WOMEN'S EQUALITY PARTY LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

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# WOMEN'S EQUALITY PARTY LIMITED

# COMPANY INFORMATION FOR THE PERIOD 29TH MAY 2015 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015

# **DIRECTORS:**

# Mrs S da Soller Mrs S Walker

# **REGISTERED OFFICE:**

Studio 18 Blue Lion Place 237 Long Lane London SE1 4PU





**AUDITORS:** 

**CBHC** Limited





### REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE PERIOD 29TH MAY 2015 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the Political Party for the period 29th May 2015 to 31st December 2015.

#### INCORPORATION

The Political Party was incorporated on 29th May 2015.

#### DIRECTORS

The directors who have held office during the period from 29th May 2015 to the date of this report are as follows:

Ms S McGee- appointed  $29^{th}$  May 2015 Mrs S da Soller - appointed 29th May 2015 Mrs S Walker - appointed 9th December 2015

All the directors who are eligible offer themselves for election at the forthcoming first Annual General Meeting.

### STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Political Party and of the surplus or deficit of the Political Party for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Political Party will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Political Party's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Political Party and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Political Party and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

# STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the Political Party's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that she ought to have taken as a director in order to make herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Political Party's auditors are aware of that information.

#### AUDITORS

The auditors, CBHC Limited, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

Director – S da	Soller	 * * * * *	• • • • • •	••••	•

Date: ....0.7. June 2016

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 29TH MAY 2015 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015

The Women's Equality Party is emphatically not the product of careful planning or long-term strategising. Sandi Toksvig and I never sat down together to discuss co-founding a political party. We simply arrived at the idea at the same moment, in March 2015, and decided to see if there were others who thought such a party was needed. There were. There were many such people.

Even though volunteers quickly joined us—and some worked around the clock—we could not keep up with the emails and letters and phone calls. Here are some of the messages we received:

"Thank you for giving me something to believe in again."

"This is amazing! What can I do to help? YES PLEASE this is just what we have needed for such a long time I'm on board we have much work to do, please delegate."

"I have had so many women ask me about this new party. We need somewhere to go and sign up."

"At last, something to get excited about in politics!"

"For the first time in my 14 years of not bothering to vote I am inspired."

"I am 16 years old and passionate about feminism. Me and two other feminist friends run a woman's rights magazine at our school down but I would love to be a bigger part of the worldwide fight for women's equality!"

"I am so excited about this party - I've waited my whole adult life for it. Sign me up 100% for anything and everything!"

Sandi and I did not so much set up a party as give shape and momentum to an impulse that already existed.

In June 2015 we held our first big event at Conway Hall in London. All 450 seats sold out within two hours. By July 2015 we had successfully registered with the Electoral Commission as a major UK political party. In October 2015 we returned to Conway Hall to Jaunch our first, and substantial, set of policies. By December 2015 we had 72 branches across the UK and were looking ahead to our first elections.

On 5 May 2016 I was one of many people to go into a polling booth and vote for Sophie Walker, our party leader and the Women's Equality Party candidate for Mayor of London, and for our London-wide list of candidates. We also ran candidates for the National Assembly for Wales and the Scottish Parliament. All the candidates were selected in a competitive process that brought new and exciting and diverse voices into the political debate. By participating in the elections we changed the focus and tone of that debate. Our candidates drew more than 350,000 votes, an extraordinary debut for a party.

There is no doubting the appetite for political change in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. There is also no question that the barriers to such change are substantial. The first-past-the-post voting system makes it immensely difficult for newcomers to break through. The way politics is structured confers huge advantages on old parties and makes every aspect of the process expensive and cumbersome.

That the Women's Equality Party exists and continues to grow is testimony to passion and determination. We have tapped into a passion to see women equally represented in politics and working life, paid equally for equivalent work, and benefitting from an education system that understands girls and boys will only reach their potential if they are not pushed into gendered choices. We have tapped into a determination to see the value of caregiving recognised and men enabled to share in its joys and responsibilities, to ensure a media that shows women in all their complexity and dynamism, and to end the scourge of violence against women and girls that disfigures our society.

This passion and determination is shared by all genders because equality is better for everyone.

It is therefore my great pleasure to introduce this, the first annual report of the Women's Equality Party.

C Mayer	
Co-founder and President	
Date: OF JUNE 2016	

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# TREASURERS' FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD 29TH MAY 2015 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015

2015 was our first year of trading and we are very pleased to have recorded a surplus of £400,042 during our first 7 months of existence (29 May to 31 December).

This demonstrated the enthusiasm shown by the many people who became Founding Members, 1300 of which joined the Party on 03 July 2015 when our membership scheme opened.

The Party generated £640,836 of income, mostly from memberships (80%), and incurred £240,796 of expenditure, with payroll and office costs representing the bulk of our out-goings (37% and 45% respectively).

Prudent cash management in 2015 has enabled the Party to set aside savings and create financial resources for campaigning. These funds have been deployed in the first half of 2016 and put towards the election campaigns in Scotland, Wales and London. The Party is notably proud to have been able to support its candidates during these campaigns by making bursaries and care vouchers available.

The extraordinary results which the Party has achieved in these elections are a testimony to the incredible energy and creativity of our small team and our numerous volunteers who have created a very efficient campaign with relatively modest financial means.

S da Soller

Party Treasurer

# STATEMENT OF REGISTERED TREASURERS' RESPONSIBILITES FOR THE PERIOD 29TH MAY 2015 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015

### STATEMENT OF REGISTERED TREASURER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Registered Treasurer of the Party is required by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ("the Act") to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Party and of its surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Registered Treasurer is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Party will continue in business.

Section 41 of the Act requires that the Registered Treasurer is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Party at that time and to enable her to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Act.

Section 45 of the Act requires that the Treasurer is responsible for delivery of the statement of accounts to the Electoral Commission by the required deadline.

The Registered Treasurer is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Party and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Registered Treasurer has taken all steps she ought to have taken to make herself aware of any information required by the auditor for the purpose of their audit and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information. The Registered Treasurer is not aware of any relevant information of which the auditor is unaware.

### REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF WOMEN'S EQUALITY PARTY LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements of Women's Equality Party Limited for the period ended 31st December 2015 on pages eight to twelve. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

This report is made solely to the Political Party's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Political Party's members those matters we are required to state to them in a Report of the Auditors and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Political Party and the Political Party's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

# Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page two, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

# Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Political Party's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Report of the Directors to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

### **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Political Party's affairs as at 31st December 2015 and of
  its surplus for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

# Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Report of the Directors for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

# Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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



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# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD 29TH MAY 2015 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015

Income	Note	£	£
Membership	6	512,219	
Donations	0	79,712	
Notional income		8,141	
Fundraising income	7	38,528	
Miscellaneous income	8	2,236	
Total Income			640,836
Expenditure			
Premises costs		6,845	
Office costs		107,255	
Notional expenditure		8,141	
Staff costs	10	90,178	
Transfers out	9	3,976	
Fundraising costs	7	2,188	
Financing charges	11	17,638	
Depreciation		3,291	
Miscellaneous	8	1,282	
Total Expenditure			240,794
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL			400,042

PERIOD

400,042

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#### BALANCE SHEET 31ST DECEMBER 2015

FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets	Notes 4	£ 6,682
CURRENT ASSETS Cash at bank		393,360
NET CURRENT ASSETS		393,360
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT	LIABILITIES	400,042
<b>RESERVES</b> Income and expenditure account	5	400,042
		400,042

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 7 June 2016 and were signed on its behalf by:



### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 29TH MAY 2015 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015

#### 1. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

### Income recognition

Donations are recognised in the income and expenditure account on receipt. Donations of notional income are recognised on receipt at the relevant market value of the donation received with an expense of the same amount being recognised at the same time.

Membership fees are recognised in the income and expenditure account when received.

All other income is recognised in the income and expenditure account when received.

#### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery ~ 33% on cost

#### 2. **OPERATING SURPLUS**

The operating surplus is stated after charging:

	£
Directors' remuneration and other benefits etc	38,557

#### 3. TAXATION

# Analysis of the tax charge

No liability to UK corporation tax arose on ordinary activities for the period.

4.	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Plant and machinery, etc
	COST	£
	Additions	9,973
	At 31st December 2015	9,973
	DEPRECIATION	
	Charge for the year	3,291
	At 31st December 2015	3,291
	NET BOOK VALUE	
	At 31st December 2015	<u>6,682</u>

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE PERIOD 29TH MAY 2015 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015

### 5. **RESERVES**

6.

9.

10.

	Income and expenditure account £
Surplus for the period	400,042
At 31st December 2015	400,042
MEMBERSHIP	£
Membership fees received via/paid to the central party	512,219

# 7. FUNDRAISING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Fundraising income included both revenue from events (£30,103) and revenue from auctions (£8,425). Events included Sandi Toksvig's fundraiser shows in June 2015 and September 2015 as well as a special preview screening of the Suffragette film in October 2015. Fundraising expenditure (£2,188) related to the organisation of these events.

# 8. MISCELLANEOUS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income	£
Merchandise	2,236
Expenditure	
Postage	471
Stationery	802
Other	9
Total	1,282
RANSFERS	£
ransfers to branches	<u>3,976</u>
STAFF COSTS	
	£
Gross wages	85,224
Employers national insurance	4,954
Total	90,178

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE PERIOD 29TH MAY 2015 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015

# 11. FINANCING CHARGES AND TAXATION

Financing Charges	£
Bank charges	71
Paypal charges	370
Stripe charges	17,197
Total	17,638

# 12. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of a winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding  $\pounds 1$ .

# 13. CONTROLLING PARTY

There is no controlling party of the company.