
PUBLIC LAW PROJECT

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2005**

**Company Number: 2368562
(England and Wales)**

PUBLIC LAW PROJECT

Company Information

Management Committee	Kate Markus Richard de Friend (resigned March 05) Sue Pitt Richard Stein Maurice Sunkin Parul Desai (resigned Dec 04) Peter Greig
Chair	Kate Markus
Treasurer	Peter Greig
Secretary	Pamela Powell
Company Number	2368562
Charity Number	1003342
Registered Office	266-268 Holloway Road London N7 6NE
Auditors	PKF (UK) LLP Accountants & Business Advisers Farringdon Place 20 Farringdon Road London EC1M 3AP
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank Plc Nine Brindleyplace 4 Oozells Square Birmingham B1 2HE

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005

The Management Committee present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2005.

Principal activities and review

Objects

The Public Law Project is a national charity whose objects, as defined by the Memorandum of Association are:

To secure access to and the benefit and protection of, public law and good administrative practice for those in need of it but for whom by reason of poverty, discrimination, social, economic or other disadvantage, it is not readily available or accessible.

To promote, carry out and commission research into the principles and practice of public law and administration, and to publish the results.

To make the principles and practice of public law and administration known and accessible.

Within this broad remit the Public Law Project has adopted three main objectives:-

- 1) increasing the accountability of public decision-makers;
- 2) enhancing the quality of public decision-making;
- 3) improving access to justice.

To fulfill these objectives the charity continues its programme of work in research, policy, casework, legal advice, legal education, publications and outreach activities. The work includes convening representatives from other organisations, academics and practitioners for conferences, seminars, lectures and other joint initiatives.

Activities

Our legal advice and casework continue to cover a variety of areas, including residential care for elderly people, the right of access to the courts for the poor, corporate accountability and Community Care.

Our contract with the Legal Services Commission continues. We also have a general civil contract with the Legal Services Commission, which allows us to undertake certificated work. We continue to work with Liberty on Public Law and Human Rights matters.

Since March 2004 PLP has been supported by the following charitable trusts and foundations: The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to challenge work-related deaths; Tudor Trust to undertake training and provision of information to debt advisors; Esmee Fairburn Foundation for the development of PLP's training and events programme (from April 2005); and will start a new research project (The Permission Stage Project) this autumn in association with The University of Essex with funding from The Nuffield Foundation. The Nuffield Foundation also supported PLP in preliminary work in alternative dispute resolution.

The management Committee thanks all its funders and donors for their generous support which has enabled us to carry out our work and thanks the staff for their commitment to the project and its work.

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Financial review

The charity had net outgoing resources on unrestricted funds of £5,603 for the year. Together with the accumulated surplus brought forward from previous years, the charity now has an accumulated surplus on unrestricted funds of £8,101 (2004: £13,704). Restricted funds carried forward at 31 March 2005 amounted to £11,839 (2004: £1,500). This is sufficient for the activities for which the funds were provided.

Company status

The project is a non-profit making company, limited by guarantee and, registered at Companies House under the number 2368562. The company is registered with the Charity Commissioners under the number 1003342.

Management Committee

The Members of the Management Committee perform the role of directors in company law, and are the trustees in charity law. Those who served during the year, except where indicated, were:

Richard de Friend (resigned March 05)
Richard Stein
Parul Desai (resigned Dec 04)

Peter Greig (Treasurer)
Kate Markus (Chair)
Maurice Sunkin
Sue Pitt

Statement of the Management Committee's responsibilities

Company law requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Management Committee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Management Committee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Risk management

The directors have assessed the major risks to which the company is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the company, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate our exposure to them. However the directors are aware that the loss of a major funder or contract could lead to closure or a severe curtailment of the company's operations. To mitigate against this happening the company endeavours to provide the highest possible level of service to both its clients and the funders and is constantly seeking to generate additional income.

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Reserves policy

The directors' policy is to carry sufficient reserves to cover the day-to-day fluctuations in income and expenditure but, having considered the position, do not believe it is feasible to accumulate sufficient reserves to cover the loss of a major funder.

Events since the end of the year

In the opinion of the directors no event since the balance sheet date significantly affects the company's financial position.

This report was approved by the Management Committee onand signed on its behalf by:

Pamela Powell
Secretary

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC LAW PROJECT

We have audited the financial statements of The Public Law Project for the year ended 31 March 2005 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheets and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members 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 company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Management Committee and auditors

The responsibilities of the Management Committee, whose members are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law, for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Management Committee.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Management Committee's Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the charitable company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding remuneration of the Management Committee and transactions with the charitable company is not disclosed.

We read the Management Committee's Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at 31 March 2005 and the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

London, UK

2005

PKF (UK) LLP
Registered Auditors