

No.391/24

13th December 2023

TO: ALL BRANCHES

Dear Colleague,

CWU Accounts 2023

Please find attached the Financial Statement required by Section 32A of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 as amended, for the period 1st January to 31st December 2023.

Please can you ensure that this information is brought to the attention of the members of your Branch.

Also attached are the details of the monies that make up Branch Funds and including Regions. The attached document lists each Branch with the brought forward balance from 2022 and the closing balance for 2023. This demonstrates the movement in each account for the financial year 2023.

Any enquiries regarding this Letter to Branches should be addressed to the Senior Deputy General Secretary's Department on telephone number 020 8971 7237, or email address sdgs@cwu.org

Yours sincerely,



Tony Kearns
Senior Deputy General Secretary



Statement 32a 2023 (signed).pdf 2023 Branch Funds Year End Figures.pdf

Communication Workers Union

Statement to Members for period ended 31 December 2023

This statement is issued in connection with the Union’s annual return for 31 December 2023. As required by Section 32A of Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Income and Expenditure

The total income of the union for the period was £28,269,590. This amount included £26,619,467 from members’ subscriptions. The union’s total expenditure for the period was £32,326,608.

Political Fund

In respect of the union’s political fund, its total income was £1,331,476. This amount included £1,331,438 from members’ subscriptions and total expenditure was £1,024,090.

Analysis of Officials' Salaries and Benefits

Office Held	Gross Salary £	Employers NI £	Pension £	Other Benefits £	Total £
General Secretary – D Ward	116,537	13,508	18,887	-	148,932
National Executive - M Kavanagh	2,875	-	-	-	2,875
National Executive – D Glebocki	7,533	-	-	-	7,533
National Executive – K Woolley	27,004	2,641	-	-	29,645
National Executive – S Banbury	1,622	116	-	-	1,738
National Executive – T Bouch	425	-	-	-	425

Irregularity Statement

A member who is concerned that some irregularity may be occurring, or have occurred, in the conduct of the financial affairs of the union may take steps with a view to investigating further, obtaining clarification and, if necessary, securing regularisation of that conduct.

The member may raise any such concern with such one or more of the following as it seems appropriate to raise it with: the officials of the union, the trustees of the property of the union, the auditor or auditors of the union, the Certification Officer (who is an independent officer appointed by the Secretary of State) and the police.

Where a member believes that the financial affairs of the union have been or are being conducted in breach of the law or in breach of the rules of the union and contemplates bringing civil proceedings against the union or responsible officials or trustees, they should consider obtaining independent legal advice”.

Withdrawal from the Political Fund

Members who joined the CWU after 1st March 2018 and who gave notice that they wished to contribute to the Political Fund, may withdraw that notice by giving notice to the union (a “withdrawal notice”).

Auditor’s Report

Please refer to the attached extract as contained within the Union’s AR21 submission.

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of the Communication Workers Union

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Union's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its result 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 Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

We have audited the financial statements of the Communication Workers Union (the 'Union') for the year ended 31 December 2023, which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Changes in Funds and Reserves, 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 FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Union 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 with these requirements.

Conclusions relating to Going Concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the National Executive Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Union's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the National Executive Council with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The National Executive Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Senior Deputy General Secretary, 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. 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 themselves. 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 of the Communication Workers Union (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters to which the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept in accordance with the requirements of the Act; or
- the Union has not maintained a satisfactory system of controls over its transactions; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the National Executive Council

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Executive Council, the National Executive Council is 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 National Executive Council determines 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 National Executive Council is responsible for assessing the Union'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 National Executive Council either intend to liquidate the Union 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.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Non-compliance with laws and regulations

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Union and the industry in which it operates, drawing on our broad sector experience, and considered the risk of acts by the Union that were contrary to these laws and regulations, including fraud. We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, UK tax legislation and equivalent local laws and regulations.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- review of minutes of meetings of those charged with governance for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- review of correspondence with regulatory and tax authorities for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- review of financial statement disclosures and agreeing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- review of legal expenditure accounts to understand the nature of expenditure incurred; and
- discussion with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Communication Workers Union (continued)

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

Fraud

As part of designing our audit, we determined materiality and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, including how fraud may occur by enquiring of management of its own consideration of fraud. In particular, we looked at where management made subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. We also considered potential financial or other pressures, opportunity and motivations for fraud. As part of this discussion we identified the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud and how management monitor these processes.

Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- reading minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any evidence of fraud or suspected fraud;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested journal entries and other adjustments for inappropriate or unusual journals outside of our expectations, as well as for any significant transactions outside the normal course of business, taking into consideration the scope for management to manipulate financial results;
- Assessing the design and operating effectiveness of controls and procedures relevant to the preparation of the financial statements and the detection and prevention of irregularities and fraud;
- assessing the appropriateness of key estimates and judgements made by management and challenged the assumptions used in accounting estimates. We considered the key estimates to be the valuation of the defined benefit pension scheme liability and the carrying value of debtor balances.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Councils 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 members of the Communication Workers Union, as a body, in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Union 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 Union as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

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Gareth M Jones FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of BDO LLP, Statutory Auditor
London, UK

Date: 06 December 2024

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

CWU

2023 Branch and Region Bank Balances

		Branch Fund £		Welfare Fund £		Political Fund £	
		2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Total Branches and Regions		6,195,124	5,849,996	74,293	78,538	528,426	466,218
00001	Eastern Region	16,075	21,828	-	-	5,476	3,465
00002	Midlands Region	32,588	33,617	-	-	16,958	13,080
00003	North East Region	62,467	46,610	-	-	7,305	16,381
00004	Northern Ireland Region	28,294	26,926	-	-	-	-
00005	North West Region	31,333	30,168	-	-	12,667	11,175
00006	Scotland Region	42,902	51,040	-	-	19,124	16,631
00007	South East Region	48,844	52,540	-	-	8,980	9,706
00008	South West Region	19,040	26,280	-	-	17,178	14,419
00009	Wales & Marches Region	35,010	40,945	-	-	9,831	9,480
00010	London Region	60,514	67,209	-	-	10,245	7,301
01/001	Essex Amal	96,394	100,873	-	-	4,212	2,688
01/002	Colchester & District	19,609	16,330	-	-	1,020	541
01/003	Eastern No. 3	57,826	46,404	-	-	5,890	5,440
01/004	Eastern No. 4	54,687	37,974	-	-	2,593	2,203
01/005	Eastern No. 5	81,736	76,067	462	1,262	3,219	1,596
01/006	Eastern No. 6	30,330	31,200	-	-	5,900	4,856
01/008	Suffolk Amal	32,968	28,774	-	-	828	1,370
01/009	South Central Postal	73,651	58,656	-	-	2,136	962
02/001	Birmingham District Amal	46,495	37,310	-	-	966	2,067
02/002	South Midlands Postal	23,599	26,531	-	-	1,378	709
02/003	Leicestershire	45,358	48,404	-	-	2,773	2,043
02/005	Wolverhampton District Amal	53,751	58,791	-	-	5,151	5,565
02/006	Derbyshire	18,728	14,746	-	-	1,627	952
02/007	North Staffordshire Postal	10,555	14,321	-	-	2,097	1,693
02/008	Nottingham District Amal	59,238	62,093	-	-	5,810	4,616
03/001	Doncaster & District Amal	50,489	39,831	-	-	1,423	663
03/002	South Yorkshire & District Amal	72,059	55,207	-	-	5,031	4,051
03/003	Bradford & District Amal	23,881	27,586	-	-	4,034	3,479
03/005	Leeds No. 1 Amal	87,636	75,935	-	-	4,062	2,742
03/006	York and District Amal	33,611	27,321	-	-	5,931	5,050
03/007	Hull and East Riding Amal	17,953	12,948	-	-	2,704	2,170
03/008	Newcastle Amal	97,567	90,287	-	-	7,916	6,797
03/010	Cleveland Amal	35,778	34,362	-	-	3,622	1,953
03/011	Durham County	20,476	22,568	-	-	1,847	3,332
04/001	Northern Ireland Combined	60,445	56,655	-	-	-	-
04/002	Northern Ireland East	17,075	16,612	-	-	-	-
04/003	Northern Ireland West	38,325	23,144	-	-	-	-
05/002	Isle of Man	6,114	6,315	-	-	-	-
05/003	Cheshire No. 1 Amal	16,952	14,382	-	-	1,489	1,384
05/004	North West Central Amal	85,611	90,716	-	-	7,574	7,332
05/006	Greater Manchester	114,976	110,798	-	-	8,276	7,071
05/007	North West No. 1	59,995	55,837	-	-	2,300	2,206
05/010	East Lancashire Amal	20,154	17,547	-	-	2,808	2,324
05/011	North Lancashire and Cumbria	76,793	88,219	-	-	7,031	6,083
05/012	Darwen Capita	2,515	1,892	-	-	-	-
05/013	Warrington Mail Centre	21,652	20,208	-	-	92	582
06/001	Glasgow District Amal	146,445	123,432	-	-	17,274	14,085
06/002	Scotland No. 2	4,807	14,339	-	-	4,005	3,617
06/003	Grampian and Shetland Amal	39,630	29,313	-	-	3,525	2,778

		Branch Fund £		Welfare Fund £		Political Fund £	
		2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
06/005	Scotland No. 5	25,519	26,379	-	-	2,341	1,647
06/006	Clyde Valley Amal	21,264	18,448	-	-	2,076	1,683
06/007	Orkney	1,889	2,213	-	-	812	770
06/008	Highland Amal	18,223	15,044	-	-	1,707	1,612
07/002	Portsmouth & District Postal	39,578	32,519	-	-	1,486	1,614
07/003	Southdowns, Weald & Rother	97,942	106,324	-	-	5,563	3,330
07/004	Kent Invicta	83,129	105,578	-	-	7,134	6,684
07/005	South East No. 5	106,047	92,316	-	-	3,745	3,974
08/001	Western Counties	91,759	79,253	-	-	4,336	3,339
08/002	Plymouth & East Cornwall Amal	28,751	40,738	-	-	5,982	4,638
08/003	Bournemouth & Dorset Amal	55,386	49,775	-	-	3,624	2,650
08/004	Wessex South Central	68,517	73,779	-	-	5,093	4,687
08/005	Bristol & District Amal	68,588	57,795	-	-	3,632	2,420
08/006	Gloucestershire Amal	39,670	34,014	-	-	4,245	3,399
08/007	South West No. 7	59,391	59,171	-	-	2,591	1,412
08/009	Jersey	6,516	4,057	-	-	-	-
08/010	Guernsey	7,210	8,788	-	-	-	-
08/011	Worcester & Hereford Amal	33,329	37,152	4,275	4,275	3,162	2,453
08/012	Cornwall Amal	22,738	15,139	-	-	2,117	1,608
09/001	North Wales and the Marches	66,428	76,412	-	-	6,024	4,432
09/002	Shropshire & Mid Wales	17,450	12,926	-	-	466	2,144
09/003	South East Wales Amal	63,532	61,452	-	-	3,178	2,211
09/004	South West Wales Amal	13,758	15,885	-	-	4,076	2,809
09/005	Gwent Amal	30,773	26,618	-	-	1,979	1,621
10/002	Mount Pleasant	52,772	48,946	-	-	4,099	4,169
10/004	London Phoenix	19,898	16,391	-	-	879	1,049
10/009	Northern Home Counties Postal	40,544	44,099	-	-	3,020	2,666
10/011	London Parcels & Station Amal	11,842	10,737	-	-	7,251	6,821
10/012	Northern & North West London	74,252	75,687	-	-	4,670	3,656
10/013	East London Postal	20,458	30,466	-	-	2,215	1,781
10/015	West London Postal	24,863	24,978	-	-	4,528	4,024
10/016	South East London Postal & Counters	23,344	28,976	-	-	1,554	1,687
10/017	London South West	54,915	60,164	-	-	5,689	4,941
10/018	Kingston Area	24,769	30,732	-	-	1,990	2,476
10/019	Romford Amal	60,382	51,819	3,972	3,216	2,718	2,374
10/020	Harrow & District	33,350	30,448	-	-	3,099	3,267
10/021	South & East Thames Amal	62,268	63,831	-	-	6,246	5,293
10/022	Croydon & Sutton Amal	40,681	38,830	-	-	1,704	2,237
10/023	South West Middlesex Amal	39,748	33,798	-	-	8,019	6,868
21/006	South Central MT	5,830	6,366	-	-	-	-
21/819	Central Counties & Thames Valley	88,535	77,115	2,516	1,798	2,215	1,593
21/827	South East Anglia	47,434	40,284	-	-	5,287	4,831
21/831	North Anglia	81,944	72,043	-	-	5,624	4,471
22/032	Midland No 1	155,385	143,244	10,176	10,176	11,030	9,112
22/239	Midlands MT	8,931	8,987	-	-	-	-
22/601	Algas National	44,952	51,386	-	-	-	-
22/803	East Midlands	129,260	98,674	4,180	4,180	13,219	6,921
22/809	Coventry (MERGED 22/803)	-	31,095	-	-	-	4,230
23/404	South Yorkshire	51,849	49,738	562	562	4,009	3,706
23/669	Tyne & Wear Clerical	66,681	63,422	-	-	1,940	3,494
23/808	North East	77,391	71,577	1,353	2,353	1,452	3,707
23/817	Lincoln & South Yorks	26,059	31,359	-	-	3,654	3,108
23/830	West Yorkshire	104,564	77,786	5,839	8,666	4,721	2,883
24/024	Northern Ireland Telecom	88,397	73,296	-	-	-	-
25/274	Manchester Combined	69,376	57,757	-	-	4,146	3,551

		Branch Fund £		Welfare Fund £		Political Fund £	
		2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
25/646	Mersey	37,890	38,889	1,182	1,582	1,649	1,653
25/730	Bootle Financial Services	43,245	46,427	-	-	4,774	5,096
25/732	Northern & National FS (MERGED 22/601 & 25/730)	-	11,269	-	-	-	-
25/801	Isle of Man	9,575	8,837	3,602	4,633	-	-
25/821	Lancs & Cumbria Branch	72,605	69,479	20,271	20,400	5,477	5,940
25/833	Preston Brook & Bury	17,140	17,007	-	-	479	1,032
26/156	Glasgow & Motherwell	25,631	15,717	6,176	6,676	5,943	5,131
26/157	Scotland MT	5,128	4,160	-	-	1,066	962
26/825	Edinburgh, Dundee & Borders	116,179	112,499	-	-	7,951	6,582
26/829	Scotland No. 1	72,332	75,140	-	-	3,809	3,149
27/049	South East Central	43,308	48,269	2,290	2,290	1,699	1,506
27/353	Portsmouth, West Sussex & IOW	23,837	21,095	2,589	2,739	512	500
27/805	Meridian	14,772	18,759	550	550	2,006	1,569
28/459	Somerset, Devon & Cornwall	80,581	82,891	1,100	981	5,802	4,895
28/828	Great Western	73,251	84,763	-	-	5,550	4,835
29/807	Mid Wales, Marches, Nth Staffordshire	44,510	38,608	-	-	2,660	2,909
29/816	North Wales & Chester Combined	21,164	17,101	-	-	757	601
29/823	South Wales	33,437	36,784	-	-	4,597	3,497
30/122	London Regional MT	7,957	8,347	-	-	373	390
30/250	AIM	1,578	1,384	-	-	-	-
30/252	Greater London Combined	135,956	120,899	950	950	12,110	10,419
30/255	London Postal Engineering	6,457	7,065	-	-	573	535
30/810	Capital	90,164	70,520	-	-	14,110	12,399
30/834	South London Surrey & North Hampshire	77,697	76,902	2,248	1,248	5,950	4,373
45/001	Greater Mersey Amal	70,858	66,576	-	-	5,923	5,555
99/002	T&AW Tech & Allied Workers	135,646	41,653	-	-	-	-
99/149	CWU Officers	3,231	2,061	-	-	-	-