



Annual report 2024

Association of British Dispensing Opticians



2024 ANNUAL REPORT of the ABDO BOARD

Notable highlights of the year



JANUARY

David Kirk was presented with Life Membership of ABDO in recognition of his major contribution to the Association and the dispensing profession over many years.

FEBRUARY

The ABDO Examination department ran its annual practical revision event.

The CPD team ran two dispensing workshops each day of 100% Optical.

The ABDO Board voted for Brenda Rennie FBDO to be the next vice president of ABDO.



MARCH

ABDO held its extended services practical training day. Run by Max Halford, it is part of the accreditation pathway for contact lens opticians taking further training to care for patients with minor eye conditions.

APRIL

The ABDO board held pre-election webinars, which provided insight into what being a member of the ABDO Board involves.

ABDO held its annual graduation and prize giving ceremony.

Jo Underwood, founding principal of ABDO College, was presented with the ABDO Medal of Excellence in recognition for her outstanding service and commitment to the Association.

MAY

Kevin Gutsell took over from Daryl Newsome as ABDO president. Brenda Rennie became vice president.



ABDO CPD held a CL Masterclass day at the NRC.

AUGUST

ABDO gained GOC approval for the dispensing optician apprenticeship programme.

Graeme Stevenson was awarded the ABDO Medal of Excellence for his services to the Association.

ABDO was approved to deliver new contact lens diploma from September 2024

SEPTEMBER

The Association held its Annual Meeting, Benevolent Fund Annual Meeting, and Consultation with Members online, where chairs gave reports on activities and the 2023 accounts were presented.

ABDO also published its 2023 Annual Report, providing an overview of its activities and financial status.



Stepper Eyewear became the first digital sponsor of the ABDO National Resource Centre.

Five members were elected to join the ABDO Board, Deborah Bill, Sarah Gilbert, Kimberley O'Donnell, Dylan Russell and Gillian Twynning.

OCTOBER

ABDO held the second clinical conference at the ABDO National Resource Centre, featuring hands-on clinical sessions and talks by world renowned experts.

On World Sight Day, ABDO launched a new course in paediatric eyecare. The flexible, CPD-accredited professional certificate in paediatric eyecare is delivered online by leading academics.

ABDO was also featured in an ITN Business eye health programme.



Association of British Dispensing Opticians



NOVEMBER

Peter Black and Julie Lees were presented with Life Membership of ABDO. In addition, Dr Elizabeth (Lizzie) Bartlam was presented with the ABDO Medal of Excellence in recognition of their major contribution to the Association and the dispensing profession over many years.

DECEMBER

Millie Fellows and Gill Bickle were awarded the ABDO Medal of Excellence in recognition of their dedication to the Association and profession over many years.

David Pipe was presented with Life Membership of ABDO in recognition of the major contribution he has made to the Association and to the dispensing profession over many years.

ABDO was approved as a CMI Registered Centre.

2024 was a landmark year for the profession and for ABDO, with the launch of the apprenticeship route to qualification as a dispensing optician, our updated diploma in contact lens practice and a new professional certificate in paediatric eyecare.

Our Level 6 FBDO diploma has always had many of the features of an apprenticeship, with students working in practice at the same as studying. Now there is a formal apprenticeship route, government funding is available to support the education and training of dispensing opticians in England. This is a first.

In recent years, there has been a gradual fall in the number of student dispensing opticians, with this trend being exacerbated by the pandemic. The launch of the apprenticeship means that the number of student dispensing opticians has started to increase and ABDO is delighted to be working in collaboration with ABDO College, Bradford College and Capital City College to deliver the new apprenticeship route to qualification.

The updated Level 6 diploma in contact lens practice enables dispensing opticians to qualify and register as contact lens opticians. Our new syllabus reflects the latest developments in practice and our revised approach to assessment will support learners' timely progression through the programme.



Our new Level 7 professional certificate in paediatric eyecare is the first higher qualification we have developed for our members in quite some

time. It enables qualified members to build on their core expertise by studying a fascinating range of modules, including myopia management, neurodiversity and learning differences, acute paediatric eyecare, facial development and advanced communication and psychology.

Our annual report for 2024 shows the wide range of activities we undertake to support and represent our members, enable them to develop their careers, promote awareness of their roles and advance the profession. Thank you for continuing to support the Association and we will continue to highlight the essential expertise which dispensing opticians bring to optical practice and the excellent patient care they provide.

Alistair Bridge
CEO

SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Membership and benefits



FINANCE
AND ADVICE



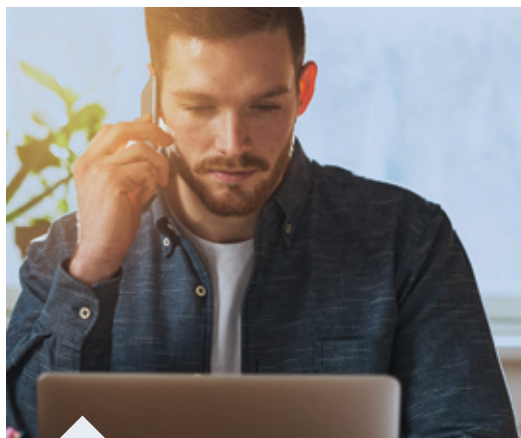
LIFESTYLE
AND LEISURE



NETWORKING
AND EDUCATION



PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES



MEMBERSHIP AND BENEFITS

In 2024, the membership services department undertook a comprehensive member survey to better understand the needs and experiences of our membership community. Members expressed a desire for more accessible resources, improved communication, and more tailored support – changes we have already begun implementing.

In 2024, our legal advice helpline consistently proved to be a vital resource for members, offering timely and expert guidance on a wide range of issues.

“Having legal experts available to help is like having a safety net tailored to your profession, particularly when it comes to GOC fitness to practice issues.”

*Ed Fox
Head of Membership Services*

NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INTRODUCED IN 2024

- AMBASSADOR CRUISES
- GOLFAMORE
- PLANTY
- YORKTEST
- BOOKBEAT
- LOVETHEATRE
- GRUUM

THE TOP 5 MOST POPULAR OFFERS ACROSS 2024

- CINEMA SOCIETY
- MY GYM DISCOUNTS
- AIRPORT EXTRAS
- APPLE
- MERLIN FAMILY DAYS OUT

MEMBERSHIP FIGURES



FELLOW MEMBERS

5862

TOTAL MEMBERS

8048

SOME OF THE ABDO MEMBERS HONOURED IN 2024



- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A. Jo Underwood | F. David Pipe and Linda Rapley |
| B. Graeme Stevenson | G. Julie Lees |
| C. Lizzie Bartram | H. Peter Black |
| D. Gill Bickle | I. David Kirk |
| E. Millie Fellows | |

ABDO BENEVOLENT FUND

The ABDO Benevolent Fund is a registered charity dedicated to supporting members past and present, as well as their dependants, who are facing financial hardship due to unforeseen changes in circumstances such as redundancy, bereavement, illness or relationship breakdown.

In 2024, the fund assisted eight members through a range of support, including one-off grants and loans. Assistance was also given to members needing help to maintain their professional status, ensuring they could continue in their careers despite personal difficulties.

A significant number of members who approach the fund are facing financial challenges linked to debt. While the fund cannot directly provide debt relief, it actively refers members to StepChange, a charity specialising in debt management and free money advice. This referral helps members access professional guidance, manage their financial situation and take practical steps towards stability.

The trustees are keen to remind all members that support is available. If you, or a colleague you know, are experiencing financial difficulty, please do not hesitate to reach out. Applications are treated with the utmost confidentiality and considered with great care.

The fund's main income derives from membership fees, with £2 per member being allocated each year. We are also very grateful for the additional donations made by members when renewing their annual subscription. These contributions, however large or small, make a real difference and allow the fund to continue providing much-needed support to colleagues at times of crisis.

On behalf of the trustees, I would like to thank all members who have contributed. Your generosity enables us to continue our work and ensures that, together, we can offer a lifeline to those who need it most.

Jo Holmes - Chair

SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Membership and benefits

DISPENSING OPTICS

The average monthly circulation of *DO* in 2024

6,537
copies

(TEN ISSUES IN 2024)

Dispensing Optics is a highly valued resource and benefit for ABDO members*:

86% read every/most issues

87% regard the journal as excellent/above average

40% are interested in editorial about industry events/products/services

49% are interested in adverts about industry events/products/services

62% have taken action after reading an advert in *Dispensing Optics*

* 2022 MEMBER SURVEY

As the professional journal of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO), *Dispensing Optics* (DO) supports ABDO members throughout their career – from student to fully qualified dispensing optician (DO), contact lens optician (CLO) and beyond.

Published in print – with a companion presence in *DO Online* – *Dispensing Optics* delivers news, information and education relevant to members' everyday practice life.

As well as providing distance-learning continuing professional development (CPD) for DOs, CLOs and optometrists, the journal publishes news, business, marketing and product features to support the whole practice team, including optical assistants.



“ *DO Online* is very useful for assignments and just to keep up-to-date with dispensing in general...”

ABDO student member

2024 MEMBER CONSULTATION

Valued resource for members

In a consultation with ABDO members undertaken in May 2024, which included an online survey and telephone interviews, **more than 80 per cent of respondents** said *Dispensing Optics* was their most useful membership benefit after CPD and training.

The majority of respondents (**76 per cent**) read the hard copy of the journal they received in the post, with 14 per cent either reading *DO Online* or the Issuu/PDF version they received by email*.

Reducing our carbon footprint

In January 2024, *Dispensing Optics* commenced a new 10 per year publication schedule – with combined July/August and November/December issues – to help the Association reduce its carbon footprint. The journal covers are printed on recyclable gloss paper, and the journal is packaged and posted to members in recyclable paper, making it 100 per cent recyclable.

Some **18 per cent of ABDO members** now opt to read *Dispensing Optics* online only – an option introduced in July 2021 to support ABDO's sustainability goals.

Members can read *DO* journal online as a downloadable PDF as well as a 'flip through' on the e-publishing platform Issuu. Members receive an Issuu link as each publication goes live in their monthly *DO* e-News with links to news, features and CPD.



3,241
followers on X (Twitter)



709
followers on Instagram



Social media
engagement rate:
6 per cent



**DO ONLINE
JOB SECTION HAD
12,746
page views**

FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2024

Multiplatform presence

With its own section on the ABDO website, *DO Online* is the digital companion to *Dispensing Optics* journal – with news, features, a jobs vacancies section and banner advertising opportunities.

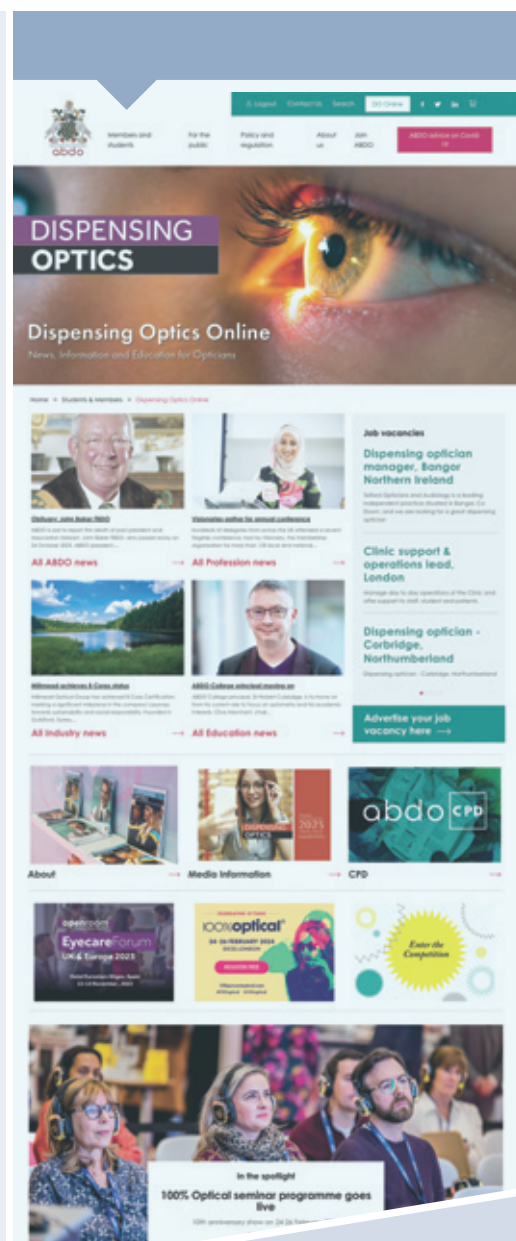
Tablet and mobile friendly, *DO Online* is consistently in the top 10 posts/page views for the entire ABDO website. From January to December 2024, the *DO Online* news pages notched up **71,338 page views – up 19 per cent on the previous year.**

Offering complimentary bronze adverts to ABDO members, the *DO Online* jobs vacancies section had 12,746 page views from January to December 2024.

DO Online also links into ABDO's social media channels – providing links to news and features.

From January to December 2024, *DO*'s online engagement rate rose by six per cent.

Between 2020 and 2024, advertising spend across both *Dispensing Optics* journal and *DO Online* increased by **56 per cent.**



ENABLING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Examinations



EXAMINATIONS

ABDO was thrilled to see the launch of the Level 6 Dispensing Optician Apprenticeship Programme in 2024, with over 140 apprentices enrolling in Year 1 across our affiliated education institutes ABDO College, Bradford College and City College group. ABDO was also recognised as the end-point assessment organisation (EPAO) for the apprenticeship, able to deliver the endpoint assessments.

The apprenticeship pathway is the first funded training programme for dispensing opticians and was the result of a great deal of work with our partner institutions AND

abdo | Examinations as well as ongoing

collaboration with the General Optical Council (GOC). The education and training requirements align with existing standards and the ABDO Level 6 Diploma in Ophthalmic Dispensing programme. ABDO will continue to monitor apprentices' progress through to graduation, hopefully achieving full GOC approval for the apprenticeship programme in 2027.

ABDO also saw the introduction of the new Diploma in Contact Lens Practice 2024 syllabus, based on the new GOC education and training requirements for contact lens opticians. ABDO conducted an extremely rigorous consultation process involving a range of stakeholders, and working with the GOC to ensure education and training requirements continue to remain appropriate for modern practice. Online portfolio submission for trainee contact lens opticians has also been implemented for both the 2019 and 2024 syllabuses.

The ABDO examinations department continued to support the progression of students, delivering another successful student revision event as well as our professional examinations, which saw over 6,000 individual assessments being taken alongside our practice visits that were delivered throughout 2024.

2024 Student Exams in numbers (full sitting)

PQE Theory.....	253 students
PQE Practical.....	447 students
FQE Theory.....	396 students
FQE Practical.....	548 students
CL Theory	213 students
CL Practical.....	107 students

PQE = Preliminary Qualifying Examination

FQE = Final Qualifying Examination

CL = Contact Lens

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE (NRC)

The ABDO National Resource Centre (NRC) played a crucial role in supporting internal operations while also generating external revenue. With over 40 five-star reviews on Google, the NRC has built a strong reputation and continues to maintain its prestigious rating.

In 2024, the NRC set ambitious targets to expand its external business, aiming for record-breaking success while continuing to support ABDO events, meetings and exams. Additionally, the venue explored sponsorship opportunities to further enhance its offerings.

NRC | Birmingham NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE

A key priority for 2024 was supporting ABDO exams, including practical dispensing, contact lenses, theory and extended services. With CPD masterclasses and conferences scheduled, the NRC also continued as the sole provider of refraction exams for The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth).

Long-standing partnerships flourished, with Specsavers utilising the facilities for audiology training, examinations, pre-registration academy sessions, OSCE support, and the Cert 4 pathway. Additionally, ABDO College, Positive Impact, Boots, Scope and the Association of Optometrists (AOP) returned to the NRC, bringing a vibrant and engaging atmosphere to their events.

The 2024 clinical conference was a resounding success, receiving fantastic feedback, and we eagerly anticipate its return in 2025.

Throughout the year the NRC welcomed new visitors, with ATS Euromaster holding regular meetings and the Hakim Group becoming a familiar presence. As the year came to a close, we proudly achieved our goal – making 2024 our most successful year to date.



The NRC welcomed sponsorship from:

Stepper
EssilorLuxottica
Eyecare Education



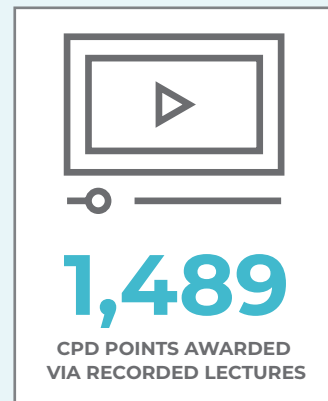
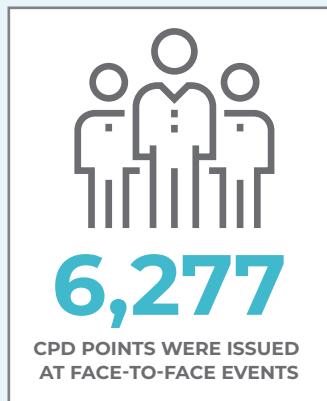
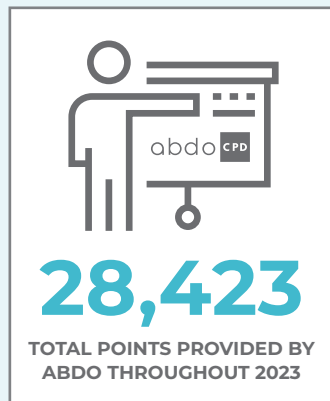
COMMENTING ON NRC'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

“ 2024! It was a dream to see the NRC in full use from January to December – not just for optical events but also for non-industry-related functions. The team worked incredibly hard to ensure we continued delivering memorable meetings, events and exams. A huge well done to all – let's go again in 2025! ”

Mat Stringer
NRC's Operations Manager

ENABLING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Continuing professional development (CPD)



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

With 2024 being the last year of the GOC CPD cycle, ABDO CPD was as busy as ever supporting members to fulfil their regulatory

ABDO members to choose how they want to access the professional development that is relevant for them. Our non-interactive CPD

safeguarding e-learning modules. A new distance-learning CPD opportunity was made available in 2024, with the learning content

a range of formats available. Our regular online peer review provision for dispensing opticians and contact lens practitioners as



requirements for the scheme. A total of 28,423 CPD points were provided across 2024, bringing the three year CPD cycle total up to 84,704. As usual, these were delivered across a range of formats enabling



formats continue to be a popular way for members to complete CPD on their own terms, including through distance-learning articles in *Dispensing Optics*, recorded lectures, and the standards of practice and



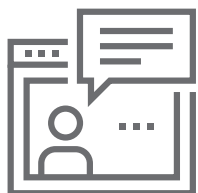
for the Professional Certificate in Paediatric Eyecare being CPD accredited.

Our interactive CPD continued to enable ABDO members to engage with experts and their peers, with



well as our monthly online journal club continued to attract increasing numbers of ABDO members. We also held our evening regional events around the UK for those members who like to meet face to face, and our

abdo CPD



1,897

CPD POINTS AWARDED
THROUGH WEBINARS



5,631

PEER REVIEW CPD
POINTS WERE OBTAINED



2,185

CPD POINTS AWARDED AT
OUR CLINICAL CONFERENCE

CL masterclasses held at the NRC provided opportunities to upskill. We were thrilled to be able to offer our second clinical conference in 2024, covering paediatric dispensing and also acute eyecare. This year the conference was provided in a hybrid format to enable a larger number of ABDO members to access the education.

In 2024 we continued to promote the professions of dispensing and contact lenses working with sector partners such as NHS Education Scotland, the Association of Optometrists (AOP), 100% Optical, Eyecare and Local Optical Committees (LOCs) across England as well as numerous employers.



2024 ABDO Clinical conference



ABDO CPD SPONSORS

- Bausch & Lomb
- Cantor Barnard
- Centrostyle
- Contamac
- Coopervision
- Essilor
- Good Karma Eyewear
- Hoya Lens Uk
- Johnson & Johnson Vision
- Mark'ennovy
- Menicon
- Millmead Optical
- Morel France
- Ocuco
- Seiko
- Stepper
- Topcon
- Ultravision

We remain grateful to all the industry sponsors who have supported us to be able to deliver CPD to our members.

ENABLING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Clinical, policy and training

“ The clinical support I have received from ABDO, alongside the training and accreditation I have been able to undertake, has been instrumental in my professional clinical development both within primary and secondary care. From my initial dispensing optician qualification, I have now moved on to complete my medical retina and cataracts master modules. My scope of practice is not something that was set on the day I qualified but has continued to expand as more clinical opportunities have opened for me as I progressed throughout my career. ”

*Rebecca Watt FBDO CL
University Hospitals Plymouth
NHS Trust*

abdo|CLINICAL

ABDO CLINICAL and POLICY

ABDO's clinical and policy department continued to lead on advancing the role of dispensing opticians and contact lens opticians within primary eyecare. ABDO plays a pivotal role in national workforce development conversations, contributing to sector-wide policy shaping on NHS GOS contracts, enhanced services, and supporting members to engage in professional and clinical development through updated guidance and education.



Work continued to develop a new regional lead structure to help us support members closer to their areas. Notably, we expanded access to the extended services course by securing Health Education England funding, strengthened partnerships with the NHS, the wider sector and third sector organisations, and championed recognition of the contribution of dispensing opticians to the nation's eye health.

“ ABDO are of paramount importance in promoting the role of DOs. Personally, I am thankful for the support I have received as well as all the opportunities to develop my clinical skills that I have been offered by the team. ”

*Owen Miles FBDO
Dispensing Optician*



ABDO MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING (MLT)

Recognised qualifications

ABDO offers a range of management and leadership development opportunities for members, which includes the successful diploma and certificate courses leading to Chartered Management Institute (CMI) qualifications.

ABDO is a CMI Registered Centre

Certificate courses last three months and diploma courses last nine months. They are CMI accredited and lead to CMI Level 5 qualifications in management and leadership. There are four course options in total, including three different certificates.

There were intakes for these courses three times during the year, in January, May and September.

64 individuals have already qualified and **23 are in the process of studying.**

For further information on the courses and to enrol visit the ABDO website.

CPD accredited courses

In addition, and particularly suitable for those who wish to try a short period of study, ABDO offered short online courses on the topics of change and conflict, which cover elements of theory and present opportunities to apply some of the theory in the workplace. These short courses are CPD accredited.



ABDO MANAGEMENT TRAINING

46 members have so far completed one of these courses, including **10 during 2024.**

Online short courses are CPD accredited and studied at your own pace. Further information of the short courses can be found on the ABDO website.

Mentoring

ABDO members continued to have access to the ABDO Peer to Peer Mentoring platform where they can offer themselves as mentors and can also look for mentoring support as a mentee.

There are **84 mentors** registered on the platform who offer support in a range of areas. The number of mentees changes as people achieve their goals but is usually around 65.

More information can be found on these dedicated web pages www.abdo.onpld.com



Business support

The long-standing ABDO Business Support Hub continues to offer a range of support resources in many essential areas of business as well as signposting to experts in various topics.

The hub can be accessed here: www.abdo.org.uk/business-hub

BUSINESS SUPPORT HUB

29,080
page views

ENABLING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Education

QUOTES FROM CURRENT LEARNERS

“ Studying for the Prof Cert in Paediatric Eyecare has been life-changing! ”

“ The course has provided incredibly useful content which encourages the student to learn further outside of the unit material. Things such as converting an acetate frame to having pads on arms or learning about rare paediatric conditions mostly found in hospital settings are not something we learn as part of our original degree, so it really feels like we have added something valuable to our skill set. ”

“ Studying again has really been so much fun, and I genuinely feel a difference in how I approach paediatric dispensing and conversations with children and their families. ”

PAEDIATRIC CERTIFICATE

In October, ABDO launched the Level 7 Professional Certificate in Paediatric Eyecare. The syllabus was written and produced by research director Dr Alicia Thompson following member interest in her PhD study on paediatric facial anthropometry.

There are nine theoretical units to complete online with summative assessments. The expected total qualification time is 800 hours, as at Level 7 there is an expectation to research and review the associated literature independently. Practical skills and a discussion on related research will then form the basis of the in-person Unit 10 practical assessment held at the NRC.



- UNIT 1 **Advanced communication and psychology**
- UNIT 2 **Paediatric dispensing**
- UNIT 3 **Facial development and research data**
- UNIT 4 **Refractive management**
- UNIT 5 **Neurodiversity and learning differences**
- UNIT 6 **Interventions**
- UNIT 7 **Specialist care**
- UNIT 8 **Paediatric low vision**
- UNIT 9 **Paediatric common eyecare conditions and acute presentations**
- UNIT 10 **Practical assessment**

abdo | EDUCATION



abdo | EDUCATION

Paediatrics

“ It was an honour for me to be able to collaborate with industry experts in their respective fields and bring our members a higher level of knowledge in this very rewarding area of our practice. I am delighted that over 150 learners are already progressing through the course and sending me such positive feedback. A huge benefit is the ability to study at your own pace which I know fits well with our members’ busy lives. ”

Dr Alicia Thompson

PROMOTING THE ASSOCIATION

CARING. DESIGN. RETAIL.
TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISE
CREATIVE CAREERS.
FOR PEOPLE
FASHION
MANUFACTURING
HEALTHCARE
SCIENCE
ENGINEERING
BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION

CAREERS in EYECARE

Careers in Eyecare promotes careers across the sector, highlighting the range of clinical, fashion, design, technical and retail roles available.

IN 2024 CAREERS IN EYECARE SOCIAL MEDIA ACHIEVED A REACH OF

13% 18,599

INCREASE IN PAGE VIEWS ON THE CIE WEBSITE

Launched in 2020, the campaign maximises the use of social media to reach out to young people, parents and careers advisers, and those looking to change career.

You can find the campaign on Facebook, X and Instagram.

**careers in
eyecare**



eyecareFAQ



In 2024, eyecareFAQ celebrated 10 years of helping to demystify eyecare jargon and

sharing eyecare information and the importance of regular sight tests.

eyecareFAQ took part in social media campaigns across the year, including Eye Health Week, Road Safety Week, Glaucoma Week, Diabetes Week and Healthy Eating Week. In 2024 we continued to update content on the website.

Follow eyecareFAQ on Facebook, X and Instagram – and remember all resources are available for ABDO members to use on their own and practice social media.



eyecareFAQ social media channels reached

233,789

PEOPLE THROUGHOUT 2024



ABDO MEDIA COVERAGE

218 ARTICLES
REACHING AN AUDIENCE OF
9,365,873

WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS
1,369,863

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH
1,171,678

208 eNews

ABDO eNews sent to members in 2024, focussed on...

- Policy updates
- General ABDO news
- *Dispensing Optics* magazine
- Mid-month DO optical news
- Job vacancies
- Business Support Hub
- Membership benefits
- Sustainability resources
- Support for members
- CPD

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Directors' report

The directors present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Directors

The directors who served the company during the year were:

- Kevin Gutsell - *President*
- Brenda Rennie - *Vice President*
- Saima Begum (*resigned July 2025*)
- Deborah Bill (*appointed November 2024*)
- Lorraine Bleasdale
- Kimberley Dixon (*appointed November 2024*)
- Sarah Gilbert (*appointed November 2024*)
- Steven Harding (*Served from May 2024 to Nov 2024*)
- Julie Lees (*resigned November 2024*)
- Dylan Russell (*appointed November 2024*)
- Andrew Symonds (*Served from Jan 2024 to Nov 2024*)
- Gillian Twynning (*appointed November 2024*)
- plus Daryl Newsome - *Advisor to the Board*

Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors' report 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 company and the profit or loss of the company 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 company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a director at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 9 September 2025 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Director

Kevin Gutsell FBDO (Hons) SLD

Company secretary

Alistair Bridge

Registered office

Unit 2 Court Lodges, Godmersham Park,
Godmersham, Canterbury,
England CT4 7DT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR MEMBERS

This year has seen a marked improvement in the Association's financial performance, underpinned by strong growth in income and prudent cost management.

Income rose by 20% to £3.96 million (2023: £3.29 million), driven primarily by a 50% increase in examination income to £1.58 million and steady growth in membership subscriptions to £2.16 million. Income from the National Resource Centre also grew by 26%. While no National Conference was held in 2024, overall income growth comfortably offset this.

Expenditure was broadly consistent with the prior year at £3.35 million (2023: £3.35 million). Within this, significant savings were achieved in legal and professional fees, IT maintenance, and travel, while new organisational development expenditure of £173k was incurred as a one-off investment to support modernisation and future capability. A write-off of historic bad debts totalling £29k was also taken to clean up aged and unrecoverable balances.

Other operating income fell to £563k (2023: £645k), mainly due to lower recharges to the ABDO College of Education.

Overall performance improved substantially: the operating loss reduced to £69k (2023: £609k) and the net loss after tax fell to £77k (2023: £614k). Excluding the non-recurring organisational development costs and the bad debt write-off, the Association would have delivered an underlying surplus of approximately £125.5k.

The Association remains financially resilient, with net assets of £812k and a strengthened cash position of £453k at year end (2023: £179k).

The Board is encouraged by this return to near break-even performance and remains focused on consolidating these improvements to support ABDO's long-term sustainability and service to members.

Company Limited by Guarantee - Registered number 02012484

Year ended 31 December 2024

Independent Auditors Report to the Members of the Association of Dispensing Opticians

(Limited by Guarantee)

Year ended 31 December 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (Limited by Guarantee) (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of income and retained earnings, statement of financial position and the related notes, 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' 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 company'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 directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which 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' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are 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 directors determine 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 directors are responsible for assessing the company'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 directors either intend to liquidate the company 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.

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:

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we have considered; the nature of the industry, control environment and business performance with particular reference to the Company's remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets.

Throughout the audit testing we are considering the incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud. Key areas include timing of recognising income around the year end, posting of unusual journals and manipulating the Company's performance measures to meet targets. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We ensure we have an understanding of the relevant laws and regulations and remain alert to possible non-compliance throughout the audit. Despite proper planning and audit work in accordance with auditing standards there are inherent limitations and unavoidable risk that we may not detect some irregularities and material misstatements in the financial statements. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are

appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the company'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 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.

Accounts prepared and audited by:

Roderick Archibald
Senior Statutory Auditor
 Burgess Hodgson Audit Limited
 Chartered Accountants and
 Statutory Auditor,
 Camburgh House, 27 New Dover Road,
 Canterbury, Kent, CT1 3DN

DATE: September 2025

The ASSOCIATION of BRITISH DISPENSING OPTICIANS

Company Limited by guarantee - Registered number 02012484
Year ended 31 December 2024

STATEMENT of INCOME and RETAINED EARNINGS

31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover		3,959,814	3,292,228
Cost of sales		<u>1,244,857</u>	<u>1,191,602</u>
Gross profit		2,714,957	2,100,626
Administrative expenses		3,348,059	3,354,462
Other operating income		<u>563,732</u>	<u>645,220</u>
Operating loss		(69,370)	(608,616)
Other interest receivable and similar income		3,030	2,113
Interest payable and similar expenses		<u>9,584</u>	<u>6,553</u>
Loss before taxation	7	<u>(75,924)</u>	<u>(613,056))</u>
Tax on loss		576	495
Loss for the financial year and total comprehensive income		<u><u>(76,500)</u></u>	<u><u>(613,551)</u></u>
Retained earnings at the start of the year		<u>888,993</u>	<u>1,502,544</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the year		<u><u>812,493</u></u>	<u><u>888,993</u></u>

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

STATEMENT of FINANCIAL POSITION

31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	8	134,216	49,667
Tangible assets	9	<u>799,659</u>	<u>933,129</u>
		933,875	982,796
Current assets			
Debtors	10	477,383	773,285
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>453,352</u>	<u>178,877</u>
		930,735	952,162
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>1,052,117</u>	<u>1,045,965</u>
Net current (liabilities)/assets		<u>121,382</u>	<u>(93,803)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>812,493</u>	<u>888,993</u>
Net assets		<u><u>812,493</u></u>	<u><u>888,993</u></u>
Capital and reserves			
Profit and loss account		<u>812,493</u>	<u>888,993</u>
Members' funds		<u><u>812,493</u></u>	<u><u>888,993</u></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 9 September 2025 and were signed on behalf of the board by:

K Gutsell FBDO (Hons) SLD President

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The company is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Unit 2 Court Lodges, Godmersham Park, Godmersham, Canterbury, CT4 7DT, England.

2. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Section 1A of FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'.

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for services provided, net of discounts, VAT and other sales-related taxes.

Income from examination fees and membership subscriptions is recognised in the period in which the related services are provided. Examination income is recognised in the financial year in which the relevant examination takes place. Membership subscription income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the period of membership to which it relates.

Income received in advance of the provision of the related service is deferred and included within creditors as deferred.

Income tax

Current tax is recognised in profit or loss on taxable profit for the current and past periods. Current tax is measured at the amounts of tax expected to pay or recover using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Amortisation occurs once the asset is brought into use.

Amortisation

Amortisation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Course development20% straight line

Website development20% straight line

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in amortisation rate, useful life or residual value of an intangible asset, the amortisation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Tangible assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Depreciation occurs once the asset is brought into use.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Aston equipment.....5% straight line

Fixtures and fittings.....20% - 33% straight line

Leasehold.....10% straight line

Computer hardware.....33% straight line

Computer software10% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial instruments

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into.

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the profit and loss account in other administrative expenses.

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value."

Defined contribution plans

The company contributes to the personal pension plans of certain employees, subject to a maximum of 10% of the employee's annual salary. Such contributions are held independently of the company's finances. The contributions made are charged to the profit and loss account as they arise.

4. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The company is limited by guarantee, not having share capital. In the event of the winding-up of the company each member of the Association undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required, not exceeding £20, either whilst a member or within one year of their membership ceasing.

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Company Limited by guarantee - Registered number 02012484
Year ended 31 December 2024

5. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

During the year, the company's auditor changed from Burgess Hodgson LLP to Burgess Hodgson Audit Limited following a change in legal structure of the audit firm. The responsible individual remains the same.

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	19,250	18,250

6. EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year amounted to 28 (2022: 29).

7. PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION

Profit before taxation is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Amortisation of intangible assets	29,484	43,122
Depreciation of tangible assets	141,383	141,763

8. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Course development £	Website £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2024	-	291,565	291,565
Additions	102,188	11,845	114,033
At 31 December 2024	<u>102,188</u>	<u>303,410</u>	<u>405,598</u>
Amortisation			
At 1 January 2024	-	241,898	241,898
Charge for the year	11,314	18,170	29,484
At 31 December 2024	<u>11,314</u>	<u>260,068</u>	<u>271,382</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2024	<u>90,874</u>	<u>43,342</u>	<u>134,216</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>49,667</u>	<u>49,667</u>

9. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Aston (NRC) Equipment £	Aston (NRC) Fixtures & Fittings £	Leasehold £	Computer Hardware £	Computer Software £	TOTAL £
Cost						
At 1 Jan 2024	580,540	9,366	7,492	29,746	1,041,964	1,672,108
Additions	-	-	-	7,913	-	7,913
At 31 Dec 2024	<u>580,540</u>	<u>9,366</u>	<u>7,492</u>	<u>37,659</u>	<u>1,044,964</u>	<u>1,680,021</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 Jan 2024	155,272	4,058	4,494	23,551	551,604	738,979
Charge for the year	29,027	1,873	751	5,235	104,496	141,383
At 31 Dec 2024	<u>184,299</u>	<u>5,932</u>	<u>5,245</u>	<u>28,786</u>	<u>656,100</u>	<u>880,362</u>
Carrying amount						
At 31 Dec 2024	<u>396,241</u>	<u>3,434</u>	<u>2,247</u>	<u>8,873</u>	<u>388,864</u>	<u>799,659</u>
At 31 Dec 2023	<u>425,268</u>	<u>5,308</u>	<u>2,998</u>	<u>6,195</u>	<u>493,360</u>	<u>933,129</u>

10. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	293,872	295,023
Other debtors	183,511	478,262
	<u>477,383</u>	<u>773,285</u>

11. CREDITORS

amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	133,974	196,632
Amounts owed to group undertakings and undertakings in which the company has a participating interest	283,958	101,311
Corporation tax	576	495
Social security and other taxes	45,335	36,414
Benevolent Fund	11,638	6,376
Accruals	63,156	107,559
Deferred income	513,480	597,178
	<u>1,052,117</u>	<u>1,045,965</u>

Loans and debentures are secured by way of fixed and floating charges against the company's assets and undertakings.

12. OPERATING LEASES

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	566,919	616,614
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,415,753	1,438,597
Later than 5 years	-	361,515
	<u>1,982,672</u>	<u>2,416,726</u>

13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Association of British Dispensing Opticians, a company limited by guarantee, was controlled throughout the year by its members.

The Association of British Dispensing Opticians charged The ABDO College of Education £200,000 (2023: £271,000) in respect of administrative salaries.

At the year end The Association of British Dispensing Opticians owed £283,958 (2023: £101,311) to The ABDO College of Education.

The Association of British Dispensing Opticians is a member of The ABDO College of Education whose trustees include up to six trustees appointed by The Association of British Dispensing Opticians.

At the year end The Association of British Dispensing Opticians owed £11,638 (2023: £6,376) to The ABDO Benevolent Fund, a connected charity.

The ABDO board of directors

K Gutsell FBDO (Hons) SLD - President
 B Rennie FBDO - Vice President
 S Begum FBDO
 D Bill FBDO
 L Bleasdale FBDO
 K Dixon FBDO
 S Gilbert FBDO
 S Harding FBDO
 J Lees FBDO
 D Newsome FBDO R CL SMC (Tech)
 D Russell FBDO
 A Symonds FBDO CL FBCLA
 G Twynning FBDO

President

Kevin Gutsell FBDO (Hons) SLD

Company secretary

Alistair Bridge

Registered office

Unit 2 Court Lodges,
 Godmersham Park,
 Godmersham, Canterbury,
 Kent CT4 7DT

Auditor

Burgess Hodgson Audit Limited
 Chartered Accountants
 and Statutory Auditor,
 Camburgh House,
 27 New Dover Road,
 Canterbury,
 Kent CT1 3DN

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
 Level 27,
 1 Churchill Place,
 London E14 5HP

Solicitors

Hempsons,
 40 Villiers Street,
 London WC2N 6NJ

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS of the ABDO BENEVOLENT FUND

A registered charity governed by a Trust Deed - **Charity Registration Number 299447**
Year ended 31 December 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL DETAILS

The Association of British Dispensing Opticians Benevolent Fund is a registered charity (registration number 299447) and is governed by a Trust Deed dated 10 October 1962.

Trustees

Trustees are appointed by the Board of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians. The trustees during the year ended 31 December 2024 were:

Joanne Holmes FBDO
Chair

Keith Cavaye FBDO (Hons) CL FBCLA

Michael Cody FBDO CL

Heather Hows FBDO

Lynda Matthias FBDO

Sally Williams FBDO (Hons) LVA

Jill Umpleby FBDO

Principal address

Unit 2, Court Lodges,
Godmersham Park,
Godmersham, Canterbury,
England CT4 7DT

Auditors

Burgess Hodgson Audit Ltd.
Chartered Accountants
and Registered Auditors
Camburgh House,
27 New Dover Road,
Canterbury, CT1 3DN

TRUSTEES' REPORT

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Policies and objectives

The object of the fund is to pay, apply or appropriate the whole of the Fund to relieve and assist by donation or grants necessitous persons in all or any of the following classes:

- (i) Former members of the Association of Dispensing Opticians Limited;
- (ii) Former employees of Members of the said association who are engaged in or connected with dispensing optics;
- (iii) Former employees of the said association;
- (iv) Former employees of the Guild of British Dispensing Opticians;
- (v) Former and present members and their employees of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians;
- (vi) Employees of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians;
- (vii) The dependents of such persons as are specified in sub-clauses (i) to (vi) of this clause.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Grant-making policies

Grant-making is entirely at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, based on financial need, eligibility under Rule 2, and supporting evidence. They may investigate applications via appointed visitors and can decide both the size and the continuation of grants.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Review of activities

During 2024 the fund received a total of £12,832 (2023: £10,820).

The beneficiaries received a total of £4,959 (2023: £6,376).

For the above period the Board of Trustees continued to maintain contact with the beneficiaries of the fund, reviewing grants as and when it becomes appropriate.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Principal funding

The Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO) allocates £2.00 per member annually to its Benevolent Fund, which supports members, past members, or their dependants facing severe financial hardship due to events like redundancy or bereavement. Members can also make additional voluntary donations to the fund when renewing their membership.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Association of British Dispensing Opticians Benevolent Fund is a registered charity, number 299447, and is constituted under a Trust deed dated 10th October 1962.

Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust deed.

Four trustees are appointed by the ABDO Board of Directors.
Three trustees are elected by the Benevolent Fund Members at the AGM. All serve 3-year terms (max 12 years).

Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Board of Trustees is the sole governing and decision-making body and also acts as the "Management Committee" referred to in the original trust deed.

The Chief Executive of ABDO acts as Secretary to the Fund, performing administrative duties as directed by the Board of Trustees.

All members of ABDO may attend General Meetings.

Benevolent Fund Members (life members who paid a membership fee) can vote at General Meetings.

Related party relationships

The Fund is connected to The ABDO College of Education by unity of administration. The object of the College is to advance and promote education and research in the science and practice of optics for the public benefit and to disseminate the useful results of such research. There were no material transactions between the two charities.

Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO) is the parent professional body; it appoints trustees and provides administrative infrastructure. ABDO also collects and allocates £2 per member annually to the Benevolent Fund.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, Burgess Hodgson Audit Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees. Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

Ms Joanne Holmes FBDO

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Association of British Dispensing Opticians Benevolent Fund (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, 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 Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS of the ABDO BENEVOLENT FUND

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' 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 charity'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 Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; 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 trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine 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 Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity'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 Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 Auditors' 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.

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:

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at:

www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

Burgess Hodgson Audit Limited

Chartered Accountants
and Registered Auditors

DATE: 22 SEPTEMBER 2025

ABDO BENEVOLENT FUND

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	12,832	12,832	10,482
Investments	542	542	338
TOTAL INCOME	<u>13,374</u>	<u>13,374</u>	<u>10,820</u>
Investment Income			
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	5,076	5,076	5,930
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>5,076</u>	<u>5,076</u>	<u>5,930</u>
Net movement in funds	<u>8,298</u>	<u>8,298</u>	<u>4,890</u>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	50,808	50,808	45,918
Net movement in funds	8,298	8,298	4,890
Total funds carried forward	<u>59,106</u>	<u>59,106</u>	<u>50,808</u>

ABDO BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance sheet

Year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	-
Current Assets		
Debtors	14,211	7,973
Cash in bank at hand	<u>44,896</u>	<u>42,835</u>
	<u>59,106</u>	<u>50,808</u>
Current Liabilities		
Net current assets	<u>59,106</u>	<u>50,808</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>59,106</u>	<u>50,808</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset	<u>59,106</u>	<u>50,808</u>
Total net assets	<u>59,106</u>	<u>50,808</u>
Charity funds		
Restricted funds	-	-
Unrestricted funds	<u>59,106</u>	<u>50,808</u>
Total funds	<u>59,106</u>	<u>50,808</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Jo Holmes Trustee

DATE: 9 September 2025



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