



# THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY – CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION  
YR ACADEMI GENEDLAETHOL – YN DATHLU YSGOLHEICTOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEDL

Annual General Meeting, 19 May 2021

AGM/2021/01

Agendum 02

Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol, 19 Mai 2021

CCB/2021/01

Agendwm 02

## **Annual Report and Accounts, 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020**

The Society's Bye-Laws and Regulations require our audited accounts and annual report to be presented at the AGM. Fellows are therefore invited to receive the Annual Report and Accounts for the period **1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020** (the Society's tenth accounting period).

The Report and Accounts can be downloaded from the Society's website:

<https://www.learnedsociety.wales/about-us/governance/key-documents/>

Hard copies are available on request.

The draft accounts were prepared by the Society's accountant, Heather Beynon, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to registered charities (FRS 102).

The accounts were then submitted to the Society's Independent Financial Examiner, Azets, for consideration in September 2020. Azets carried out its examination under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. This ensured that the accounts provide a "true and fair view", in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Azets had no concerns about the accounts, and they came across no other matters in their examination to which attention should be drawn in this report.

The report and accounts were approved by Council on 21 October 2020. They were signed on behalf of the Society and its Trustees by the President and the Treasurer, and subsequently submitted to the Charity Commission. The narrative report and a summary of the accounts were incorporated in our published 2019-20 Annual Review.

### **Key financial developments in 2019/20**

The Society reviewed its reserves policy during the year. Our new policy is to maintain a free reserve of six months' core costs (£132,645). The remainder of the Society's unrestricted funds (£259,006) are now designated a Strategic Development Fund. Some reserves are in the form of investments, in order to provide a reliable income stream in the future; their value was affected this year by the coronavirus pandemic, and we continue to monitor their long-term performance.

The Society remains grateful for the excellent support of universities in Wales; they provided generous unrestricted grants and, in some cases, additional grants for specific projects and in-kind support.

We would also like to thank our Fellows who support our work through payment of fees, subscriptions and donations, often supplementing payments by allowing the Society to claim Gift Aid against membership fees. In 2020 we ran a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Funding Appeal, which attracted generous donations from many Fellows.

**Fellows are asked to adopt the Annual Report and accounts.**

## **Appointment of Independent Examiners and the fixing of their Remuneration 2020/21**

To maintain public confidence in their work, the law requires most charities to have an external scrutiny of their accounts.

The Society's Bye-laws state the following:

### **17. Auditors or Independent Examiners**

*17.1 The accounts of the Society shall be audited annually by auditors or independent examiners who shall be appointed by and whose duties shall be regulated by the **Council**.*

*17.2 No persons shall be appointed as auditors or independent examiners unless suitably qualified.*

The Finance Committee previously established that due to its size, a full audit of the Society's accounts is not required; the smaller-scale **independent examination** is sufficient. Azets have agreed to carry out the examination of the accounts for 2020/21 at a cost of £1850 +VAT.

**Fellows are asked to approve the reappointment of Azets as the independent financial examiner for the financial year 2020/21, at a cost of £1,850 + VAT.**

Amanda Kirk  
May 2021