounted to £6,295 (2019: £8,314). At the year-end £973 (2019: £995) was outstanding.

**16 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits**

There was no trustees' remuneration, benefits or expenses for the year ended 31 March 2020, nor for the year ended 31 March 2019.

**17 Related party transactions**

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31 March 2020, nor for the year ended 31 March 2019.