Registered Company number: 04407712 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity Number: 1152136

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD
1ST June 2014 TO 31ST May 2015
FOR
VOICE OF THE LISTENER & VIEWER
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)
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<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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VOICE OF THE LISTENER & VIEWER  
Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31st May 2015

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors’ report and financial statements of the incorporated charity for the year ending 31st May 2015 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors’ report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
Charity Name: Voice of the Listener & Viewer
Registered company number 04407712 (England and Wales)
Registered charity number 1152136

Charity’s principal Address
The Old Rectory Business Centre
Springhead Road
Gravesend
DA11 8HN

Registered Office
The Old Rectory Business Centre
Springhead Road
Gravesend
DA11 8HN

Independent Examiner
Shields Brown Accountancy and Tax Services
The Old Rectory Business Centre
Springhead Road
Gravesend
DA11 8HN

Trustees and Directors that served throughout the period (unless indicated otherwise)
Mr Colin Browne
Ms Sophie Chalk (resigned 11 November 2014)
Ms Toni Charlton
Mrs Mary Dixon (appointed 18 November 2014)
Mr David Eggington
Ms Dinah Garrett
Professor Sylvia Harvey
Ms Wendy Jones
Mr Patrick McIntosh (appointed 18 November 2014)
Mr Christopher Mottershead
Professor Jeanette Steemers
Professor Bob Usherwood
Dr Lynn Whittaker
VOICE OF THE LISTENER & VIEWER
Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31st May 2015

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Instrument
The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2nd April 2002 and then registered as a charity on 22nd May 2013. The governing document is the memorandum and article incorporated 02/04/2002 as amended by special resolution dated 05/02/2013. In the event of the company being wound up all full members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees
The directors of the company are also the charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company’s Articles. Under the requirement of the Memorandum and Articles of Association (Article 54) the directors are appointed for an initial fixed term of up to three years and they are eligible for re-appointment for a second fixed term of up to three years. By agreeing on the 5th day of February 2013 (being the date that Article 54 was adopted) that the directors then in office shall be deemed to be serving the terms of office to which they were appointed, the cycle of staggering the appointments of new directors (trustees) was not interrupted.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed are set out in note 12.

Under Article 53 of the company’s articles, no person may be appointed as a director unless he or she is also a member of the company and he or she has attained the age of 18. They are selected on the basis of their experience and skills. New directors can be co-opted to serve by the board of directors but they cannot be formally appointed until given a vote of approval by the membership at the next AGM.

Risk management
The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The trustees have reviewed the risks to the charity in 2014-2015 and are in the process of taking appropriate action to mitigate any perceived risks.

Public benefit statement
The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit when reviewing objectives and activities.

The Voice of the Listener and Viewer is an independent, non-profit-making membership organisation, free from political, commercial and sectarian affiliations, working for quality and diversity in British broadcasting. It represents the interests of listeners and viewers as citizens and consumers across the full range of broadcasting issues. For over 30 years, VLV has played a unique role in keeping a citizen’s eye on major legislative proposals and action taken by regulators and broadcasters, enabling the voice of consumers to be heard, independent of the interests of political parties, industry players and other pressure groups.
VOICE OF THE LISTENER & VIEWER
Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31st May 2015

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES
Our Objectives
The Company is established:
   (a) for the advancement of the education of the public in all the forms and aspects of
       broadcasting, particularly but not exclusively, by:
       (i) the maintenance, improvement, training and development of the study,
           knowledge and understanding of broadcasting in all its aspects and
           particularly its subject matter, its role in society and its techniques;
       (ii) the promotion of research into all aspects of broadcasting and the
            publication of the useful results of such research for the benefit of the public;
       and
   (b) for the general benefit of the public in such manner as is charitable by promoting the
       continuance and improvement of high standards in broadcasting, both technical and
       artistic, throughout the United Kingdom.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE
All objectives were achieved during the period under review - and significant time was spent ensuring
that VLV would be sufficiently well-positioned and adequately resourced to be represented at the key
BBC Charter Review meetings during 2015 and 2016 and able to respond to all the public
consultations that the Trustees knew would be launched immediately following the General Election
in May 2015.

To this end a decision was made to employ a part-time Public Affairs Manager from November 2014
- initially for a period of three months, using funds raised during VLV’s 30th Anniversary Appeal, and
then for a further six months in anticipation of the sponsorship that the Trustees knew they would be
receiving from the KMG Foundation in June 2015. The Trustees were aware that their decisions -
along with the loss of the surplus generated by VLV’s Spring Conference, which had to be delayed
until the 1st June 2015 because of the General Election - would result in an increase in the shortfall
between VLV’s income and expenditure for the year ending the 31 May 2015. These additional funds
were received as anticipated after the year end and will be shown in the accounts for the year ending
31 May 2016. In addition, an application for a grant which was submitted to the Joseph Rowntree
Charitable Trust in March 2015 was successful. This has enabled VLV to extend our Public Affairs
Manager’s contract to the end of May 2016.

As well as regular e-newsletters and the three printed bulletins, which VLV produces for its members
and supporters each year, the Trustees present an Annual Report to members at their AGM in the
Autumn. This report contains a summary of VLV’s activities during the year including details of the
responses and submissions that we have made to the public consultations and reviews conducted by
the BBC Trust and Ofcom and the policy meetings that VLV has been invited to attend. A copy of our
2014/2015 report to members is submitted with this document.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves Policy
The trustees’ policy is to maintain reserves so that in the event of a winding up they are sufficient to
meet employee entitlement and other commitments.
VOICE OF THE LISTENER & VIEWER
Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31st May 2015

TRUSTEES’ RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
The charity trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees’ annual report and financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and UK accounting standard).

Company law requires that the director/trustees prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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 that the charity company will continue in operation;

Trustees who are also directors for the purposes of company law, in accordance with company law, as the company’s directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant information of which the company’s independent examiner is unaware; and
- as the directors of the company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the charity’s examiner is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRSSE (effective January 2015) and in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 8 October 2015 and signed on its behalf

Colin Browne- Chair
Voice of the Listener & Viewer
VOICE OF THE LISTENER & VIEWER
Financial statements for the year ending 31st May 2015
Charity registration no. 1152136, Company registration no. 04407712

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VOICE OF THE LISTENER & VIEWER

I report on the accounts for the Charity for the year ended 31st May 2015.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner’s report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner’s statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
VOICE OF THE LISTENER & VIEWER
Financial statements for the year ending 31st May 2015
Charity registration no. 1152136, Company registration no. 04407712

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VOICE OF THE LISTENER & VIEWER

Signed by_________________________          Date  3 November 2015
Jillian Shields FMAAT, No 6, The Old Rectory Business Centre, Springhead Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8HN
### Voice of the Listener & Viewer

Financial statements for the year ending 31st May 2015

Charity registration no. 1152136, Company registration no. 04407712

### Statement of Financial Activities

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unrestricted Funds</th>
<th>Designated Funds</th>
<th>Restricted Funds</th>
<th>2014-2015 Total</th>
<th>2013-2014 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Incoming Resources

Incoming Resources from generating funds:

- **Voluntary Income**
  - 22,575
- **Activities for generating funds**
  - 5,779

Incoming Resources from charitable activities

- 5,810

Other incoming resources

- 24

**Total incoming resources**

- 34,188

#### Resourced Expended

Cost of generating funds:

- **Generating voluntary income**
  - 19,911
- **Cost of goods sold**
  - -
- **Charitable activities**
  - 19,431
- **Governance costs**
  - 6,143

**Total resources expended**

- 45,485

**Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers**

- (11,297)

**Net movement in funds**

- -

**Fund balances brought forward**

- 41,017

**Fund Balances carried forward**

- 29,720
VOICE OF THE LISTENER & VIEWER  
Financial statements for the year ending 31st May 2015  
Charity registration no. 1152136, Company registration no. 04407712

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MAY 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Assets</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debtors 9</td>
<td>3,066</td>
<td>9,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank and in hand</td>
<td>48,467</td>
<td>51,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</td>
<td>6,813</td>
<td>5,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Current Assets</td>
<td>44,720</td>
<td>56,017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Funds</td>
<td>29,720</td>
<td>41,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated Funds</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Funds</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Funds</td>
<td>44,720</td>
<td>56,017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements.
VOICE OF THE LISTENER & VIEWER
Financial statements for the year ending 31st May 2015
Charity registration no. 1152136, Company registration no. 04407712

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the period ended 31st May 2015.

The Trustees have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period ended 31st May 2015 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keep accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006.

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provision of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 8 October 2015 and were signed on its behalf by:

__________________________
Colin Browne
Director and Trustee
1. Accounting Policies

**Basis of preparation**
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015), the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of Statement of Recommended Practice “Accounting and Reporting by Charities” (SORP FRSSE).

**Fund Accounting**
Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Funds designated by the trustees for a specified purpose in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity have been included within the Designated Fund.

**Incoming Resources**
Grants are recognised in the accounts when the charity becomes entitled to the grant.

Donations and gifts are included in full upon receipt. Any gift aid reclaimable is included at the time the donation was received.

Donated Services and facilities are included in the accounts where the value of the service can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Income from investments is included when it becomes due.

Income from services provided is included on the date the service was performed.

**Resources Expended**
Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accrual basis, inclusive of VAT. VAT is not recoverable.

**Taxation**
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.
### VOICE OF THE LISTENER & VIEWER

**Financial statements for the year ending 31st May 2015**

Charity registration no. 1152136, Company registration no. 04407712

2. **Voluntary Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>2014-2015</th>
<th>2013-2014</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation from Voice of the Listener Trust</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>38,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>5,208</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,208</td>
<td>15,450</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>13,812</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13,812</td>
<td>16,107</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Aid</td>
<td>3,555</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,555</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>22,575</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>22,575</strong></td>
<td><strong>74,715</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Activities for generating funds include sponsorship and sale of bulletins

4. **Incoming Resources from charitable activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>2014-2015</th>
<th>2013-2014</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences and Seminars</td>
<td>5,810</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,810</td>
<td>13,861</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>5,810</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>5,810</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,861</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Cost of generating voluntary income includes fund raising events, membership information, membership administration including salaries and related overheads.

6. Cost of goods sold includes merchandise and services purchased for resale.
### 7. Charitable activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross Salaries</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>2,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer’s NI</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct costs</td>
<td>14,991</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14,991</td>
<td>7,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office running costs</td>
<td>1,840</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,840</td>
<td>3,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,431</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>19,431</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,576</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 8. Governance costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trustee expenses</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee meeting costs</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent examination &amp; accountancy</td>
<td>1,155</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,155</td>
<td>1,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and overheads</td>
<td>3,806</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,806</td>
<td>4,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGM</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,143</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>6,143</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,280</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 9. Debtors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Debtors</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepayments</td>
<td>2,184</td>
<td>2,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAYE</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift aid</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,066</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,066</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 10. Creditors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accruals</td>
<td>2,880</td>
<td>2,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income</td>
<td>3,933</td>
<td>3,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,813</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,813</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VOICE OF THE LISTENER & VIEWER
Financial statements for the year ending 31st May 2015
Charity registration no. 1152136, Company registration no. 04407712


Total Balance Sheet Funds £44,720

Represented by:
Designated Reserves £15,000
Unrestricted Reserves £29,720

Restricted
Voice of the Listener & Viewer does not have any restricted funds as at 31st May 2015

Designated
Of the remaining funds the trustees have decided to set aside (designate) £15,000 to meet the costs in the event of the charity closing.

Unrestricted
The remaining funds are to support the general expenditure of the charity. The trustees review the level of unrestricted reserves on an annual basis to ensure that funds are spent in a way that will provide the best return possible. This may be to meet any one of the charities strategic goals, such as providing funding for a specific project or be used to fund the cost of obtaining grants for future projects within the charities objectives.

This objective is balanced with the need to ensure that the charity has a level of unrestricted reserves that are available to meet any emergency expenditure requirements. In the worst case scenario it will enable the charity to be wound up in a responsible and ethical manner. To this end the trustees have decided that an appropriate level would be £15K. Whilst the charity is in a period of growth, it is the aim of the trustees to keep this at the minimum level. This is to ensure that all surplus funds are re-invested into the work of the charity and in fulfilling its strategic goals.
12. Trustees’ remuneration and benefits
   - There was no trustees’ remuneration or other benefits for the year ending 31st May 2015. The total reimbursement of expenses incurred whilst performing trustee duties was £545.

13. Voice of the Listener & Viewer is a charitable company limited by guarantee, in the event of the company being wound up each full member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

14. Movement in Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>At 1.06.2014</th>
<th>Net movement in funds</th>
<th>At 31.5.2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted Funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/fwd</td>
<td>41,017</td>
<td>(11,297)</td>
<td>29,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Restricted Funds</td>
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<td>56,017</td>
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Net movement in funds included in above:

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<th></th>
<th>Incoming Resources</th>
<th>Resources expended</th>
<th>Movement in funds</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
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<td>£</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted Funds</strong></td>
<td>34,188</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL FUNDS</td>
<td>34,188</td>
<td>45,485</td>
<td>(11,297)</td>
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Annual Report of
Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd

1 June 2014 - 31 May 2015

Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd
The Old Rectory Business Centre
Springhead Road, Northfleet
Kent DA11 8HN

Tel: 01474 338716
Website: www.vlv.org.uk  Email: info@vlv.org.uk

Examiners:
Shields Brown Accountancy & Tax Services, The Old Rectory Business Centre,
Springhead Road, Northfleet, DA11 8HN

Bankers:
National Westminster Bank, 30 King Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2XX
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Voice of the Listener & Viewer Limited (VLV) represents the citizen and consumer interests in broadcasting and speaks for listeners and viewers on the full range of broadcasting issues. It uses its independent expertise to champion quality and diversity in public service broadcasting, to respond to consultations, to produce policy briefings and to conduct research. VLV has no political, commercial or sectarian affiliations and is concerned with the issues, structures, institutions and regulations that underpin the British broadcasting system. VLV supports the principles of public service in broadcasting. VLV, founded in 1983 by the late Jocelyn Hay CBE, is a membership organisation. It has around 750 active members and through its activities with other citizen and civil society groups and organisations, reaches and keeps informed a far wider audience. It is a charitable company limited by guarantee (registered in England No 4407712 - Charity No 1152136).

1 LIST OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

Hon President        Dame Colette Bowe DBE from April 2015
Chairman             Mr Colin Browne
Hon Treasurer         Ms Toni Charlton
Hon Secretary         Mr Peter Gordon (Acting)

Board of Trustees and Directors
Ms Sophie Chalk       (resigned 11 November 2014)
Mrs Mary Dixon        (from 18 November 2014)
Mr David Eggington    (deceased 2 August 2015)
Ms Dinah Garrett
Professor Sylvia Harvey
Ms Wendy Jones
Mr Patrick McIntosh   (from 18 November 2014)
Mr Christopher Mottershead
Professor Jeanette Steemers
Professor Bob Usherwood
Dr Lynn Whittaker

New patrons - March 2015
Sir Christopher Bland
Mr Will Wyatt CBE
2. OFFICERS’ REPORT

Chairman’s message
2014/15 was a very busy year for the VLV, as we geared up for the debate on the future of the BBC. The report by the House of Commons Select Committee on Culture Media and Sport set the ball rolling and VLV’s detailed and professional response was the first of a number of responses to consultations which will set the ground rules for public service broadcasting for many years to come.

As you will read below, VLV has been active in ensuring that the voice of the consumer is heard, whether through these responses to consultations from government, the BBC and Ofcom, through our programme of conferences and meetings, through participation in seminars and of course through our direct contact with key decision makers.

I am incredibly grateful to my fellow Trustees and many other of our members who give so freely of their time and expertise to enable a voluntary organisation like ours to make a real contribution on these important issues. My thanks to all of them and of course to Sue Washbrook our administrator, who is so well known to many of our members, and to Sophie Chalk, whose appointment as a part-time consultant has added greatly to our capacity to influence the debate.

Finally, we were delighted that Dame Colette Bowe accepted our invitation to become our President. Her experience and advice are a great asset for us at this key time.

Colin Browne, Chairman

Finance
For the first time since VLV has been operating as a stand-alone Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee, we are able to compare two sets of figures for full 12-month years (2014/2015 with 2013/2014 - see page 15).

In doing so, the figures for VLV’s last financial year reveal that our income was down, our expenditure was up, and we ended the year with a deficit between our income and expenditure for the year. There are two key reasons for these results, which the Trustees wish to highlight:

- By delaying VLV’s Spring Conference until 2 June 2015 because of the General Election, the figure against Conferences, Seminars & visits is for income generated by just one Autumn Conference
- The decision to use the funds raised by VLV’s 30th Anniversary Appeal during our previous financial year to employ Sophie Chalk for two days a week from November 2014 as our Public Affairs Manager

Other differences in our income for 2014/2015 include a decrease in membership subscriptions and Gift Aid for just 12 months whereas our claim for 2013/2014 had been for 15 months.

Toni Charlton, Treasurer

Walking with Penguins - Making it to the South Pole
VLV Trustee Patrick McIntosh reached the South Pole on 17 January 2015 after a 222km trek. Patrick said, “It’s like running a marathon every day for 11 days straight, but you’re dragging a sledge of 55kg, at -30°C and 13,000ft above sea level with a constant headwind.” Patrick wished to use his trip as a hook to get people thinking and talking about their health and reacting fast to any
symptoms. He hopes to prove that, with early diagnosis, it is possible to return to an invigorated life after cancer. Patrick raised money for his three chosen charities: Bowel Cancer UK, Prostate Cancer UK and the Voice of the Listener & Viewer. He presented VLV with a cheque for £29,268 at the Spring Conference - a major contribution to VLV’s funds (to be shown in the accounts for 2015/16). VLV is very grateful to Patrick and again congratulates him on such an amazing feat.

3. **IN MEMORY**
Sadly during the last 12 months a number of people closely associated with VLV have died.

**Nancy Thomas** was a long-term VLV member and supporter. She joined the BBC as secretary to the Director-General Sir William Haley and in the 1950s stormed the largely male citadel of BBC Talks at Lime Grove. She left a distinctive mark on arts programming in a BBC career of over 30 years. In the 1980s she made films on Constable and Turner for the Open University, for which she was a powerful advocate. She died in January 2015 aged 96.

**Sandy Chalmers**, 74, died suddenly in February 2015 after a stroke. She was a great supporter of VLV, and helped with many media literacy events. She was Editor, *Woman’s Hour* and the first female station manager at BBC Radio Stoke. She ran BBC Radio Publicity before becoming director of communications at Help the Aged.

**Professor Brian Groombridge** died in July 2015. He was a great supporter of VLV, had been a board director for a time and came to conferences until recently. He was Head of Educational Services at the IBA, Professor of Adult Education and Director of Extra-Mural Studies at the University of London. He worked with the EBU to shape their adult education programming and worked very closely with the University of Finland. He co-founded the University of the 3rd Age - U3A - and was the first chairman of U3A in London.

**VLV Trustee David Eggington**, who died in August 2015, was a lovely, unselfish man who cared about the really important things and exhibited the kind of decency and compassion that is so often missing from our present society. A greatly loved husband and father, he is survived by his wife Elspeth and sons Stephen and Simon.

I first met him when he organised a meeting in Sheffield addressed by the late Jocelyn Hay. That encouraged me to rejoin VLV, having lapsed because of work and professional activities. A member of VLV for over 15 years, David helped arrange events in Sheffield and Manchester. His contributions were both practical and intellectual. He was always enthusiastic whether contributing ideas, designing a VLV banner or producing an ancient radio to illustrate the history of PSB. He led VLV visits often in the North of England, and following one to BBC Radio Merseyside became a volunteer member of the station's 'A' Team answering listeners' queries. People quickly warmed to David and VLV member Leah Fleetwood recounts how he enthusiastically entertained an appreciative crowd, including several enraptured children, by playing one of the public pianos at St Pancras Station.

David spent most of his professional life in careers guidance, a service damaged when the Coalition Government decided English local authorities no longer needed to provide a universal careers service. David never stopped caring about that service or the young people who needed it but also willingly gave his time to support public service broadcasting, public libraries, Green and other issues. Like others, I have lost a good friend. VLV and those who support its values have lost a passionate and committed supporter of PSB.

*Professor Bob Usherwood*
VLV’s 31st Annual Autumn Conference, Geological Society, London W1
Public Service Broadcasting - reframing the debate
18 November 2014

The Challenges facing Public Service Broadcasting
From Channel 4’s perspective Dan Brooke, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Channel 4 with James Heath, Director of Policy, BBC chaired by Raymond Snoddy OBE
The Prospects for Radio Gwyneth Williams, Controller, BBC Radio 4 and Radio 4 Extra and Torin Douglas, MBE chaired by Robin Lustig
Walking with penguins for VLV Patrick McIntosh, VLV Trustee
Changing technologies - what are the implications for viewers and listeners Philip Laven, Chairman, DVB project, Jon Drori CBE, an expert in technology and audience behaviour chaired by Professor Steven Barnett
Rona Fairhead’s in-tray with Richard Ayre, Sir Christopher Bland, Will Wyatt CBE and Professor Steven Barnett

12th Annual General Meeting of VLV, 18 November 2014, Geological Society, London W1
The AGM and Members’ Forum followed the conference (see separate minutes).

The Jocelyn Hay Voice of the Listener & Viewer Lecture 2015
Geological Society, London W1
14 May 2015

Pinkoes and Traitors: The BBC and the nation 1974 - 1987 delivered by Professor Jean Seaton.
The Jocelyn Hay VLV Lecture was established to reflect the huge contribution that Jocelyn Hay, our founder, made to public broadcasting and civic debate over thirty years. The BBC’s official historian, Professor Jean Seaton, gave the second lecture in the series. Having just published the latest volume of the BBC’s history for 1974-1987, Jean had a unique insight into the Corporation’s workings during that crucial period and the lessons and parallels for today’s BBC. VLV Patron Will Wyatt, the former Chief Executive of BBC Broadcast, a rising executive throughout that time, was in the chair.

VLV’s 32nd Annual Spring Conference, Geological Society, London W1
What next for Public Service Broadcasting?
2 June 2015

The Future of News
James Harding, BBC Director for News and Current Affairs chaired by Robin Lustig
In conversation Peter Fincham, Director of Television, ITV with Torin Douglas
What the election result means for Public Service Broadcasting? Panel discussion with Chris Bryant MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Professor Richard Tait and Dr Alice Enders, Enders Analysis chaired by: Steve Hewlett
What next for Radio? Siobhan Kenny, Chief Executive, RadioCentre and writer and broadcaster Trevor Dann chaired by: Gillian Reynolds MBE
5. AWARDS

VLV Awards for Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting 2014

Presented by James Naughtie during VLV’s Spring Conference on 2 June 2015.

The award categories were slightly changed to reflect the changing media landscape.

The VLV is delighted that Arqiva has supported three new awards - for Digital Free to Air TV Channel of the Year, Digital Radio Station of the Year and for the Most Innovative Contribution to the Use of Digital Media.

VLV Chairman Colin Browne said: "The wide range of nominations proposed by our members illustrate the tremendous quality and diversity to be found in UK broadcasting. Winners tell us they particularly value these awards as they are chosen by the people who really matter - engaged listeners and viewers."

VLV Awards 2014 (nominated and voted for by VLV members)

Radio
Best Radio Drama and Comedy Programme: *The News Quiz*, BBC Radio 4
Best Radio Factual Programme: *Germany: Memories of a Nation*, BBC Radio 4
Best Radio Music and Arts Programme: *Composer of the Week*, BBC Radio 3
Best individual contribution to Radio: Martha Kearney

VLV Arqiva Digital Radio Station of the Year: BBC World Service

Television
Best TV Drama Programme: *Downton Abbey*, ITV
Best TV Factual Programme: *Countryfile*, BBC One
Best TV Children’s Programme: *Newsround*, CBBC
Best TV Entertainment Programme: *Strictly Come Dancing*, BBC One
Best Individual Contribution to Television: Professor Brian Cox OBE

VLV Arqiva Digital free to air TV Channel Station of the Year: BBC News Channel HD

VLV Special Awards in the gift of the VLV Trustees, Roberts Radio and Arqiva

The VLV Naomi Sargant Award: Michael Mosley

The award went to Michael Mosley who, as a science producer, worked with presenters who ranged from Lord Winston to Jeremy Clarkson. More recently, as a presenter of medical programmes, he has submitted himself to research which revealed that he shares characteristics with psychopaths, and has popularised the 5.2 diet.

The VLV Arqiva Most Innovative Contribution to the Use of Digital Media: *Springwatch*

The Special Award was selected jointly by Arqiva and the VLV Trustees. It went to BBC Two's *Springwatch* which, together with its sister programmes *Autumnwatch* and *Winterwatch*, makes extensive use of social media, the Red Button, live webcams, linked websites reaching out beyond the live programmes so that people can learn and engage beyond transmission. The programme’s Facebook page had recorded 172,000 ‘likes’ and they have 119,000 followers on Twitter (May 2015). They also make good use of Flickr, Instagram and Soundcloud.

The VLV Robert Radio Special Award (in the gift of Roberts Radio): Neil MacGregor OM, AO, FSA

The VLV Roberts Radio Special Award was awarded to the retiring British Museum Director Neil Macgregor for his outstanding radio series *Germany: memories of a nation* and his *History of the World in 100 Objects*. 
The VLV Special Trustees Award: Gillian Reynolds MBE
The VLV Special Award, awarded by the Trustees, went this year to journalist and broadcaster Gillian Reynolds MBE in recognition of her support for the concept of public service broadcasting and of course in particular for radio. Radio critic of The Daily Telegraph since 1975, she previously held the same post at The Guardian for seven years. In between these two jobs she was the first programme controller of Radio City in Liverpool. She has also been a great supporter of the VLV since it started in 1983.

6. VLV RESPONSES TO CONSULTATIONS

The Board responds, on behalf of VLV members, to a wide range of public consultations impacting on public service broadcasting. VLV has been active in responding to these consultations, thanks in no small part to the pool of talented, unpaid experts on which we are able to call. For major consultations VLV encourages members to respond directly or to send in their views and issues of concern to VLV so that they can be incorporated unto VLV’s submissions. VLV is very grateful to everyone who has contributed to this important part of its work.

The following responses were submitted during the period 1 June 2014 until 31 May 2015. Summaries of some of the major responses are included. Full submissions of all consultations can be read on VLV’s website.

BBC Trust
- BBC Trust Fair Trading Policy Review (30 May 2014)
- BBC Trust Service Review of BBC Music Radio (29 October 2014)
- The BBC Trust Public Value Test of the BBC Executive’s proposals for the closure of BBC Three as a broadcast channel (16 February 2015)
- BBC Trust: Arrangements for the supply of Television and Radio content and Online services (20 March 2015)

BBC Trust Fair Trading Policy Review (30 May 2014)
VLV considers that the BBC Trust maintains a comprehensive set of fair trading policies which in the main are systematic and relevant. In general VLV supports these and believes they are reasonably devised and implemented, as the relatively small number of recent fair trading complaints would suggest. However since serious complaints about fair trading and competitive impact generally come from those with a commercial interest rather than from members of the general public, the low level of complaints might also suggest that current policies work in the best interests of commercial parties and that considerable (arguably excessive) weight is given to those interests.

VLV does not wish to comment on the detail of these policies but, as a consumer body representing the interests of BBC audiences and supporting diversity in public service broadcasting, it urges the Trust to ensure that it does get the overall balance right. Fair trading and competitive impact policies should not unnecessarily hinder the provision of excellent services and content and, in applying these policies rigorously, the BBC should not lose sight of the overall priority of serving the licence fee payer.
**BBC Trust Service Review of BBC Music Radio** *(29 October 2014)*

VLV believes BBC music radio makes a valuable contribution to the cultural landscape of the UK. While we understand the rationale behind grouping music services together for this review, we believe that these services have little in common with each other and in many cases do not share the same listeners. The audience is fragmented by different tastes – classical, popular, easy listening, Asian etc. BBC Radio 2 and 3 are core listening for many of our members.

VLV’s members appear to be mostly concerned with the future of Radio 3, partly perhaps because they are avid Radio 3 listeners and partly perhaps because they fear it may be more vulnerable to cuts because it is considered niche and less popular than other channels such as Radio 1 or 2. VLV encourages the BBC Trust to consider the comprehensive delivery of a range of music to a range of audiences. Radio 3 is highly valued by its loyal listeners and we would encourage the Trust to consider this when making its recommendations.

**The BBC Trust Public Value Test of the BBC Executive’s proposals for the closure of BBC Three as a broadcast channel** *(16 February 2015)*

VLV welcomes the opportunity to respond to this BBC Trust consultation and looks forward to the BBC Trust’s second period of consultation once it has conducted the public value and market impact assessments of the BBC Executive’s proposals.

High quality, engaging content on television across a range of genres which appeals to a range of different ages and demographics is essential if we are to be a well-informed society and maintain our democratic engagement with the world around us. VLV values the contribution BBC Three makes in engaging a younger adult audience (16-34 year olds) with issues which are important to all of us. It achieves its most important purposes through current affairs and factual output which are distinctively different from other programming available on television in the UK, and therefore we oppose its closure as a broadcast channel.


These four radio stations - BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 4 Extra, BBC Radio 5 live and BBC Radio 5 live Sports Extra – are core listening for many of our members and Radio 4 has been central to the concerns of VLV since our foundation in 1983. We have focused our comments mostly on Radio 4 and Radio 5 live. We do not believe the service licences should be changed for any of the stations being reviewed.

VLV believes that, overall, the BBC’s speech radio services are of high quality and serve a range of audiences well. It is our members’ view that there is no other service in the UK which compares with BBC Radio 4 in its provision of range, depth, and variety of content. It provides this material across a range of genres, from news and current affairs to more subject specific analysis and discussion, to drama and comedy programmes. Its presenters, reporters and contributors are expert at providing radio which is both intelligent and engaging.

Radio 5 live covers domestic and international breaking news stories and sports coverage with energy and confidence and makes a notable effort to include a wide range of experts. It does, however, need to ensure that its sports coverage remains distinctive and remains high quality, avoiding a tendency towards excessive ‘blokeishness’ and aimless chat. Radio 5 live Sports Extra provides welcome live coverage of sports not available elsewhere, such as club rugby and cricket, including county championship cricket.
BBC Trust: Arrangements for the supply of Television and Radio content and Online services (20 March 2015)
Overall VLV believes that the principles laid out in the BBC Trust document are the correct principles to guide any future changes to the BBC’s content supply arrangements. While we endorse the principles set out in this consultation we understand they will be affected by the BBC Executive’s plans to create an independent production unit to supply BBC content. We will wish to comment on those proposals once they are published in more detail. It is VLV’s view that news and a significant amount of current affairs content should be made in-house, along with a significant proportion of work in other key genres (Drama, Children’s, Comedy and Entertainment). We echo the Director-General’s view that the BBC should not become a publisher broadcaster and that the principle of choosing the best ideas regardless of their source is an important one and should be supported.

DCMS: TV Licence Enforcement Review (1 May 2015)
VLV wants a licence fee enforcement system that maximizes licence fee income whilst being proportionate to the offence of non-payment of the licence fee. We do not want people who find it difficult to pay their licence fee to be more severely penalised than they are already under the existing enforcement regime. We are concerned that non-payment of licence fees reduces the BBC’s income, which is not fair to those that pay for a licence, so we welcome any recommendations that emerge from the Review, which might discourage avoidance.

We would recommend that any change in the current enforcement system needs to be thought through carefully. We believe it should include a cost benefit analysis of the options, including their impact on licence fee evasion and income for Public Service Broadcasting (PSB).

Ofcom
- Consultation on changes proposed by ESTV to programming commitments set out in its licence for its local television service London Live. (23 August 2014)
- Consultation on the future use of the 700 MHz band - cost-benefit analysis of changing its use to mobile services (August 2014)
- Ofcom’s consultation on the UK preparations for World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) (September 2014)
- Response to Ofcom’s call for inputs to the media plurality measurement framework (27 November 2014)
- Ofcom’s Third Public Service Broadcasting Review: Public Service Content in a Connected Society (26 February 2015)

Consultation on changes proposed by ESTV to programming commitments set out in its licence for its local television service London Live. (23 August 2014)
VLV agrees with the conclusion of Ofcom, as set out in the Notice of proposed change to L-DTPS licence obligations of ESTV Limited, that these proposals will result in a departure from the character of the service as originally proposed.

VLV believes that the proposed changes by ESTV would lead to a reduction in the number and range of programmes available for the audience locally and would therefore undermine the delivery of the service to meet the needs of the area. The licence for London Live was awarded through a competitive tendering process. VLV assumes that the reason ESTV’s bid was successful
was because the company put forward the most sensible business plan and proposed the best range of local programming appropriate for the London audience. We note there has been much media coverage about the lower than expected viewing figures and financial losses ESTV suffered in its first 13 months. We also note that London Live plans to cancel its originally commissioned and acquired entertainment programming in favour of news and current affairs.

Consultation on the future use of the 700 MHz band - cost-benefit analysis of changing its use to mobile services (August 2014)
VLV believes that the case for moving the broadcasters and their viewers from the 700 MHz section of the electromagnetic spectrum has not yet been made. We believe that Ofcom’s proposals give insufficient weight to the damaging impact of such a change on broadcasters using the DTT system and the consequent detriment to consumers and citizens. The public broadcasters depend on DTT to provide citizens with a full range of services, on a universal basis and free at the point of reception - a principle that has underpinned the ecology of UK broadcasting for many decades and which could be seriously endangered if broadband became the reception mechanism on which audiences had routinely to rely. In particular, the BBC’s ability to achieve virtual universal reach and the audience’s ability to access the BBC’s services conveniently and without cost would be seriously prejudiced, potentially undermining the case for strong and stable funding of the BBC, which the VLV believes to be essential to safeguard the continuing outstanding success of the UK's broadcasting sector.

As a minimum, we believe that any change in spectrum allocation should be phased in over a significantly longer period than suggested by Ofcom; and that the DTT broadcasters should then be guaranteed sufficient spectrum at the 600 and 500 MHz bands to allow them to provide a full range of services, including innovative and expanded services such as 3D. Without such a guarantee, the DTT operators will not have the certainty to allow them to invest for the long term and the system will slowly decline.

In addition, there should be a clear principle that consumers should not have to bear the cost of any modifications to receiving equipment. All such costs should be borne by the mobile operators who will be the main beneficiaries of any change and not by the licence fee paying public nor programme audiences generally.

Ofcom’s consultation on the UK preparations for World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) (September 2014)
It is clear from the Ofcom document that the WRC conference covers a very wide range of spectrum issues and Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) is one small part of that range. Our interests are wholly focused on the issue and principle of the universal availability of DTT and of public service broadcasting (PSB), distributed and made available to all citizens free at the point of use. We believe it is vital that PSB services are available in this manner and that they should also be free of the potential editorial interference that might come from non-PSB platform gatekeepers. We therefore limit our response to comments on the implications of proposals for DTT in the UK and in Europe.

Ofcom’s call for inputs to the media plurality measurement framework (27 November 2014)
VLV believes this work is vital if Ofcom is to be able to assess media plurality adequately and thus fulfil its primary duty to further the interests of citizens and consumers in communications matters. It is crucial that such a framework is in place so that any future issues of media plurality can be assessed against accepted and established criteria, rather than as an 'ad hoc' response to a particular set of circumstances.
Ofcom's Review of Channel 4 Corporation's Delivery of its Media Duties (2010 - 2013)  
(26 February 2015)
We generally agree with Ofcom’s provisional findings that C4C is effectively delivering its media content duties in an evolving broadcasting landscape and provides a broad range of content which is distinctively different from the other UK public service broadcasters and which appeals to a diverse audience. We note that audience appreciation levels appear strong especially for international content and content which is perceived as diverse.

The main channel, Channel 4, plays an important role in providing plurality of supply in key genres alongside the other PSBs, but most importantly it acts as a foil to the BBC. We believe that the main channel is particularly successful in challenging established views and promoting new perspectives.

Additionally the main channel, along with its portfolio channels, plays an important role in attracting a broad range of viewers, especially younger adults.

We believe that C4C’s Creative Renewal strategy, implemented since 2010, has been largely successful. It has seen increased investment in new originations on its main channel and the development of new platforms, such as 4Seven to increase C4C’s reach and impact.

Ofcom’s Third Public Service Broadcasting Review: Public Service Content in a Connected Society (26 February 2015)
This is an important time for Public Service Broadcasting (PSB). The broadcasting world is currently in a state of transition which is leading to a widening generation gap in usage trends and a slow move away from the viewing of live television for some audiences. However, we note that this trend to move away from live television has not proved to be as great as anticipated in the last PSB Review and VLV believes that live and recorded viewing and listening will remain the primary means by which the public consume public service content for at least the coming decade.

VLV is very concerned by the continuing decline in investment in first run UK content by the PSBs which could undermine the current PSB system. While audience satisfaction levels appear to remain high, we fear that in time this reduction in investment will inevitably lead to a reduction in the distinctiveness and quality of UK specific content.

VLV believes that the chief threats to the future of PSB are:

- further reductions in the purchasing power of the BBC licence fee through top slicing or an inadequate licence fee settlement
- the loss of cultural distinctiveness in programming partly as a result of increased subcontracting of programme production to US-owned, multi-national companies
- the privatisation of Channel 4
- the increasing challenge to ensure prominence and discoverability of the PSBs as more and more people access television on a range of devices including mobile.

European Commission and RSPG

Draft Radio Spectrum Policy Group Opinion on Common Policy Objectives for WRC-15  
(12 January 2015)
The VLV welcomes the opportunity to respond to the European Commission’s (EC) RSPG consultation regarding its opinions published as preparation for the forthcoming World
Radiocommunication Conference in 2015 (WRC-15). In June 2014 the British telecommunications regulator, Ofcom, opened a consultation inviting contributions.

VLV interests are solely focused on the degree to which spectrum policy affects the wellbeing of Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) distributed and made available to all citizens free at the point of use. We believe it is vital that PSB services are available in this manner and that they should also be free of the potential editorial interference that might come from non-PSB platform gatekeepers. Our comments are therefore limited to a consideration of the allocation of the Ultra High Frequency (UHF) bands to television broadcasting between 470 MHz and 694 MHz, as well as the related prospects for the 700 MHz band (694 to 790 MHz), and the potential for the re-allocation of all or part of that spectrum to other uses, in particular to MT and WBB services.


VLV is anxious to preserve the public value of DTT and its Public Services and robustly to protect the UHF spectrum that will remain after the 700 MHz band is re-allocated. We welcome the RSPG opinion that the band 470-694 MHz should remain available for DTT until at least 2030. We would oppose any attempt by the forthcoming World Radio Conference, WRC-15, to allocate this spectrum on a Co-Primary basis because it will undermine DTT in Europe at this time.

VLV is deeply concerned at the growing demands of Mobile Telephone and Wireless Broadband operators for the Ultra High Frequency (UHF) spectrum currently used by Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) to be re-allocated to their use. We oppose any such step by WRC-15 but realise that some of that spectrum, the 700 MHz band, will probably be re-allocated.

7 OTHER VLV ACTIVITIES

The events organised by VLV are the public face of the organisation. However, VLV Trustees, supported by others with specialist knowledge, are active every month on a range of important committees and attend other events, mostly involved with representing the interests of the citizen and consumer. The list below is not exhaustive.

- The Trustees of VLV met five times during the year and the Operations Committee met monthly.
- VLV attended a range of consultations and meetings at the media regulator, Ofcom
- VLV attended the Consumer Forum for Communications
- VLV was represented on the DCMS Committees and Working Groups that deal with digital radio and digital television switchover
- VLV representatives attend some Westminster Media Forum events
- Sophie Chalk spoke at EBU conference in Budapest on the public value of broadcasting in October 2014
- Professor Sylvia Harvey attended the annual conference of the National Council of Women of Great Britain as VLV’s representative in York in October 2014
• Trustees attend or monitor hearings of the relevant Parliamentary Select Committees

• VLV Trustees have one to one policy discussions with key players in broadcasting

• VLV also engages with other third sector organisations such as the National Consumer Federation, National Council of Women, Mothers’ Union, NVCO, Action Age Alliance, Children’s Media Foundation and University of the Third Age.

8 COMMUNICATIONS

It is important that VLV communicates with its members and associated organisations to keep them up-to-date with media issues of the day and to provide an information source for those interested in maintaining the quality of public service broadcasting in this country. During the year two Bulletins were produced.

In addition to the printed Bulletin, VLV now issues a regular e-newsletter, only distributed by email, with shorter news items enabling members to keep even more up-to-date. The VLV website is a useful source of current information about broadcasting. All VLV’s submissions to consultations are put onto the website as well as news releases, information from the e-newsletters and Bulletins.

Press releases were issued around all major events and consultations throughout the year, including: comment on Ofcom’s decision to hand over the 700MHz band to mobile broadband operators and on the Commons CMS Select Committee’s report on the Future of the BBC. Chairman Colin Browne and Sophie Chalk were the main spokespeople for VLV and appeared on several radio programmes. VLV is frequently asked for its views on a range of broadcasting issues.

Dinah Garrett
Trustee

November 2015
## Profit and Loss Account for the year ending 31st May 2015

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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOLT Grants</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>38,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
<td>5,105</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>13,812</td>
<td>16,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences, Seminars &amp; visits</td>
<td>5,810</td>
<td>13,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>5,208</td>
<td>15,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletins, inserts and adverts</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift aid</td>
<td>3,555</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. and interest</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>34,188</td>
<td>92,256</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **EXPENDITURE**          |               |               |
| Wages and salaries (excl. N.I.) | 12,380 | 12,513        |
| Employer’s N.I. contributions | -     | 638           |
| Freelance Public Affairs manager | 13,301 | -             |
| Rent                      | 3,724         | 4,566         |
| Insurance                 | 1,047         | 751           |
| Producing bulletins and reports | 1,567   | 2,617         |
| Conferences and seminars  | 2,917         | 6,577         |
| Telephone & internet      | 1,697         | 1,677         |
| IT/Website                | 1,937         | 2,555         |
| Subscriptions             | 67            | 248           |
| Training                  | -             | 456           |
| Printing, postage, stationery & photocopier | 1,649  | 2,254         |
| Awards                    | 1,432         | 1,256         |
| Marketing                 | 120           | -             |
| Travel and Subsistence    | 625           | 568           |
| Bookkeeping               | 280           | 390           |
| Accountancy               | 875           | 875           |
| Legal and Professional fees | -     | 840           |
| Staff Welfare             | 23            |               |
| Bank charges              | 662           | 738           |
| Fixture fittings & equipment depreciation | -     | -             |
| AGM, Trustee expenses and meeting costs | 1,182  | 280           |
| **Total Expenditure**     | 45,485        | 39,818        |
| **Deficit for the year**  | (11,297)      | 52,438        |
| **FUNDS b/fwd**           | 56,017        | 3,579         |
| **FUNDS HELD**            | 44,720        | 56,017        |