AllergyUK

ANNUAL REPORT MARCH 2020

The British Allergy Foundation Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report) year ended 31st March 2020

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Change is something that we've all had to manage in recent months because of the impact of Covid-19 on our daily lives during 2020. We are constantly adapting to respond to the impact of the virus on our health, our family and social life, along with the financial impact from the recession.

An individual or family living with allergy has to live with and manage constant change all the time, because our society, our systems, our ways of every-day life still do not provide adequately for the healthcare and safety needed for many living with allergy. Now the pandemic is bringing new challenges to our community. At the start of the pandemic we saw mass panic buying, leaving the food allergic community without vital food products. This led to our collaboration with others to lobby supermarkets and government regulators to ensure our community could access the food they need. We received increasing numbers of calls to our Helpline from those living with respiratory allergies, frightened and anxious about Covid-19, struggling with wearing face masks and managing the lack of social distancing by others. We developed advice and support materials for our callers, including for those with skin allergy who were needing advice on how to manage frequent hand washing and using sanitiser, when their atopic eczema meant they already had sore and broken skin. Our community adapts to the changes needed, and so do we as a charity working on their behalf.

This pandemic has had a major impact on our end of year finances for 2019/20. Our Seal of Approval is a global trademark in numerous countries around the world and the global impact of the virus has affected our trading subsidiary income during the latter part of the year. In addition, the cancellation of many fundraising challenge events has meant that we, like many other charities, have felt further financial impact. We have had to change and adapt in order to manage that impact.

Allergy UK's 5-year plan from 2015-2020 had at its heart the key objective to raise the profile of allergy – and pre-pandemic we had begun to see some of the changes we had committed to achieving. Sadly, some of these were as a response to Coroner's reports for preventable deaths, but others have been a direct response to programmes and activities with which we have been involved. Positive change was beginning to happen, albeit slowly. For example, the Royal College of GPs is now developing a module on allergy as a part of its training programme. We have been involved in discussions and training projects with major airlines on the implementation of staff training on the support of those travelling with allergy. Schools can now purchase adrenaline auto-injectors and we have seen many secondary schools signing up to access our schools' programme.

However, allergy services in our health system remain limited and under-resourced and the impact of the pandemic may see even less priority given to allergy services, longer waiting lists and less clinical space and perhaps fewer specialist advisors. Lock-down restrictions have had a major impact on the catering industry. Many food establishments could not fully cater for people with food allergy before this and it may not be a priority for the near future. The Food Standards Agency has highlighted one of their main priorities for the next period is food hypersensitivities, so hopefully there will now be a regulatory drive to improve this. The airline industry has been majorly impacted because of travel restrictions, so allergy training may not be a focus for some time.

Our annual report provides evidence of the wide-ranging services we provide to fill the gap in support, information and advice for the allergic community. We highlight the influencing and networks in which we will continue to contribute with the aim to raise awareness of the needs of our community. In 2019 our Trustees and team reviewed progress over the last 5 years, and while much has been achieved, we are very aware that there is much more to be done to change the way our society responds to those living with allergic disease. The pandemic may have changed things, but we are determined to continue to make a difference to the lives of those living with allergic disease, because the allergic community is at the heart of everything we do.

Following the review in 2019, we developed our Strategy for Change 2020-2025. Our focus over this next period will be to build upon the work we have done to raise the profile of allergic disease, but with a strengthened mission and vision. We want to engage more with those we are here to support, hear more of their stories and raise their voices through campaigns and lobbying, and we want to deliver more services to support the daily needs of those living with allergy.

But to do this we need the continued support from our donors and other stakeholders who provide donations, grants and sponsorship. Historically we have tried to be self-sufficient through our trading subsidiary, Allergy Research Limited. However, to be able to deliver more for the allergic community we must change. We plan to develop our fundraising activities so that we can raise muchneeded income. Without your generous support we would not be able to deliver the services our community needs to improve their quality of life and with the impact of the current recession we are even more reliant on your contributions.

No one should die from allergy. We continue to work to urge everyone in the UK to take allergy seriously. We hope that we can continue to rely on your support not only through the challenges we all face because of the pandemic but into the future beyond Covid-19.

Keep safe.

Lynne Pritchard Chair

Carla Jones CEO

The Trustees present this report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2020. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014 (as amended by Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016).

Constitution

The British Allergy Foundation is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The group uses the operating name Allergy UK and is known to many contacts by that name.

Charity numbers: 1094231 (England and Wales) and SC039257 (Scotland)

Company number: 4509293

President: Professor P. Howarth

Vice President: Mrs. M. Brydon

Trustees of the charity

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Ms. L. Pritchard (Chair)

Mrs. S. Stoneham (Vice-Chair)

Professor S. H. Arshad

Mr. R. Daby

Mr. R. Dudley-Southern MBE

Mr. M. Elliott

Professor A. Fox (resigned Sept 2019)

Dr. B. Hewitt

Mr. J. Redding

Dr. G. Stiefel (appointed May 2019)

Mrs. Archna Tharani (appointed June 2020)

Chief Executive Officer: C. Jones

Company Secretary: C. Jones

Registered Office: Planwell House, LEFA Business Park, Edgington Way, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5BH

Auditors: MHA MacIntyre Hudson Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors, Victoria Court, 17-21 Ashford Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5DA

Principal Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the advice contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aim and objectives and in planning future activities. The Trustees believe that the activities undertaken in the year for achieving the objectives of the charity have met the public benefit requirement.

WHO WE ARE

The British Allergy Foundation was formed in 1991 by a group of leading allergists who believed that those living with allergic disease have the right to good quality support, education and advice about their condition throughout their lives. The UK health system provides only limited allergy services and the British Allergy Foundation, operating as Allergy UK since 2001, is the charitable organisation established to fill the gap and provide much needed support for individuals and families living with allergic conditions. Allergy UK is the only patient organisation that supports all areas of allergic disease, covering food allergy, respiratory, skin, venom, drug and occupational allergies, including anaphylaxis.

Although allergy has been recognised as a 'modern epidemic' by the World Health Organisation awareness and understanding of this chronic disease remains low in the UK and public attitudes can be negative. Our charity plays a central role in raising awareness of allergy, highlighting both the impact it has on quality of life and the inequity of its diagnosis and treatment. We inform and advocate on behalf of our allergic community, working to improve public and professional environments, as well as to increase recognition of this often life changing condition across all aspects of our society, including within the health care sector.

The tragic and avoidable deaths of young people over the last few years has led us to commit to our vision that 'noone should die from allergy'. This underpins our work across all sectors of society to increase knowledge of the causes of allergic disease and drive change for a better understanding of the factors that can cause an allergic reaction. Our mission is "For everyone in the UK to take allergy seriously" – a mission which we believe encapsulates the needs of our allergic community. In this respect we lobby and advocate for improved recognition of the seriousness of allergy and the way in which it impacts on the quality of life by working closely with patients and families, healthcare professionals and allergy specialists. We are committed to driving forward advances in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of the full range of allergic disease, encompassing all degrees of severity, from mild and moderate, to acute, including anaphylaxis.

ALLERGY IN THE UK

"Allergic disease is a modern epidemic"¹ influenced by a number of complex issues such as globalisation, climate change, how foods we eat have changed and are manufactured, the pollution in the air we breathe, the products we are using in our homes and on our skins, how we live today and many other impacts from our external environment. During the last 60 years 'allergic diseases have increased globally in prevalence, complexity, and severity', becoming a public health concern.² The cause of this increase is not fully understood, nor are the profound physical, mental, social, and economic implications for those living with allergic disease and their wider social network, or for the health systems that bear the impact of this 'allergic explosion'.

44% of the adult population (approximately 21 million) and50% of children have one or more allergic disorders³



Approximately **1-2%** of adults and **5-8%** of children have a food allergy⁴



1 in 4 people have allergic rhinitis⁵



Eczema affects both sexes equally and usually starts in the first months of life

15-20% of school-aged children and

2-10% of adults will live with the condition at some stage⁶ in their lives



About **half a million** people admitted to NHS hospitals each year have a diagnostic 'label' of drug allergy, with the most common being penicillin allergy⁷

10 deaths per year are estimated to be caused by drug anaphylaxis during anaesthesia⁸

The impact

Over **200,000** people require prescription of emergency adrenaline due to their allergic condition⁹



Allergy and related conditions are estimated to cost the UK NHS about

£1 billion a year¹⁰

There has been a staggering **615%** increase in hospital admissions related to allergic disease during the last 20 years¹¹



One of the major barriers is the lack of political engagement and lack of funds for improving allergy services¹²

OUR VISION AND MISSION



OUR VALUES

These values reflect our ways of working, driving us to achieve our mission:

Committed

The allergic community is at the heart of everything we do

Effective

We make a difference to the lives of those living with allergic disease

Collaborative

We work together with others to achieve shared objectives in an open, honest caring way

Respectful

We respect the expertise of others and share our expertise through collaboration

Transparent

We are open and transparent in everything we do

Listen

We listen to our stakeholders and value their views

FUNDRAISING SUPERSTARS

Fundraisers across the UK have been busy raising funds for us all year. From The Great North run to the Jurassic Coast our supporters have been raising awareness and spreading the word about the challenges faced by our allergic community. We are immensely grateful to each and every one of our fundraisers. Without them, we could not deliver vital services to those living with allergy in the UK.

How our fundraising income was generated:

General donations **6.8%**

Gift Aid



Challenge events

10.7%

Trusts

Our grateful thanks to the Cecil Pilkington Trust for their donation and the Chaldon Trust for their grant funding. These have helped us in our work to improve the lives of people living with allergy.



Community fundraising

The London Knightz is an in-line skating hockey club based in South East London. They have teams of people playing at various levels and have enjoyed success across the UK and in Europe.

Tragically, in April 2018 one of their team mates, Ruben Bousquet died, aged 14 following an anaphylactic shock. His family and all the teams decided to adopt Allergy UK in memory of Ruben and have been fundraising for us since April 2019. So far they have raised an impressive £1,000 for us and more importantly they are helping us to spread the word about the seriousness of allergies.

We are grateful to Ruben's family and teammates for their support and commitment to Allergy UK.



SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE **ALLERGIC COMMUNITY**

Helpline

Our Allergy UK Helpline remains the only charitable support service in the UK that can offer comprehensive, holistic and responsive support to the allergic community. The events of this year have meant our service has faced unique challenges, but this has also brought opportunity to extend and increase our impact.

Our Helpline and web chat facilities are an essential way of supporting people living with allergy. Someone living with diagnosed allergy can be provided with information and guidance on how best to manage their condition, or be recommended products to reduce exposure to allergens and lessen symptoms. A parent of a baby with suspected cow's milk allergy can be referred to a paediatric allergy nurse or to our dietitian service. We thank Nutricia for funding this essential service. An adult with suspected allergy can be referred to our in-house clinical support team or an allergy nurse for information and advice about their allergy.

Our bespoke translation cards enable people with food allergies to feel more confident when travelling abroad. They provide vital information about allergies and are offered in 35 languages. We have sold 1,225 translation cards this year, empowering people to travel with confidence.

Helpline highlights

When people reach out to the Helpline, they may be at the start of their journey with allergy or already have a diagnosis. We aim for every contact to be a useful one, that empowers a person to live with their allergies or to educate them



on how to make the next step. Over the last year we have responded to 4,300 calls, web chats, and web-chat emails, 2,244 emails, 796 information emails, 396 webforms and 12 social media gueries and letters. We have empowered people to seek appropriate treatment, plan with schools and nurseries for a child's safe education, and educated individuals and organisations how best to accommodate people with allergies.

We have seen our thousandth baby go through our dietitian's service for infants under the age of two. Over the last five years Allergy UK has been able to provide support to a thousand babies and families through some of the most challenging times when living with an allergy. This service has provided expert specialist dietetic advice to parents and their primary care GPs to support the care of these children.

In October 2019 research was carried out to take a closer look at the content of Helpline calls and contacts: this has allowed us to tailor our service and think about resources. The research highlighted anxiety and weaning as a common concern for our callers. In response to this, we are developing a Weaning Support Pack, with support from Abbott Nutrition, which will include a dedicated section on anxiety. To support callers with anxiety on a wider level, we have also started work on a new Factsheet called Understanding Anxiety, on which Dr Christina Jones has kindly provided information and advice. We have also put in place plans to offer more emotionally focused support for callers, training has been developed that will be delivered for Helpline and staff in support roles, around supporting people expressing difficult emotions.

We strive to be responsive to the needs of the callers. A planned second phase of research in May was postponed due to COVID-19, which has been rescheduled for early 2021 to capture the seasonal aspect of calls.

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Calls, web chats and web chat emails

Emails and

.....

information emails

4,300 3,040 1,225

Translation cards sold

Masterclasses

In 2019/20 we hosted three Masterclass events in the UK covering the following topics: food allergy, atopic dermatitis, anaphylaxis, diagnostic testing and more. Over 500 healthcare professionals with an interest in allergy attended classes in London and Northern Ireland. Our event in Wales was postponed due to the onset of the COVID-19 virus and will now be delivered in a webinar format in October 2020.

We are able to deliver our Masterclasses free of charge to provide an opportunity for learning about the key issues in the field of allergy and to help healthcare professionals provide the best possible care to their allergic patients.

We offer our thanks to our corporate partners without who we would not be able to offer this valuable resource: Nutricia Advanced Medical Nutrition, Thermo Fisher, Mead Johnson, Nutricia Early Life Nutrition, Mylan, Aimmune. Thanks for organising such a great event. 1 read a review about Allerzy VK Masterclass 2018 and decided 1 had to come and see for myself all the way from Romania.

> Excellent day - learnt so much I will share with colleagues and take into daily practice. Course was recommended by colleague. Will definitely attend more.

All brilliant - please keep these essential sessions corning.



New resources

The Information Standard accreditation ended during this year. However, we continue to follow this system in the preparation and review of our new Factsheets to ensure that the information provided is accurate and clinically supported by research.

We produced four new Factsheets during the year:

- Apr 2019 Indoor Air Quality 656 downloads
- Oct 2019 Allergic Eye Disease 506 downloads
- Oct 2019 Outdoor Air Quality 177 downloads
- Feb 2020 Weaning the Allergic Child 3,197 downloads

Two new Factsheets are in production:

- Cat Allergy (sponsored by Purina Liveclear)
- Bee and Wasp Venom (sponsored by ALK)

Six new resources were produced:

- Sept 2019 Hay fever and immunotherapy leaflet titled: Does hay fever affect your quality of life? Allergen immunotherapy may be the answer (sponsored by Allergy Therapeutics)
- Is allergy triggering you or your child's asthma? leaflet (sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific)
- Lifting the lid on allergic eye disease leaflet (sponsored by Santen)
- Atopic Dermatitis: Patient Bill of Rights (sponsored by Sanofi)
- Understanding VKC: Comic Book (in partnership with Santen and JumoHealth)
- Allergic Asthma Tool (in partnership with Thermo Fisher)

Seal of Approval

Our Seal of Approval continues to provide reassurance for people affected by allergy, signposting to products helping them to manage exposure to allergens in and around the home. Based on independent testing, it is the most prestigious and widely used of our two product endorsements, as the products are proven to reduce the presence of allergens.

Products which are making claims of efficiency in reducing allergens within the indoor environment, are independently scientifically tested, the results are then assessed by our Scientific Advisor Dr Karl Staples.

Dr Karl Staples is an Associate Professor at the University of Southampton Faculty of Medicine. His research focuses on host-pathogen interactions in chronic inflammatory airways diseases, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and the contribution of these interactions to exacerbations of these respiratory conditions.

FY19/20: 43 new product licences, 165 annual renewals

Allergy Friendly Product Award

Our alternative product endorsement is the Allergy Friendly Product Award. This award is not based on independent testing, but the products do go through robust assessment to ascertain whether they are suitable for use by those affected by allergy, for example, no allergenic ingredients which could cause a reaction or sensitise individuals.

The products are assessed based on their content and suitability for use by someone affected by allergy, as either 'unlikely to cause a reaction' or 'may be of benefit'. Whilst there are no guarantees the products will be suitable for all affected by allergy, they are a safer option when looking for new products to try.

These thorough product assessments are carried out initially by a toxicologist, followed by a dermatologist.

This year saw the retirement of Dr Mark Wilkinson (dermatologist), a key figure in our endorsement of products, assessing products which may affect the skin and their suitability for use by those living with allergy, Dr Natalie Stone is his successor and Dr Stephen Kirk supports Natalie by carrying out toxicological assessments prior to the dermatological assessments.

FY19/20: 13 new product licences, 31 annual renewals





Schools

Improving the care of children with allergy while they are at school remains a key priority for us. In the UK around 5-8% of children have at least one food allergy. Peanuts, tree nuts, milk and eggs are some of the most common food allergies and most classrooms can expect to have at least one child with a food allergy. 20% of severe food allergic reactions occur while a child is at school.

In the early part of the year we launched an online version of our SAAG (School Allergy Action Group) programme – a programme of seven learning modules for the development of a robust school allergy management policy, involving teaching staff, pupils and caterers designed for secondary schools. 115 secondary schools have signed up for this free programme and we are planning its further development and extension to primary schools in the near future.

Over the Wall camp

In November 2019, Allergy UK had a fantastic weekend collaborating with national charity Over the Wall to provide an action-packed activity camp for children with allergy and their families.

Over the Wall supports young people facing serious health challenges through residential camps across the UK. Often, allergic disease is associated with feelings of isolation and anxiety. This camp was open specifically for children and young people with complex allergy and their families, with the goal of promoting inclusion and allowing campers to gain confidence and self-esteem.

Along with Allergy UK staff, medical and nursing volunteers with first-hand experience of allergy were on site at all times, supporting children to get involved in various activities without being defined by their allergy and giving children and parents some 'me' time.



CAMPAIGNS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The focus of our communications and campaign activity is to raise awareness of allergic disease and educate a wide range of audiences about the realities of living with an allergic condition. Our work influences policy and decision makers to drive the changes that we need to improve the lives of people living with allergy and their families.

Our communications team supports all our engagement and fundraising activities, as well as the work that we do with our corporate partners, providing creative ideas for the development of campaigns and projects that align with our strategic objectives. At the same time we work with our media contacts to provide the most authoritative facts, figures and comments to support news stories and features to highlight the impacts of allergy on people's lives.



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Indoor allergy - the allergens in our homes

Media a	ctivity
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Our Press Office works with the print, broadcast and online media on allergy related issues that come onto the news agenda. This includes comment on topical stories and longer editorial pieces for feature pages. We provide authoritative facts, figures and content to support our journalist colleagues, highlighting the impact of allergic disease on people's lives.

During the year we responded to just over 300 media enquiries from channels throughout the UK, through which we were able to raise the profile of Allergy UK as the leading allergy charity and highlight the work we are doing to improve the lives of people living with allergy.

Press highlights

April	Our Nurse Advisor appeared on BBC R4 Woman's Hour to discuss childhood food allergy
May	Our CEO Carla Jones appeared on BBC Radio Wales discussing food labelling
June	Our CEO Carla Jones was interviewed on TalkRadio to discuss the topic of food labelling with host Eammon Holmes.
August	Leigh George, Head of Endorsements, was interviewed for The Guardian piece -'Eating that meal could kill you': when cooks don't take food allergies seriously (this article was shared 2,284 times)
December	Our Head of Clinical Services, Amena Warner, was interviewed for The Daily Mail about peanut allergy in babies (this article was shared over 700 times)
	Media Planet's 'Respiratory Health' campaign – we contributed to an article for this campaign which was shared online and published in print in the Guardian newspaper

Allergy awareness week

Our Allergy Awareness Weeks remain key features of our seasonal calendar with these promotional weeks taking place in spring and autumn. These weeks are topically themed and in 2019 we focused on the health impacts of poor air quality, particularly on those with allergy. Poor air quality is linked to an astounding 36,000 premature deaths a year, with transport pollution cited as a significant source. In our April Allergy Awareness Week we launched a new Outdoor Allergy Factsheet and raised awareness of the particular impacts of poor air quality on our allergic community through media stories and our digital channels.



For our autumn Allergy Awareness Week, we shifted the focus on to indoor air quality and the health impacts of poor indoor air quality on all of us as we spend up to 90 percent of our time indoors. A new Indoor Air Quality Factsheet was launched during the week which also saw the launch of an innovative and interactive Allergy House on our website through which visitors can move through each room to see the 'hotspots' for indoor allergens.

The Allergy House has attracted 23,879 visitors to date.

A special thank you to the sponsors of our Allergy House rooms: Amway, Sealy, Waterwipes, Polti and Haymax.



Seasonal messages

Our calendar of seasonal messages is designed to provide information at those times when people with allergy may face particular challenges - whether it's celebratory events, such as Christmas, or the challenges for parents and children around starting a new school. These messages are based on practical advice and support and are communicated through our website and social media channels at those times of the year.

- **Eastertime** Tips and information about Easter treats, early pollen season and pet allergy linked to the 'Easter Bunny'
- Halloween Halloween celebration with some non-food treats and advice from 'Marty' – a cartoon character created by our corporate partner Danone
- **Back to School** allergy management resources for parents and schools
- **Christmas** Keeping safe at Christmas menu alternatives



Weaning project

Calls to our Helpline provide valuable insights into the concerns about allergy and key trends. We identified an increase in calls around the challenges of weaning and the fears of parents as they approached this stage of their baby's life.

In collaboration with our corporate partner Abbott Nutrition we started working on a project to provide parents of food allergic babies with the support and information they need to help allay their anxiety and wean their child safely. This started with a research piece to investigate experiences, fears and worries and nearly 3,000 parents responded, highlighting a general lack of support and information on this important topic.

The research informed the project which is designed as a 'pack' of comprehensive information written by allergy specialists with a contribution from a leading psychologist.

This project was scheduled for launch during the April 2020 Allergy Awareness Week but because of the COVID -19 pandemic the launch was delayed until May 2020 during National Weaning Week. The Weaning Your Allergic Child pack is now on our website and we will continue to support it through our communication channels.

We would like to thank Abbott Nutrition for their support which made this work possible.





I felt terrified (as chief poisoner of rny child), anxious and depressed until we took control of the allerzies (they were in control of us).

People just think you're a new mum and can't cope. This view caused my depression and anxiety and I'd love to help stop someone else going through the same. It's hard. It's a long journey but with the right help it can be a little more relaxing.

Allergy Today

Allergy Today is written by healthcare professionals for healthcare professionals. We published two editions in 2019 which are available on our website and we provided copies at healthcare professional events during the year, including the BSACI Annual Meeting and our Masterclasses. We also email our healthcare professional database with details of new editions.

Covering a wide range of topics, Allergy Today includes news items from the world of allergy as well as a range of articles from clinical experts. This year articles included The Walk to School discussing air quality, and other articles on perioperative anaphylaxis and drug allergy in our spring/ summer edition. Adult food allergy, anaphylaxis and indoor allergens were articles in our Autumn/Winter edition.

Allergy Alerts

Our Allergy Alerts help to ensure that people with food allergies are made aware, as soon as possible, of any food production issues, such as incorrect labelling or risk of cross contamination. We circulate the alert through our social media channels and through emails to our opted-in database which totals over 17,000 people. Between April 2019 and March 2020 we issued 130 alerts.

ONLINE REACH





83,300

NEWS ARTICLES

88

FACTSHEET DOWNLOADS

67,669



ALLERGY ALERT EMAIL REACH 16,000

ENEWS REACH

46,030



138,250 Average monthly reach



TWITTER



0.7% Average enagement rate

732 followers 10,202 Impressions this year

CONSULTATIONS AND LOBBYING

During the year we represented the allergic community in a number of consultations led by both professional bodies and government departments on some of the key issues that affect the lives of people living with allergy, from food labelling to air quality.

By taking an active part in these consultations we are able to present research data and information to support our case for positive change to benefit the lives of our community and their families:

- The Food Standards Agency and Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) consultation on new legislation for food pre-packed for direct sale (PPDS). We supported the 'gold standard' for labelling - that is a label with the product name and a full list of all ingredients with allergens shown in bold. From October 2021 the new legislation comes into force with this 'gold standard' to help consumers make safer decisions when they purchase foods packed for direct sale.
- The EFA consultation on the Labelling of Fragrance Allergens. We highlighted the importance of clear labelling for people with allergy and provided clinical information in support of this. We await further updates on this consultation outcomes.
- Advancing our Health Prevention in the 2020s: The publication of this important document on the health of the nation from the Cabinet Office and Department of Social Care provided an opportunity to, once again, call for allergic disease to be better prioritised in the health system, although we have no direct response from the government.
- The NICE Indoor Air Quality consultation: We responded with research data on the impacts of poor indoor air quality on people living with allergy, particularly in poor quality housing, outlining the measures that should be considered in a world where we spend 90% of our time indoors.
- The Ofsted consultation "Education Inspection Framework 2019: Inspecting the substance of education" provided an opportunity to press for the inspection process to include more specific inspection of allergy management policies in schools.
- We continue to work, in a collaborative approach with the Anaphylaxis Campaign, the British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI) and the Health Conditions in Schools Alliance, advocating for the

strengthening of guidelines and legislation around the care of children with allergy while they are at school.

- The Department for Transport's "Aviation 2050 The future of UK Aviation" consultation paper included the needs of air travellers with allergy and the ways in which airlines might better cater for these needs. We joined a working group, co-ordinated by the Minister for Aviation and Airlines UK, that addressed these needs, calling for a 'booking to disembarking' policy to ensure that the needs of passengers with allergy were acknowledged and addressed and that these needs were met effectively by airlines.
- We contributed to, and were acknowledged in, the joint report titled 'The Inside Story: Health effects of indoor air quality on children and young people' written by Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) and the Royal College of Physicians representing young people with allergy.



- We were delighted to welcome the Local Authority Catering Associations (LACA) the 'school meals people' – an association of major school meal providers roadshow to the Allergy UK office and to support their work around improving the quality of school meals and their initiative to develop guidelines on allergy management for their members. We were joined at the roadshow event by our local Member of Parliament James Brokenshire.
- We also engaged with All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Healthy Homes and Buildings, to create awareness of the need to improve indoor air quality for better health and that by using products to control exposure to allergens, it is possible to create a healthier home environment.

CLINICAL AND RESEARCH

During the year our Clinical team, led by Amena Warner, actively participated in a number of key research projects towards the charity's key goal of advancing the understanding and treatment of allergy and, ultimately, finding a cure to remove the burden of allergic disease from present and future generations.

Many of these projects are ongoing, creating a body of work for Allergy UK over a number of years:

International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) Europe

This working group of expert clinicians, university academics and food industry, as well as the Food Standards Agency and patient groups, including Allergy UK, has put together a framework for precautionary allergen labelling (PAL). This has been accepted for publication in the November issue of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology posing the question "Can we define a level of protection for allergic consumers that everyone can accept".

This manuscript identifies the problem, and examines the management of risk for other food borne illness and looks at how risk in food allergy can be minimised by labelling as it is the general view that current PAL is no longer fit for purpose.



Food Standards Agency (FSA) project looking at anaphylaxis and food allergy

We participated in the COVID-19 expert panel which was set up to enable the FSA to draw on its networks of leading researchers and industry experts to help identify the most important implications of the COVID-19 outbreak in relation to food policy.

European Federation of Allergy, Asthma and Airways diseases (EFA)

Allergy UK actively participates in the activities of this federation of patient organisations from across Europe. We have a seat on all the working groups including those for allergy and asthma, food allergy and education, meeting by teleconference. In December we attended the launch of the EFA Food Detectives report, and spoke about the impact of food allergy on quality of life to members of the European Parliament and European media.

PollerGen Natural Environment Research Council Grant

This collaborative project between universities in the UK and Australia and the UK Meteorological Office looked at DNA barcoding of grass pollen. The resulting manuscript "Environmental DNA reveals links between abundance and composition of airborne grass pollen and respiratory health", which we co-authored, is awaiting acceptance for publication.

The research undertaken for this project will enable specific pollen forecasts for grass, and unravel which species of grass pollen are most likely to cause allergic responses. More broadly, it will provide information to healthcare professionals and charities, who can translate this information to help pollen allergy sufferers live healthier and more productive lives. It has been funded by a substantial Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Grant and the UK will be the first country to use the resulting model for pollen.

Dissemination of EAACI guidelines using an adaptable and practical Whole School Allergy Awareness process toolkit

This manuscript, which is awaiting publication, has been developed from the creation of the schools project that has evolved into a free digital toolkit that is now live on the Allergy UK website. The School Allergy Awareness Group (SAAG) toolkit is a user friendly set of resources for secondary schools to download and self-manage the development of their school allergy policy.

It comprises a seven-step programme, including a selfaudit facility, via a questionnaire, as well as podcasts from expert speakers.

British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI)

We are a member of the Primary Care Group, participating in teleconferences once a quarter to discuss relevant issues and to update any of the Standard of Care (SOC) documents that need to be written for primary care.

The BSACI also asked for patient representation and comments on their guidelines. We contributed to the Adrenaline Auto-injector and Management Plans guideline.

We are also a member of the BSACI Allergy Education Network which is currently looking at both undergraduate and postgraduate allergy education, lobbying at a national level to raise the bar of allergy content.

Specialist Paediatric Dietitian Service

This service provides specialist allergy advice to parents of children (0 to five years old) presenting symptoms of food allergy. We have helped over 1000 children with food allergy since the service launch in 2015. During the COVID-19 pandemic we have been supporting parents of infants with symptoms suggestive of food allergy, who have had a referral to a paediatric allergist or dietitian but are experiencing delays in appointments so that they can continue to safely feed their child in this interim period.

Data collected over the last year will contribute to the research project linked to this service. We will be working with the Royal Statistical Society who will analyse the data and co-author on the manuscript.

Children and Young Peoples Allergy Network Scotland (CYANS)

CYANS Managed Clinical Network activities have:

- Provided access to high quality primary and secondary care allergy education and training through the CYANS Paediatric Allergy Study Day and subsequent videos;
- Increased awareness of allergy by providing access to evidence-based information and resources for both clinicians and patients, through the development and accessibility of the network's website, regular clinician and patient newsletters and visibility of the network's Twitter account
- Completed the Young People's Transition Pathway to Independent Self-Management of Allergies which supports clinicians in helping young people with Type 1 food allergies and anaphylaxis to develop confidence in self-management of their conditions; as well as developing a training resource for food allergy for Health Visitors
- Improved communication and engagement with its members, including a refresh of the network's membership and working groups.

During 2019/20 the CYANS network focused resources on improving how it communicates and engages with its network members and key stakeholders, ensuring that its steering group was multi-disciplinary and representative of NHS Boards and third sector organisations. The network facilitated an annual education event, gathering feedback from delegates across Scotland on how the network could continue to improve and excel in its communication and engagement by reviewing its education and training programme. It also looked at ways to identify methods for the collection of key data for allergy such as the national Clinical Audit System (CAS). Along with other clinical networks, CYANS produces a quarterly COVID-19 Network Impact Report which identifies the impact of the pandemic on network tasks and workstreams on an ongoing basis.

Research and development nurse in Scotland

This significant three year project, funded by Allergy UK with the help of a generous donation from Meda (Mylan) investigated the feasibility of creating a nurse-led, primary care based allergy service in NHS Lothian. The project is now completed and the final analysis is underway by the University of Edinburgh who have led on this research.

Cat allergy

We have been working with our corporate partner Purina to raise awareness and understanding of cat allergy. Purina's new cat food neutralises Fel d 1, the major cat allergen, and we have collaborated with them to develop information resources and a video on living with cat allergy, working with veterinary specialists. A Roundtable event, involving both vets and respiratory specialists was postponed at the start of the lockdown, and we hope to reinstate this event online. Meanwhile, we attended the launch event with colleagues from Cats Protection and have developed a new cat allergy Factsheet.

Life in a Nut Free Shell

Allergy UK conducted an online survey of over 1,000 parents and carers of children living with peanut allergy in 2018. The findings of this survey were written into a report titled "Life in a Nut Free Shell". The survey results were presented at the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) conference in June 2019 and the Paediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting (PAAM) in October 2019. This work was supported by DBV Technologies.

FOOD ALLERGY

Allergy Aware Scheme

Our Allergy Aware Scheme has been well received in the 'food business arena' for creating awareness of the need for robust allergen management within the catering sector. Whether a small café or larger restaurant, it is essential to have allergen management procedures in place and ensure that all staff are aware of how to serve people who have food allergy.

We have introduced allergen awareness training to many local authorities across the country, to assist with training new and existing businesses by providing a basic introduction to allergen management and the need for robust procedures, to reduce the risk of a severe allergic reaction happening to someone eating in their outlet.

Progress has been stalled by the COVID-19 pandemic; however, we are hoping to resume discussions and start to help catering businesses again. We have already heard from some food businesses, which is a positive indicator.

Eight restaurants have applied for the scheme within the

Working with local authorities

We have been working with five local authorities during the last year to roll out a pilot of the Allergen Awareness Training sessions. This was to assess whether it is an effective way to reach all types of catering businesses.

Our pilot was found to be a successful way to reach all catering businesses, as they are all required to register with their local authority. Therefore we were capturing them straight away and they were encouraged to attend the Allergen Awareness Training sessions as part of the 'Safer Food Better Business' training session initiatives already held. We will continue to work with the local authorities, to support the catering sector with allergen management training and advice.

We are looking forward to resuming the training sessions, which may have to be remotely accessed virtual sessions, whilst COVID-19 restrictions are still in place.



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND INFLUENCE

National Allergy Strategy Group (NASG)

The National Allergy Strategy Group (NASG) is formed of patient organisations Allergy UK and the Anaphylaxis Campaign and the clinical organisation the British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, working together to advocate for the allergic community through their secretariat role for the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Allergy, at Westminster. Over the last two decades a series of reports reviewed the prevalence of allergic diseases, consequent patient needs and service provision for allergy. The reports were:

- Allergy the unmet need, Royal College of Physicians, 2003
- **The Provision of Allergy Services**, House of Commons Health Select Committee, 2004
- A Review of Services for Allergy, Department of Health, 2006
- The Nature and Extent of Allergy in the UK, evidence to the DH report, British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology, 2006
- Allergy, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, 2007
- Allergy Services: Still not meeting the unmet need, Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Pathologists, 2010

After many years of lobbying on the issue of allergy to be included in primary care training, the NASG received news in 2019 that allergy will be in the new GP curriculum and will be included in the GP exam (Masters Royal College General Practitioners). The GP curriculum sets out what is required to practise as a GP within the National Health Service and helps GPs plan for development and change. However, not all recommendations from these advocacy reports have materialised and the NASG worked together in 2019 to review the gaps that remain, with a focus on recommendations for a National Allergy Plan to present through the APPG in 2020.

NHS England Specialised Commissioning Clinical Reference Group for Specialised Immunology and Allergy Services - the Patient and Public Voice Partner

Our CEO was selected to represent patients with allergy and immunology diseases as a patient and public voice on the NHS England Specialised Commissioning Clinical Reference Group (CRG) for Specialised Immunology and Allergy Services. This CRG covers specialised treatment of certain immunological and allergic conditions. In relation to immunological conditions, this includes primary immunodeficiencies, autoimmune and autoinflammatory disease where there is associated immunodeficiency, complex autoimmune and vasculitis conditions and autoinflammatory syndromes. In relation to allergic conditions this includes severe, complex and/or rare subgroups.

Improving Quality of Allergy Services (IQAS)

The Improving Quality of Allergy Services (IQAS) accreditation has been established by the Royal College of Physicians to assess the standards of adult allergy services across the UK to ensure that they are patient centred, safe, effective quality allergy services. Our CEO is a member of the IQAS steering group which oversees the implementation of the IQAS scheme, with a key role as a Lay Assessor patient representative representing the voice and views of patients and the public.



Food Standards Agency (FSA)

Allergy UK and the Food Standard Agency (FSA) continue to work collaboratively on improving safety for those living with food allergy. The new CEO of the FSA, Emily Miles and the FSA Board met with the Allergy UK Board and Executives to discuss shared priorities and focus on food allergy. We attended the FSA Parliamentary Reception where they launched their strategy with food allergy being a priority, and our CEO was a panel speaker at their Food Allergy Symposium.

We have been a key voice in advocating for ingredient labelling of food products made on the premises for direct sale. Our stance, discussed at a stakeholder meeting with Michael Gove, has always been for the need for full ingredient labelling and allergens in bold which was the option that the FSA advised Government.



European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases (EFA)

Our CEO was re-elected as Secretary of the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases (EFA) Board. EFA represents 43 patient organisations from across Europe and advocates on their behalf at the European Parliament and beyond. EFA shares the Secretariat for the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma with the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and plays a key role in European policy and health discussions, alongside opportunities to understand what is happening across other peer patient organisations.

EFA responded to nine public consultations at the European Parliament on issues such as food allergy, skin allergy and labelling of fragrance allergens. EFA projects and activities in 2019 included research into the impact of atopic eczema, food allergy and the #ShowLeadership campaign for MEPs to show leadership on advocacy and commitment for the health of their communities living with allergy and airways diseases. This included an event at the European Parliament in Strasbourg where the outcomes on EFA's Asthma & COPD patients' ACCESS to diagnosis, care, prevention, empowerment research was launched to MEPs. This was followed by a debate on how recommendations of the #ShowLeadership campaign could be integrated into EU policy priorities for 2019-2024, with discussions on the Roadmap and Call to Action – Where do we go from here? EFA also attended the 69th World Health Organisation Regional Committee for Europe meeting presenting on prevention policies and needs for access to high-quality healthcare for chronic patients living with allergies and airways diseases.



European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EACCI)

The 2019 European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) meeting was focused on precision medicine and Allergy UK was selected to be a patient representative on three EAACI guidelines being reviewed and produced. These included, the Task Force on Specialist Formulas, the Task Force on Prevention of Food Allergy Guidelines and the Task Force for the Biologics Guidelines. This role ensures that the patient perspective is included in the guideline recommendations, which are the clinical advice informed by research provided across Europe for clinicians considering diagnosis, treatment and care for those living with allergic disease.

As co-chair of the EAACI Patient Organisation Committee, Allergy UK's CEO was invited to chair a session on Oral Immunotherapy Wheat Allergy at the 2019 Paediatric Allergy and Asthma Meeting (PAAM) in Florence, as well as be a speaker presenting on the Regulatory Challenges and Patient Perspectives on working with milk formula companies. Our Head of Clinical had a poster accepted at PAAM and presented Allergy UK's research looking at the impact on quality of life for those living with peanut allergy.



The International Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Alliance (IFAAA)

The International Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Alliance (IFAAA) is sponsored bythe US Food Allergy Research and Education organisation (FARE) and takes place alongside the PAAM meeting each year. Allergy UK attended, connecting with global patient organisations and other partners to discuss and consider global issues facing patients living with allergy. This included the global shortage of adrenaline, collaborative work on C O D E X A L I M E N T A R I U S international food standards and codes of practice relating to the needs of the allergic community, psychosocial impacts of living with allergy, including travelling, access to specialist formulas and the recent concerns about the labelling and content of allergens in vegan foods, as the commercial market responds to more people across the globe becoming interested in vegan food.





Global Allergy and Asthma Patient Platform (GAAPP)

The Global Allergy and Asthma Patient Platform (GAAPP) connects 40 patient organisations across the globe and Allergy UK attended the GAAPP meeting in 2019 to meet with peer organisations as well as listen to clinical experts from across the globe discuss the latest research in allergy, eczema and asthma. A key theme focused on Allergy 2030 – Future Allergies / Future Diagnosis and a movement towards patient-centred care and precision medicine and personalised treatment.

Global Skin

GlobalSkin is a truly global alliance of patient organisations that serve people living with dermatological conditions or skin traumas. We are a member of the Atopic Eczema Advisory Committee and in June attended a two day event which focused on building capacity amongst patient organisation leaders through educational sessions on emerging eczema research, the potential of various advocacy tools and approaches and the development of key messages. Participants also shared challenges, identified gaps in skills and resources, and charted a strategic roadmap to guide the atopic eczema community's path forward over the next year.





GLOBALSKIN.ORG

International Alliance of Dermatology Patient Organizations

CORPORATE PARTNERS

We have benefited from the support of our Corporate Partners who have helped us to deliver our resources to those people most affected by allergy. Income from our corporate partnerships accounts for 17.74% of our total income.

We are immensely grateful to:



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in August 2002 having been first registered as an unincorporated charity in 1991. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which states the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In addition to the Memorandum and Articles of Association the charity also operates under the Code of Good Governance approved by the National Council of Voluntary Organisations and the Charity Commission.

Trustees

A maximum of 12 trustees can be appointed and there are currently ten on the Board. The Trustees meet at least four times a year at board meetings, with an Annual General Meeting usually held in September.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction of the charity and its policy. The Chief Executive (CEO), and appropriate members of the Executive team, attend the Board meetings as required but have no voting rights.

Recruitment and appointment of the Board of Trustees

The directors of the company are also the charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and serve for a period of three years but may be re-elected for further periods of three years, up to a ten-year period. The Trustees have the power to appoint any person to be a trustee who may have a required skillset or expertise. By the nature of the work that the charity carries out, medical and business knowledge is required on the Board of Trustees and this is well represented on the present board. Trustees annually review the skills within the Board against a desired list of skills and should particular skills be required, then advertisement of posts for new trustees are undertaken accordingly. The skills and expertise of the Trustees are used appropriately to support the CEO as and when required. There has been one new trustee appointed at the time of audit. In June 2020 a trustee with business and finance consultancy expertise was appointed, which will be invaluable to the charity especially during these current times of financial and economic uncertainty because of the impact of COVID-19 on the economy. They will also be able to provide additional support to the Management Accountant.

As notified in our 2018/19 report, one of our clinical trustees, Professor Adam Fox, resigned from the Board in September 2019 as he had served his full term. The charity is very much thankful for his valuable contribution and support over the ten years he served as a Trustee. Dr. Gary Stifel was appointed in May 2019 as the paediatric clinical trustee ensuring continuation of this important area of expertise on the Board.

Trustees induction and training

New trustees are provided with a recruitment pack which provides detailed information on the work of the charity, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Code of Good Governance operated by the charity, trustee job description and responsibilities and the last published accounts. An induction period is arranged for new trustees to familiarise themselves with the charities work, by meeting the staff carrying out the various activities of the charity.



Operational structure

Allergy UK has a Chief Executive who supports the Board to deliver the organisation's strategic objectives. The CEO has delegated powers of responsibility for the resources of the charity and directs the day-to-day operation of Allergy UK. The CEO also acts as the Company Secretary to the charity and its trading company.

In 2018 the Trustees approved the introduction of an Executive Team to support the CEO, which includes an Operations Director, a Management Accountant and a Head of Clinical who provides subject matter expertise. The Executive Team oversee the Operational Management Team who are responsible for the delivery of service area activities focused on achieving our objectives.

Risk review

A strategic risk assessment is carried out regularly and reported at every trustee board meeting for review, and more often if needed. A disaster recovery plan and internal controls are reviewed where needed and in 2020 were utilised to implement the risk strategy for managing the response to the COVID-19 situation. This included furloughing a high number of employees, with other staff working remotely to ensure we maintained services for beneficiaries where possible. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with employment law and the health and safety of staff, volunteers and visitors to the office and this now includes measures to manage the risk of COVID-19.

CHALLENGES AND RISKS

COVID-19 and economic recession – impact on the allergic community

People living with allergy have been affected by COVID-19. Those struggling with respiratory allergy have felt vulnerable, especially as the pollen count has been particularly high during 2020 so those with allergic rhinitis have found symptoms increased. This has led to concerns and self-misdiagnosis of COVID-19 placing more pressure on the NHS and primary care services. The more recent wearing of face masks has also been difficult for those with respiratory allergies as a face covering can exacerbate breathing difficulties. The more frequent washing of hands has also enflamed symptoms for some who live with atopic dermatitis. Allergy UK coordinated a 'frequently asked questions' (FAQs) for those we support who felt at risk of the virus. Allergy UK contacted and worked closely with leading clinicians and the Anaphylaxis Campaign to develop and communicate these FAQs.

We also worked with the Anaphylaxis Campaign to engage with the Food Standards Agency, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the major supermarkets, to make them aware of the free-from food shortages as a direct result of mass panic buying by the public, many of whom did not need to buy free-from foods. This led to families living with food allergy, where avoidance is the only option, struggling to find appropriate foods. The changes to product brands in supermarkets was also problematic, as new brands appeared from other countries where labelling requirements may differ making it difficult to know what ingredients a product may contain.

COVID-19 and economic recession – impact on the charity's resources

Allergy UK, like most other charities and companies, has been impacted in numerous ways because of the challenge from the global COVID-19 pandemic which started in December 2019, and the recession in the UK during the first two quarters of 2020/21.

 In 2019 our Board approved our 2020-2025 Strategy for Change, which included investment in developing a fundraising service, with the aim of growing individual giving and fundraising to raise more income so that we, in turn, could provide more for the allergic community. In 2019 we contracted a fundraising consultancy to assist us in this strategic aim and we were mid-way through a programme of development work when, as a direct result of COVID-19, the consultant ended the contract in April 2020 with immediate effect as a part of their own strategy for survival.

- Our programme of activities to develop fundraising tools and services halted at a period when the charity was also impacted by COVID-19. We found ourselves operating with reduced resources and had to find ways to enable us to raise income to ensure survival. We invested in some emergency fundraising campaigns and raised £14,000. We are extremely grateful to our supporters who were able to provide a donation to those appeals at this difficult time for all.
- Alongside this much appreciated support, we also saw a gradual cancellation of direct debits as other supporters had to make decisions related to their own struggles to manage the impact of the recession. This continues throughout recent months, impacting on income through donations.
- Our trading subsidiary, Allergy Research Limited, which is our main income source, began to see early signs of reduced activity during January to March 2020 with fewer companies requesting new business for our endorsement schemes than usual. We also saw cancellations of expected annual renewals. Our endorsements are found on products sold in numerous countries and therefore the financial impact began to appear prior to the UK main impact because of the global pandemic situation in other countries. This affected our end of year position for 2019/20 with the charity's trading subsidiary achieving £181,962 less to donate than expected.
- At a time of much reduced resource, we have strived to continue to provide services, advice and support to the allergic community throughout this pandemic. A major challenge has been the lack of access to any grants to provide support for our charity during this period. Almost all funding opportunities were ring-fenced for specific charitable aims, such as food distribution or mental health welfare and isolation services. We applied for numerous grants but were advised that, despite the benefit of our services being recognised by funders and that we could provide evidence of the vulnerability of the allergic community to the COVID-19 virus, we would not be eligible to apply because of the specific criteria being applied to grants. We are hoping that as the impact of the pandemic reduces there will be opportunities re-opened with grant funders.

- We revised our original income and expenditure budget for the 2020/21 year, based on Government and bank forecasts, to be 35 percent lower than originally forecasted. Our income streams are currently aligned with this 35 percent reduced level of income at the end of quarter 2 for 2020/21.
- Our main expenditure costs relate to staff costs, premises and IT. We adjusted all expenditure to essential and contractual only and sought ways to reduce outgoings. In preparation for our new strategy, we had recruited several new posts and additional office space in 2019, to enable us to expand and support the allergic community more. We have been unable to change the lease costs, despite requesting support from the landlord, and IT costs are essential given staff have had to work remotely. Our staff expenditure is our highest cost and therefore the only viable option we have had is to reduce headcount. The Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) enabled us to furlough many of our staff from April 2020.
- Difficult decisions will need to continue to be made during this financial year to ensure the long-term survival of the charity. In part this is likely to continue to build upon collaboration with other charities with similar objectives focused on supporting the allergic community. However, regardless of collaboration, we will need to review and assess how resources are managed. The impact of COVID-19 is that we have to retract the growth we have achieved in the team, scaledown resources and aim to survive the recession so we are still here for the allergic community we serve when life returns to some normality.
- We have utilised our reserves to cover operational and charitable delivery costs, with both a £100,000 oneyear deposit account being moved to the main account on maturity in May 2020 and a further fixed term deposit account of £250,000 being moved to the main account in July 2020. Both of these reserves are being spent to cover costs during this unprecedented time of reduced income, so any funds the charity held above contingency level have been much depleted because of the impact of COVID-19 and the recession.

IT challenges and digitalisation

Digital is a key part of the future five-year strategy and the ever-evolving world of information technology is a constant challenge for charities, including Allergy UK. The costs involved in maintaining modern hardware and software, along with training of staff on how to use these, takes valuable resources but at the same time enables the charity to engage with the allergic community in an efficient and safe way. Microsoft's decision to remove support for Windows 7 meant we had to upgrade to Windows 10 software in 2019. Alongside this our IT hardware had become obsolete so we had to replace 25 computers and our main server and three additional smaller servers. We had designated funds for this in the Fixed Reserves. All files had been reviewed as a part of the previous year's General Data Protection Regulations compliance to support the challenge of transferring data to the new IT commencing on time and without transferring unnecessary data. This was achieved successfully, and staff are also now working on cloud-based software systems.

The project to replace our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system with Salesforce integration continues to progress, albeit slower than preferred, partly because of funding but also the challenges of connecting other IT tools and systems. It was always envisaged that this would be a project over many years and the development of fundraising functionality is being planned for 2020/21, along with additional reporting options. A member of the team is developing skills through Salesforce training.





Income generation and sustainability

A large part of 2019/20 work was focused on the development of the Strategy for Change 2020-2025, including Board and team workshops on renewing our vision and mission, reminding ourselves of our core values, and looking at how we might move Allergy UK to embrace a fundraising culture. The fundraising element of Allergy UK was built upon as an objective to support donors and those who fundraise for us in a more professional and supportive way, whilst aiming to diversify income streams. We needed to focus on awareness of fundraising across the charity as we begin to embed a fundraising culture. Training workshops with external consultants were provided for Board, Executive and all staff, with the offices being closed for two days to facilitate this. Transforming into a fundraising charity has thrown up expected challenges relating to ensuring we have the right skills and experience, meeting training needs, and implementing digital tools and systems to operate a modern-day fundraising experience for donors. The team have made many strides forward in establishing what is required for our fundraising service. COVID-19 may have delayed the launch, but we remain committed to this strategic objective as the more funds we are able to raise the more we can provide for the allergic community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

In 2018 the Board of Trustees undertook a very detailed review of the reserves policy as a part of the charity's strategic planning, operational decisions, budgeting and risk management processes. At every board meeting, the Trustees can see the movement on reserves and therefore are continuously aware of the current level of reserves held by the charity. The reserves position is reviewed twice a year and is discussed at every Board meeting.

The outcome of this detailed review was that the Trustees have set a financial range for contingency reserves of between three and six months, whereas previously contingency was set at a fixed six months. A 100% loss of income over a six-month period is considered unlikely, therefore trustees do not consider it appropriate to retain reserves above a six-month income period (£559,500) and will always seek to utilise funds above this level to further its core objectives. The Trustees expect management to maintain a reserve cushion above the three-month minimum and must be notified immediately of any events or expenditure that might cause the reserves to fall below four months of income (currently at £373,000). There would always be a minimum of three months reserve available to cover a sudden closure of the charity.

The charity will hold up to 25% of its reserves in term deposits that have varying maturities in order to enable it to earn interest income. The actual amounts will be agreed by the Management Accountant and Chief Executive in accordance with the reserves policy as and when each deposit matures. The Trustees of BAF have therefore set a minimum reserves requirement at three months of current average income (£280,000) to cover a potential stressed reduction in income. The three months of reserves must be held on deposit accounts at a mix of maturities to enable the funds to be accessed when required.

Inter-company accounts

Inter-company accounts for the group are used to manage the movement of charitable funds between BAF and the trading subsidiary Allergy Research Limited (ARL) over the financial year. ARL provides business services through its endorsement activities and generates corporate partnership funds. It is our policy to draw down up to £75,000 from ARL to transfer to BAF each month to cover operational costs. This accumulates over the year and forms part of the total donation of profits from ARL to BAF by the year end. However, it is essential that ARL is able to function as a trading subsidiary at all times and therefore has to retain a small fund to be able to operate day-to-day. We would aim to hold about 5% of ARL's annual turnover in the ARL accounts on-going for operational need.

Financial statements

The financial statements for 2019/2020 show total incoming resources of £1,565,512 and total resources expended of £1,899,372, giving a decrease in reserves of (£333,860) during the year.

During the year there was a net transfer to free reserves from designated funds of £159,548 to maintain the contingency fund in line with the reserve policy (currently holding five months relevant expenditure). In addition, £186,616 remains allocated to the Allergy UK Research Nurse project to cover the balance of grants remaining from the three-and-a-half-year project. The Trustees had approved an allocation of reserves towards the project - Connecting with Our Customers - for our re-brand, new website and new CRM. £50,000 remains allocated to this project in respect of the outstanding phases of implementation.

Virtually all of the designated reserve for the fundraising project had been used at the end of the financial year (just over £5k remained and this was spent in April 2020). All further expenditure on this project will now be funded from income generated during the year.

Expenditure covers all operational activities and staffing resources. In 2019 the lease for the office space was renewed with additional office space added to the lease. This was as a result of the Trustees decision in the previous year to expand the team structure to align with our growth plans so that the charity can continue to meet the ever-expanding level of activity. Obviously, no-one could foresee the impact of COVID-19 and in the early months of 2020 the team had to move to remote working from home. Our new landlord was approached via their Management Agency with a request for support during this difficult time but the only concession provided was a deferral of the rent and service charge for the April to June quarter, this has to be paid in monthly instalments and cleared before the end of December 2020.

Although a fundraising team had been included in the plan for 2019/20 a combination of factors, including the impact of COVID-19 in the last couple of months, means that two positions in this area currently remain unfilled. This is being offset by the use of external resources to progress the fundraising project and develop the additional funding stream that is required.

Allergy UK is registered with, and has paid the levy requested from, the Fundraising Regulator and is also a member of the Institute of Fundraising. This gives donors confidence that Allergy UK complies with all required regulations, including ensuring all procedures comply with General Data Protection Regulations to protect the data of all who contact the charity. All staff have up-to-date safeguarding training for both children and vulnerable adults. We are pleased to advise that we have not received any complaints during this year.

We are always extremely grateful to those who have donated and continue to support our charity, without which our work would not be possible.

Other operational expenditure is through the provision of a Helpline; the funding of a communications team to promote awareness of allergic diseases; the employment of allergy nurses and a dietitian to support the Helpline and provide subject matter expertise on allergy and immunology; and a team supporting the trading activities and involvement with other organisations with the same objectives as our own. All surpluses will be used to finance future charitable expenditure, either for ongoing activities, or one-off projects.

The trading subsidiary provides the principal funding source for the charity and generates significant income from both of its major activities (the operation of the endorsement programmes and working with corporates). Our trading subsidiary activities are all aimed to be beneficial in achieving the charity's aims to provide support for those living with allergy and raise awareness of allergic disease. All donated income directly finances this expenditure.

Other income, an activity mainly carried out by the subsidiary Allergy Research Limited (ARL), requires higher than normal costs compared to a charity seeking public donations. The Endorsement Scheme independently tests applicants' products using specialist laboratories at commensurate fees. Other activities involve projects sponsored by corporate partners through grants and sponsorship. Our activities are aimed at increasing public and healthcare professional knowledge and awareness of allergy issues. These schemes and projects incur costs, such as printing, distribution and venue costs to enable the achievement of project outcomes. These costs are covered using contributions from our corporate partners.

The impact of COVID-19 on the global economy has begun to impact on ARL's ability to deliver the expected level of donation to the charity for the financial year. This was a result of a drop in new endorsement applications and a higher than expected drop off in licence renewals in January, February and March. This, aligned to a correction in accounting treatment of the testing fees, meant the total donation from ARL for 2019/2020 was £180,962 less than had been planned.

The latest financial forecasts suggest that the charity will struggle to fund operating costs and charitable expenditure at the 2019/2020 level due to the impact of COVID-19 on all aspects of income. The impact on ARL has been mentioned above, but the level of donations and fundraising income has also fallen as challenge events have been cancelled and disposable income is hit by the impact of COVID-19 on employment across the UK. This has been evidenced by a steady cancellation of Direct Debit donations since March 2020. There have also been new direct debits set up to support the charity, albeit less than usual, and we are extremely grateful for these donations. It is hoped that the new fundraising element will be successful in the mediumto long-term. However, in the short-term Allergy UK needs to secure successful grant applications to support the financial income needed to deliver increased activity and levels of service to support those with allergy in the UK. This is in a climate of resource challenges for many businesses globally, not just in the third sector in the UK.

Therefore, as well as looking at ways to maintain income, Allergy UK is also having to look at its level of expenditure, both operationally and in its charitable service delivery, and to align this to the level of income achievable in the current economic climate.

Whilst cash flow has not been a matter of concern in recent years, the reduction in cash and cash equivalents at the year-end of £114,720 brings this aspect sharply into focus. The CEO and Management Accountant are working closely on monitoring and managing cash flow within the charity on an almost daily basis and a detailed cash flow projection tool is being developed to aid this.

The designated reserves - Fixed Assets, CRM, fundraising

and Allergy UK Nurses, continue to differentiate free funds from those invested in fixed assets or committed to meeting the charity's development plans. Unrestricted reserves (including contingency and free reserves) fell by £307,160 during 2019/20, partly due to the deficit in the year and partly due to the expenditure on the CRM project.

This is a proper reflection of the use of designated funds and the payment of liabilities included on the balance sheet at 31 March 2020. The excess cash resources are on twelve months deposits in a manner that provides for at least one quarter of the funds to be available each quarter should they be required. In this manner we seek to maximise the interest earned from prudent investments while maintaining accessibility.

Key management personal remuneration

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Chief Executive as key management personnel of the charity. No remuneration was paid to the Trustees in the year. The pay of the charity's Chief Executive is reviewed yearly by the Board of Trustees and benchmarked with charities of similar size. The Board acknowledged that the Chief Executive's pay was found below the lower benchmark position and approved a pay remuneration increase from April 2019 to ensure that the remuneration is fair. However, the Executive have taken a 20% pay reduction during the COVID-19 period in 2020.



Plans for future periods

2020 will no doubt be a difficult year for us all and our ultimate aim throughout the year and beyond is to survive as a charity so that we are still here to support and raise awareness of the needs of all living with allergic disease in the UK. Our charity is not able to control the many challenges related to COVID-19 and the recession but we are determined to be here for our beneficiaries.

We will focus on our new vision that 'no-one should die from allergy' and our mission that 'everyone in the UK takes allergy seriously' through the delivery of our Strategy for Change 2020-2025.

2020-2025, which will focus on:

- Empowerment of the voice of the allergic community through advocacy and campaign programmes focused on addressing their needs
- Concentrating on expanding our supporter bases and ensuring we promote programmes that have a significant impact on the quality of life of the allergic community
- Becoming members of the Helplines' Partnership with a plan to work towards accreditation of our Helpline
- Continuing investment in fundraising, aiming to increase income through targeted fundraising approaches
- Broadening the work that we are doing with UK companies, as we continue to diversify our income generation activities through fundraising and our trading subsidiary activities
- Digitalisation transformation across the work that we do, including the next phases of the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and content marketing
- Enhancing our engagement activities with the allergic community and other key partner stakeholders.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of The British Allergy Foundation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- 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;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation

in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to the auditors:

We, the directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

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

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemption provided by Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 30/09/2020

On behalf of the Board

Signature

Name, Trustee

Date

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH ALLERGY FOUNDATION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The British Allergy Foundation (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows 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 Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2020, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

Other information

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

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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH ALLERGY FOUNDATION

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and its trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Duncan Cochrane-Dyet BSc BFP FCA

(Senior Statutory Auditor)

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For and on behalf of MHA MacIntyre Hudson

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditor

Victoria Court

17-21 Ashford Road

Maidstone

Kent

ME14 5DA

Date:

MHA MacIntyre Hudson is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE BRITISH ALLERGY FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations and Legacies	3	35,674	-	9,000	44,674	99,955
Income from charitable activities	4	20,226	-	-	20,226	18,649
Income from trading activities :						
Seal of approval	5	510,895	-	-	510,895	524,619
Renewals	5	589,589	-	-	589,589	543,781
Allergy Friendly Products	5	62,950	-	-	62,950	54,500
Allergy Awareness Scheme	5	4,850	-	-	4,850	850
Alerts	5	2,608	-	-	2,608	875
Corporate Partners	5	285,116	-	-	285,116	303,673
Fundraising events		38,341	-	-	38,341	49,224
Investment Income	6	6,262	-	-	6,262	6,649
Total Incoming Resources	7	1,556,512		9,000	1,565,512	1,602,775
EXPENDITURE	8					
Cost of raising Funds :						
Voluntary income		155,576	86,181	-	241,757	53,496
Commercial trading operations		826,900	-	-	826,900	809,178
Expenditure on charitable activities		748,329	46,686	35,700	830,715	764,876
Total resources expended		1,730,805	132,867	35,700	1,899,372	1,627,550
Net income /(expenditure)						
for the year	9	(174,293)	(132,867)	(26,700)	(333,860)	(24,775)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		106,410	1,029,510	36,300	1,172,220	1,196,995
Transfers between funds	20	159,548	(159,548)	-	-	-
Tabal founds serviced formula		01.005	727.005			1 172 222
Total funds carried forward		91,665	737,095	9,600	838,360	1,172,220

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.
THE BRITISH ALLERGY FOUNDATION CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

		2020	<u>0</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>19</u>
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Intangible Assets	14		145,767		151,425
Tangible Assets	14		30,260		18,195
			176,027		169,620
Current Assets					
Debtors	16	420,274		352,316	
Investments	17	600,000		600,000	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		286,885	-	401,605	
		1,307,159		1,353,921	
Creditors : Amounts falling due					
within one year	18	644,826	-	351,320	
National Association			(()))		1 002 601
Net Current Assets			662,333		1,002,601
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities			838,360		1,172,221
			000,000		1,1,2,221
Net assets			838,360		1,172,221
		-			
Funds					
Restricted	19		9,600		36,300
Unrestricted	20		828,760		1,135,920
<u>Total funds</u>		-	838,360		1,172,219
		-			

The financial statements were approved and authorised by the Board of Trustees on 30th September 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

L Pritchard - Chairman

The notes on pages 40 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

THE BRITISH ALLERGY FOUNDATION BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

Company registration number 04509293

		<u>202</u>	20	<u>201</u>	9
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Intangible Assets	14		142,553		147,767
Tangible Assets	14		28,996		16,556
Investments	15		12		12
			171,561		164,335
Current Assets					
Debtors	16	61,046		48,423	
Allergy Research Limited	16	25,543		310,713	
Short term investment	17	600,000		600,000	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		79,649		125,900	_
		766,238		1,085,036	-
Creditors : Amounts falling due withi	n one vear				
Other Creditors	18	120,622		98,333	
		120,622		98,333	-
Net Current Assets			645,616	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	986,703
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities			817,177		1,151,038
					, - ,
Net assets			817,177		1,151,038
Funds	10		0.000		
Restricted	19		9,600		36,300
Unrestricted	20		807,577		1,114,737
Total funds			817,177		1,151,038

The financial statements were approved and authorised by the Board of Trustees on 30th September 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

L Pritchard - Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 40 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

THE BRITISH ALLERGY FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

	Notes		Group
		2020	2019
		£	£
Cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	23	(82,671)	234,307
Cash inflow from investing activities			
Interest income		6,262	6,649
Cash used in investing activities			
Purchase of fixed assets		(38,311)	(64,396)
Net cash outflows from investing activites		(32,049)	(57,747)
(Decrease)/Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the yea	r	(114,720)	176,560
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2019		401,605	225,045
Total cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2020		286,885	401,605
		200,000	101,000
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		286,885	401,605
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2020		286,885	401,605

1. Accounting policies

Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of a winding up is limited to £1. Its registered office and place of business is Planwell House, LEFA Business Park, Edgington Way, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5BH.

The principal activity of the charity is the relief from suffering from allergic deceases, the increase of awareness of allergic diseases, the promotion of research and education of allergic diseases.

General information and basis of preparation

The British Allergy Foundation meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical convention modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Companies Act 2006 and Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Group financial statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly-owned subsidiaries Allergy Research Limited, Allergy UK Limited, Allergy Aware Scheme Limited, Allergy England Limited, Allergy Scotland Limited and Allergy Europe Limited on a line by line basis. A separate statement of financial activities, and income and expenditure account are not presented for the charity itself following the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

1. Accounting policies (Cont.)

Recognition of income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it's probable that the income will be received.

Incoming resources from charitable trading activities are recognised as follows:

The sale of goods - revenue is recognised when donated goods are sold;

The rendering of services – revenue is recognised as follows:

Applications for the seal of approval when the application has been signed and the terms agreed;

Renewal of the seal of approval in the month of commencement of the new period; and

Services by External Relations in the month the services are supplied.

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations, legacies and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Legacies are included when the Charity has legal entitlement, the amount can be measured reliably and it's probable that the income will be received.

Intangible income

Donated services are included in income at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised when there is no financial cost borne by a third party.

Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accrual basis and have been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and the staging of fundraising events.

Support costs

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company.

Allocation to support costs

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of time spent by staff on those activities.

Pension costs

The charity participates in defined contribution schemes. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

Intangible assets

Intangible fixed assets are amortised on a straight line basis over their useful lives. The useful lives of intangible assets are as follows:

Website: 10 years from when the website is live

Development costs: 10 years from when the CRM system goes live

1. Accounting policies (Cont.)

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets, except low value items (below £500) which are not capitalised, are included at cost. Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value over their expected useful life as follow:

Furniture and fittings 25% reducing balance basis; and

Other assets three or four years using straight line basis.

Operating leases

Amounts payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the period of the lease.

Foreign currency

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction.

Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the Profit and Loss account.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Restricted - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Unrestricted - these are funds that can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees. Unrestricted reserves are split between separate funds as disclosed in note 20.

Designated funds - comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in note 20 to the financial statements.

Investments

Investments in subsidiaries are measured at cost less impairment.

Current assets investments are short term highly liquid investments and are held at fair value. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity of less than one year.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

No judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies that have the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next year.

Volunteers

The volunteers' time is not included in the financial statements.

2 Financial performance of the charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of Allergy Research Limited one of the charity's wholly owned subsidiaries which operates the trade activities of the group includes the Seal of Approval, External Relations, Allergy Aware Scheme, a charity shop and an allergy alert service.

The summary financial performance of the charity alone is:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Income	109,251	174,478
Service charge from a subsidiary company	300,000	300,000
Gift aid from a subsidiary company	660,713	649,381
	1,069,964	1,123,858
Expenditure on fund raising	52,764	53,496
Expenditure on trading	355,952	330,259
Expenditure on charitable activities	862,241	764,878
	1,270,957	1,148,633
Net income	(200,993)	(24,774)
Total funds brought forward	1,151,039	1,175,813
Total funds carried forward	950,046	1,151,039
Income from donation and legacies		
	2020	2019
	£	£
Gifts	44,674	99,955
	44,674	99,955

The income from donations and legacies was £35,674 unrestricted (2019: £64,225) and £9,000 restricted (2019: £35,700).

4 Income from charitable activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Income from translation cards	19,230	14,365
Fees received	92	4,068
Affiliate marketing	904	217
	20,226	18,650

Income from charitable activities was £20,226 unrestricted (2019: £18,650) and £nil restricted (2019: £nil).

3

5 Income and expenditure of trading subsidiary

The wholly owned trading subsidiary Allergy Research Limited is incorporated in the United Kingdom (company number 03550847) and pays all its profits to the charity under the gift aid scheme. Allergy Research Limited operates the charity's Seal of Approval scheme, works with corporates in the allergy sector, runs the Allergy Aware Scheme - the charity's foodservice operators accreditation scheme - and issues allergy alerts.

The following subsidiaries are wholly owned, incorporated in the United Kingdom and are dormant: Allergy Aware Scheme Limited (06300759); Allergy UK Limited (06302734); Allergy England Limited (08494679); Allergy Europe Limited (08695950); and Allergy Scotland Limited (SC447980).

The summary financial performance of the Allergy Research Limited alone is:

	<u>2020</u> £	<u>2019</u> £
Turnover Cost of sales and administration costs	1,456,008 (795,548)	1,428,297 (778,916)
Interest income	253	
Net profit Amount gift aided to the charity	660,713 (660,713)	649,381 (649,381)
Retained in subsidiary		
The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary were:		
Fixed assets	4,467	5,287
Current assets	566,463	579,596
Current liabilities	(549,747)	(563,700)
Total net assets	21,183	21,183
Share capital	2	2
Profit and loss reserve	21,181	21,181

All income and expenditure from trading activities are attributable to unrestricted funds.

6 Investment income

All the groups investment income arises from money deposited with the group's bankers. All income from investment income is attributable to unrestricted funds.

7 Turnover

Turnover split geographically:	2020	2019
United Kingdom	565,389	757,670
The Rest of the World	991,123	845,105
	1,556,512	1,602,775

21,183

21,183

THE BRITISH ALLERGY FOUNDATION	NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2020
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					I				Charita	Charitable activities							
	Basis of allocation	Voluntary income	income	Trading income	Jcome	PA	Advice & information st	rmation*		Edu	Education & training	training		Governance	nce	Total	la
		2020	2019	2020	2019	2020		2019		2020		2019		2020	2019	2020	2019
Costs directly allocated to activities		ų	ų	Ψ	ų	unrestricted unrestricted restricted E E E E	sstricted ur E	rrestricted r £		unrestricted restricted restricted E E	tricted un £	restricted rest	ricted	Ψ	ų	ų	ų
Staff costs	direct	75,827	33,596	166,040	221,678	330,978		369,731	ı	27,035	ı	36,250	'	I	,	599,881	661,255
Professional fees	direct	700	ı	ı	606	1,070	'	3,637	ı		ı		ı	·	I	1,770	4,546
Trading costs	direct	I	I	487,101	433,616	I	ı	ı	ı	ı	I	I	T	I	I	487,101	433,616
Communications	direct	I	I	ı	'	19,484	'	18,406	I	ı	ı	ı	ı	·	I	19,484	18,406
Other direct costs	direct	95,114	8,088	3,415	2,015	59,538	35,700	33,740	35,756	3,416	ı	18,000	ı	22,449	17,624	219,632	115,223
Bad debts	direct	I	I	3,264	41,918	ı	'	'	·	ı	ı	ı	I	ı	I	3,264	41,918
Depreciation	direct	'	'	13,547	920	'			'				'	-	'	13,547	920
		171,641	41,684	673,368	701,056	411,071	35,700	425,514	35,756	30,451		54,250		22,449	17,624	1,344,680	1,275,884
Support costs allocated to activities Premises	staff costs	14,886	4,552	32,597	22,194	64,977	,	43,309	'	5,307	ï	4,321	ı	'	I	117,768	74,376
General office and Finance Staff	staff costs	32,285	2,648	70,696	61,687	140,922	'	120,383	'	11,511	'	12,006	ı	,	'	255,414	196,724
Communications	staff costs	2,397	455	5,250	2,218	10,465	ı	4,328	ï	855	'	432	'	ı	'	18,966	7,433
Legal & professional	staff costs	4,703	1,983	10,299	9,670	20,529	ï	18,869	,	1,677	'	1,883	ı	I	'	37,208	32,405
General office expenses	staff costs	13,062	881	28,601	6,051	57,012	ı	11,809	I	4,657	ı	867	I	ı	I	103,332	19,608
Depreciation	staff costs	2,321	1,107	5,082	5,397	10,130	ı	10,531	I	827	ı	1,051	I	ı	I	18,359	18,086
Financial charges	staff costs	461	186	1,009	906	2,011	ı	1,768	' 	164	ı	176	'	I	'	3,646	3,036
		70,116	11,812	153,532	108,123	306,046	'	210,997	'	24,999	'	20,736	'	T	'	554,693	351,666
Total resources expended - 2020	50	241,757	53,496	826,900	809,179	717,117	35,700	636,511	35,756	55,449	1	74,986		22,449	17,624	1,899,373	1,627,552
	:										•	1					
*Advice & information is supplied to allergy sufferers and their carers via our telephone Helpline, website and web chat facilities. More details are available in the Trustees' Report.	d to allergy su	fferers and t	cheir carers	heir carers via our teleph	phone Help د ۲۰۰۰ از	line, website	and web ch	at facilities.	More details	10re details are available i	n the Trus	tees' Report.					

9

Net income for the year		
	2020	2019
This is stated after charging:	£	£
Operating leases - office and shop premises	75,738	42,676
Operating leases -equipment	9,789	8,437
Auditors fees	11,794	7,183
Other services from the auditors		

10 Analysis of staff costs, trustees expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2020	2019
	£	£
Salaries and wages	757,939	680,642
Social security costs	69,584	62,784
Pension costs	23,627	21,451

No employees' emoluments as defined for tax purposes amounted to over £60,000 in the year. The average monthly number of employees and full time equivalent (FTE) during the year was as follows:

	2020	2019
	Number	Number
Charitable activities	19	19
Generating funds	9	8

Chief Executive Office

During the year the CEO was responsible for the day to day running of the charity and her benefits amounted to £84,099 (2019: £75,543) being salary, national insurance contributions and pension contributions.

Pension costs

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes for the benefit of 25 employees. Contributions payable by the charity for the period was £23,627 (2019: £21,451).

The charity trustees

The charity trustees received no benefits from employment with the charity or its subsidiary in the year nor the previous year. They were all reimbursed expenses incurred in properly performing their duties as trustees that in aggregate amounted to £5,556 (2019:£4,638) which included travelling costs and overnight accommodation for those trustees who reside overseas or when attendance was required earlier than was reasonable for their normal journey time. One trustee was also reimbursed for the cost of carer support.

11 Auditors remuneration

2020	2019
£	£
6,392	4,683
2,901	2,500
2,500	-
11,794	7,183
-	£ 6,392 2,901 2,500

12 Related party transaction

There were no related party transactions during the year.

13 Corporation taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains 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.

14 Intangible fixed assets

ie likeu assels					
	G	Group			
	2020	2019	2020	2019	
	£	£	£	£	
Website and development costs					
Cost					
At 1 April 2019	215,072	153,917	210,516	149,451	
Additions	18,833	61,155	18,833	61,065	
Disposals	-	-	-	-	
At 31 March 2020	233,905	215,072	229,349	210,516	
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2019	63,647	49,701	62,749	49,255	
Charge for the year	24,503	13,946	24,048	13,494	
On disposals	-	-	-	-	
At 31 March 2020	88,150	63,647	86,797	62,749	
Net book value					
At 31 March 2020	145,755	151,425	142,552	147,767	
At 31 March 2019	151,425	104,216	147,767	100,196	

Tangible fixed assets

	G	С	Charity		
	2020	2019	2020	2019	
	£	£	£	£	
Office furniture and equipment					
Cost					
At 1 April 2019	116,095	112,854	101,038	97,797	
Additions	19,479	3,241	19,479	3,241	
Disposals		-	-	-	
At 31 March 2020	135,574	116,095	120,517	101,038	
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2019	97,900	92,840	84,482	79,890	
Charge for the year	7,403	5,060	7,039	4,592	
On disposals	-	-	-	-	
At 31 March 2020	105,303	97,900	91,521	84,482	
Net book value		·			
At 31 March 2020	30,271	18,195	28,996	16,556	
At 31 March 2019	18,195	20,014	16,556	17,907	

		Re	serves	Shares		
15	Investments	2020	2019	2020	2019	
	Shares and reserves in subsidiary undertakings.	£	£	£	£	
	All subsidiaries are 100% holdings.					
	Allergy Research Ltd: 2 ordinary shares	21,184	21,184	2	2	
	Allergy UK Ltd: 2 ordinary shares (dormant)	-	-	2	2	
	Allergy Aware Scheme Ltd : 2 ordinary share (dormant)	-	-	2	2	
	Allergy England Ltd: 2 ordinary shares (dormant)	-	-	2	2	
	Allergy Scotland Ltd: 2 ordinary shares (dormant)	-	-	2	2	
	Allergy Europe Ltd: 2 ordinary shares (dormant)	-	-	2	2	
				12	12	

No subsidiary made a profit or a loss during the year or the previous year. The reserves were unchanged during this year and also in the previous year.

16	Debtors	(Group	Charity		
		2020	2019	2020	2019	
		£	£	£	£	
	Trade debtors	366,313	306,979	7,086	3,086	
	Prepayments	51,982	8,637	51,982	8,637	
	Other debtors	1,978	36,700	1,978	36,700	
	Amount owed by group undertakings:					
	Allergy Research Ltd	-	-	25,543	310,713	
		420,274	352,316	86,589	359,136	
17	Current assets investments	G	Group		Charity	
		2020	2019	2020	2019	
		£	£	£	£	
	Short term deposits	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	

18 Creditors

	(Group	Charity		
	2020	2019	2020	2019	
	£	£	£	£	
Trade creditors	126,151	54,585	52,212	44,606	
Taxation and social security costs	76,430	54,302	26,200	25,701	
Other creditors	442,245	242,432	42,211	28,026	
	644,826	351,320	120,623	98,333	

19 Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2019 £	Incoming ج	Outgoing F	At 31 March 2020 ج
		L .	-	
HCP Scotland Training Fund	600	-	-	600
CRM Phase Three Grant	35,700	-	35,700	-
Chaldon Trust Research Project	-	9,000	-	9,000
	36,300	9,000	35,700	9,600

The HCP (health care professional) Scotland Training Fund is to enable the charity to encourage training in allergy, by making grants to committed HCPs to meet a percentage of their training costs, at a time when the Health Service has reduced their funding in this area.

The Research Project is to conduct further analysis of the impact of allergy on people's lives, and this money was provided by the Chaldon Trust.

20 Unrestricted Funds - 2019/2020

	As at 1st April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31st March 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
General free reserve	85,227	1,556,512	(1,730,805)	159,548	70,482
Designated:					
Fixed assets reserve	16,556	-	-	12,440	28,996
Allergy UK nurses project	212,260	-	(46,686)	21,042	186,616
CRM reserve	200,000	-	-	(150,000)	50,000
Contingency fund	600,694	-	-	(134,474)	466,220
Fundraising reserve	-	-	(86,181)	91,444	5,263
Total Charity Reserves	1,114,737	1,556,512	(1,863,672)	-	807,577
Allergy Research Ltd	21,183	-	-	-	21,183
Total Group Reserves	1,135,920	1,556,512	(1,863,672)	_	828,760

Unrestricted Funds - 2018/2019

	As at 1st April 2018	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31st March 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
General free reserve	74,856	1,567,074	(1,591,794)	35,091	85,227
Designated:					
Fixed assets reserve	17,907	-	-	(1,351)	16,556
Allergy UK nurses project	246,000	-	-	(33,740)	212,260
CRM reserve	200,000	-	-	-	200,000
Contingency fund	600,694	-	-	-	600,694
Total Charity Reserves	1,139,457	1,567,074	(1,591,794)	-	1,114,737
Allergy Research Ltd	21,183	-	-	-	21,183
Total Group Reserves	1,160,640	1,567,074	(1,591,794)	-	1,135,920

The fixed assets reserve is to differentiate the funds already invested in fixed assets from free reserves. The Allergy UK nurses reserve is to part fund the cost of an allergy nurse in the community. The contingency fund is set at five months relevant expenditure and is available to fund the costs should unforeseen events disrupt the charity. Th CRM reserve is for investment in a new system to improve data capture and account management. The fundraising reserve is to establish an additional revenue stream through individual giving.

21 Analysis of group net assets between funds

As at 31 March 2020

	General	Fixed	Contingency	Nurses	CRM	Fundraising Restricted		Total
	Reserves	Assets	Fund	Reserve	Reserve	Reserve	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£		£	£
Tangible fixed assets	147,031	28,996	-	-	-		-	176,027
Current assets	589,460	-	466,220	186,616	50,000	5,263	9,600	1,307,159
Current liabilities	(644,826)	-	_	-	-	-	-	(644,826)
Net assets at 31 March 2020	91,665	28,996	466,220	186,616	50,000	5,263	9,600	838,360

As at 31 March 2019

	General	Fixed	Contingency	Nurses	CRM	Fundraising	Restricted	Total
	Reserves	Assets	Fund	Reserve	Reserve	Reserve	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£		£	£
Tangible fixed assets	151,713	17,907		-	-		-	169,620
Current assets	304,667	-	600,694	212,260	200,000) –	36,300	1,353,921
Current liabilities	(351,320)	-	-	-	-		-	(351,320)
Net assets at 31 March 2019	105,060	17,907	600,694	212,260	200,000) –	36,300	1,172,221

22 Obligations under operating leases

The future minimum rentals payable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows;

	2020	2019
Within one year	116,241	107,643
In two to five years	336,308	420,272
	452,549	529,934

23 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

······································	2020	2019
Net income for the year	(333,860)	(24,775)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	31,906	19,005
Interest income	(6,262)	(6,649)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(67,959)	99,503
Increase /(decrease) in creditors	293,504	147,223
Net cash provided by operating activities	(82,671)	234,307

FOOTNOTES

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- 7. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). (2014). Clinical Guidance. Drug allergy: Diagnosis and management (CG183)
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- 12. Jutel, M. et al. (2013). Improving allergy management in the primary care network a holistic approach. Allergy, 68(11), pp.1362-1369



We're here to help

Contact our Helpline Monday - Friday, 9am-5pm: Call: 01322 619898 Webchat: allergyuk.org Email: info@allergyuk.org



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