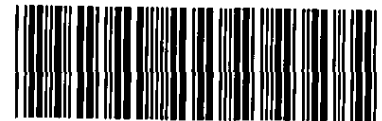


**Company Number 5581537**

**OPEN RIGHTS  
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 OCTOBER 2008**

**TUESDAY**



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25/08/2009

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COMPANIES HOUSE

**OPEN RIGHTS**  
**Report and accounts**  
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**OPEN RIGHTS  
Company Information**

**Directors**

William Heath  
Louise Ferguson  
James Cronin  
Suw Charman (resigned May 2008)  
Rufus Pollock  
Ben Laurie  
Danny O'Brien  
David Harris  
Dan McQuillan  
Vijay Sodiwala

**Secretary**

James Cronin

**Office and Correspondence Address**

The Open Rights Group  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
100 Gray's Inn Road  
London WC1X 8AL

**Registered Office**

12 Duke's Road  
London WC1H 9AD

**Independent Examiner**

Anthony Epton BA FCA CTA FCIE  
Goldwins  
Chartered Accountants  
75 Maygrove Road  
London NW6 2EG

**Bankers**

Cooperative Bank plc  
PO Box 101  
1 Balloon Street  
Manchester M60 4EP

**Company Number 5581537**

## **OPEN RIGHTS**

### **Report of the Board of Directors for the year ended 31 October 2008**

#### **Principal Activities**

The principal activities of Open Rights (which trades as the Open Rights Group or ORG) are: to raise awareness of digital rights matters amongst the media, policy makers and general public; to preserve and extend civil, human and consumer rights in the digital environment; and to nurture and assist a community of campaigning volunteers. This is achieved by, among other things: the organisation of grassroots campaigns; lobbying politicians and policy makers; the provision of a media clearinghouse service; and the publication of research and white papers.

#### **Financial results for the year**

The financial results for the year are set out on page 4.

#### **Main activities**

During 2007/08, the Open Rights Group consolidated its early campaign successes in copyright and electoral reform. New campaigns, notably around online privacy, as well as educational seminars were also undertaken, in addition to a successful fundraising drive. ORG continues to employ two full-time members of staff, an Executive Director and Operations Manager. Two part-time staff members were also retained during this period to consult on grant-funded activities. Volunteers, from policy advisers to graphic designers and systems' administrators, play a vital role in the organisation, allowing it to achieve far more than it would otherwise be able to whilst simultaneously strengthening the connections between ORG and its passionate constituents by providing plenty of opportunity to become directly involved and make a difference.

Our primary 2006/07 campaign continued in this year with a technical observation of the May 2008 London Mayoral elections. This well regarded project aimed to improve the public understanding of the technical and democratic shortcomings of current e-counting and e-voting technologies and resulted in the publication of a comprehensive and detailed report based on the findings of the 27-strong volunteer observation team, which the Electoral Commission echoed when calling for a return to manual counts.

Our work against copyright term extension received a significant boost with the award of a grant from the Open Society Foundation. This funding enabled our engagement with legislators and other stakeholders to promote proportionality and judicial oversight in the enforcement of intellectual property rights against those participating in file sharing. ORG's role in this regional and national debate has been to firmly represent the legitimate interests of ordinary citizens and consumers in a calm and reasoned manner.

Partnering with 01Zero-One, the new media skills and development centre, ORG undertook its first educational project, examining how the internet is enabling creative entrepreneurs to develop innovative businesses by being more open with their intellectual property. The project examined emerging business models and culminated in a series of free public courses which invited creative practitioners to share our research and apply it to their own fields. The courses were significantly over-subscribed and the materials have subsequently been made available online for remix and reuse under a permissive licence.

ORG has also developed a strong, distinctive voice in the public policy debates over privacy in the online world and the growing public concerns surrounding the database state. Personal data and privacy became a key political issue in November 2007 following a seemingly endless series of high-profile data losses. The issue of the database state followed as runaway costs and damage to the relationship between citizen and state became clear. We have been particularly successful in producing interactive web tools that engage the public in these issues in innovative ways and effectively convert that engagement into civic actions such as contacting their elected representatives.

Other campaigning activities have included:

- Media liaison on a variety of topics, providing background information and direct quotes from ORG representatives, and putting journalists quickly in touch with other experts.
- Holding events for ORG supporters, including monthly meetings for copyright activists, and more general networking events.
- Creating and nurturing a vibrant network of volunteers and activists
- Liaison with other digital rights groups worldwide.

The Open Rights Group has through its work and reputation attracted a world-class group of independent experts and advisors who inform our policy and help, through their content and comment, build our established web presence as the focus of our campaigning activity. During 2007/08 we welcomed three new expert advisors and convened four meetings of the panel.

During 2008/2009, ORG will continue to campaign for intellectual property reform by pressing for a moderate and fair approach to the exploitation of copyright materials. ORG will consolidate its work around privacy online and the database state by pursuing grant funding for both campaigning and educational projects.

#### **Financial situation**

ORG is primarily supported by donations from members of the public and aims to pay for core activities from these funds. Following a successful fundraising campaign during summer and autumn 2008, we now fully meet the costs of our two core staff from this income, which means our essential operations are funded by the community of the public that we seek to represent. Approximately 830 members of the public provide a regular and predictable income that amounts to approximately £60,000 per annum.

In the year to November 2008 ORG received £20,000 from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust towards building a sustainable organisation, conditional on matched-funding from new public donations, which was achieved in full. As noted above, 01Zero-One contributed £19,800 for the Creative Business in the Digital Era project. Similarly, the Open Society Foundation pledged £23,000 to our campaign for copyright reform, of which £11,696 was credited during this period.

Expenditure is largely composed of staff costs and professional fees, campaigning events, volunteer travel and subsistence, communications services such as telephone and postal costs and the charges associated with collecting regular contributions from supporters through Paypal.

ORG takes care to manage its expenditure diligently without impacting effectiveness in order to ensure that the funds raised from supporters are applied for maximum effect. The board and staff are very grateful in particular to Venda whose ongoing generous support by donation of rent-free office space and meeting facilities continues to save the organisation substantial expense.

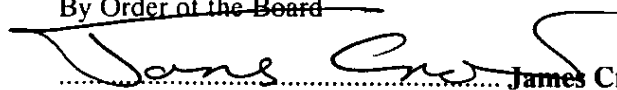
#### **Directors' remuneration**

Directors of Open Rights are volunteers and none receive remuneration for their services during this year.

#### **Company status**

The company is limited by guarantee and all members have agreed to contribute a sum not exceeding £1 in the event of a winding up. Number of guarantors at 31 October 2008 - three.

By Order of the Board

  
James Cronin

21 - AUG - 2009  
Date

**OPEN RIGHTS****Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 October 2008**

	Notes	2008 £	2007 £
<b>INCOME</b>			
Subscriptions		49,306	46,639
Grant from Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd		20,000	28,950
Sponsorship from Foundation for Information Policy Research		-	1,000
Grant from 01Zero-One		19,800	-
Grant from Open Society Foundation		11,696	-
Donations		4,950	1,264
Reimbursed expenses		2,664	-
Refunded overpayment		899	-
Interest receivable		706	410
		<hr/> 110,021	<hr/> 78,263
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Consultancy fees		-	9,940
Gross Pay		50,531	33,196
Employer's NI Contributions		5,698	3,308
Associations and Memberships		213	-
Bank Service Charges – Paypal		789	914
Bank Service Charges – Co-op		115	48
Business Insurance		346	-
Campaign event		1,860	-
Creative Business in the Digital Era		9,343	1,000
Copyfighters		-	46
IP Campaigner		6,981	-
E-voting		1292	17,048
Release the Music (Copyright term extension)		-	3,387
SOAP (Community party)		-	86
Other campaigns		100	523
Marketing		3420	568
Office supplies		823	510
Postage and delivery		279	64
Printing and reproduction		486	315
Professional fees		1,942	1,241
Recruitment		-	548
Service Providers		1,427	818
Taxes (corporate)		-	410
Telephone		283	1,062
Training		570	71
Travel and hotel		2,848	945
Unclassified (To be reimbursed)		357	12
Other overheads		115	-
		<hr/> 89,818	<hr/> 76,060
<b>SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR</b>		<hr/> 20,203	<hr/> 2,203
Balance Brought Forward		8,344	6,141
Balance Carried Forward		<hr/> 28,547	<hr/> 8,344

## OPEN RIGHTS

Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2008

			2008		2007
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Cash at bank			48,813		23,419
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	2				
Subscriptions received in advance		1,215		3,527	
Other creditors		<u>19,051</u>		<u>11,548</u>	
			<u>(20,266)</u>		<u>(15,075)</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>			28,547 =====		8,344 =====
Represented by:					
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>			28,547 =====		8,344 =====

For the year ended 31 October 2008 the directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption under Section 249A(1) of the Companies Act 1985 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to Section 249B(2) of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- 1) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with Section 221 of the Companies Act 1985; and
- 2) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 226 of the Companies Act 1985, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this Act relating to accounts so far as applicable to the company.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 21/8/09  
and signed on its behalf by



**James Cronin**  
Director

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF OPEN RIGHTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2008**

I report on the accounts of Open Rights for the year ended 31 October 2008, which are set out in pages 4 to 6.

### **Respective responsibilities of the directors and the examiner**

The Board of Directors are responsible for preparing the accounts. The Board of Directors consider that an audit is not required and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on its accounts.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the company and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also included considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as directors concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the directors have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept, and
  - accounts are prepared which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Anthony Epton*  
Anthony Epton BA FCA CTA FCIE  
Goldwins  
Chartered Accountants  
75 Maygrove Road  
London  
NW6 2EG

*21 August 2009*



## **OPEN RIGHTS**

### **Notes to the Accounts**

**for the year ended 31 October 2008**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

#### **2 Subscriptions**

Each annual subscription is banked on receipt and the benefit is credited to income in 12 equal amounts over the ensuing year.

#### **3 Surplus income and the Accumulated Fund**

As a not for profit company, all income is dedicated to its object of raising general awareness of digital rights matters and is credited to an accumulated fund to be used for future projects. As a company limited by guarantee and without share capital, income cannot be distributed to shareholders.

#### **4 Corporation Tax**

It is our understanding that corporation tax is not payable by Open Rights as it is a not for profit company.

#### **5 Bank Service Charges and consultancy fees**

Bank service charges are shown separately rather than as a combined figure, whereas consultancy fees are shown as a combined figure.