## 1. Administrative Details

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.1 - Name of National Committee:</strong></td>
<td>The UK National Committee of the Blue Shield (UKBS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.2 - Date Report Completed:</strong></td>
<td>31/03/2023</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1.3 - Reporting period covered:</strong></td>
<td>January 2022 - December 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.4 - Names, positions and emails:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair:</td>
<td>Fionnuala Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Interim) Trustees:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Peter Stone</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Ratcliffe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suzanna Joy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ian Barnes <em>(resigned Feb 2023 due to new role)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary:</td>
<td>Emma Cunliffe</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1.5 - Address of the main office:</strong></td>
<td>Canvas Art Law, Somerset House, Stand, WC2R 1LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.6 - Website and social media (if applicable):</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Website:</td>
<td><a href="http://ukblueshield.org.uk/">http://ukblueshield.org.uk/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Facebook:</td>
<td><a href="https://www.facebook.com/ukblueshield">https://www.facebook.com/ukblueshield</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Twitter:</td>
<td><a href="https://twitter.com/UKBlueShield">@UKBlueShield</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1.7 – The Blue Shield email should forward to:

2. Income:

What is the total income of your committee? What are the primary sources? (Donations, grants, etc?)

£0


Explain the activities & projects carried out over the year under the Areas of Activity

Overview:

Due to the invasion of Ukraine and ongoing support relating to events in Afghanistan, the Chair of UKBS and other trustees and members provided significant support to Blue Shield International (BSI) in 2022: the main activities included capacity building and conferences. However, members also provided periodic reports to UK Government (DCMS) and heritage professionals.

UKBS continued its lobbying efforts in relation to illicit trafficking legislation and policy, as detailed in this report.

UKBS completed its corporate set up, organised a bank account to facilitate its fundraising and is finalising its application to become a UK charity.

1 – Legal compliance, policy, and their implementation:

This was the highest priority for the committee in 2022.

1.1] Continue to act as a source of advice and support on UK implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention (1954 HC):

- Both the Chair and Secretary have attended the Cross-Government CPP Working Group to maintain links with the Civil Service and politicians.
- Chair supported Metropolitan Police Service in assessing illicit trafficking offences relating to objects potentially exported from conflict zones.
- Chair and members of UKBS engaged in discussions and webinars regarding forfeiture obligations under HCS4, specifically with regard to illicit objects exported from Ukraine.
- Secretary supported the MoD Human Security Civil Society Roundtable (Feb 2022), and follow
Act as a source of advice and support in the UK re. illicit trafficking:

- UKBS is represented by the Chair and Neil Brodie (NB) on BSI Illegal Trafficking Working Group, which remains active.
- Chair and James Ratcliffe (JR) participated in EU Task Force on enforcement of art and heritage crimes, the first of which took place in Cairo in June 2022.
- UKBS assisted the Metropolitan Police in investigations (which remain confidential).
- UKBS continues to lobby for closing loopholes in AML legislation in the antiquities trade in the UK.
- Chair and JR supported colleagues in Afghanistan in relation to identifying and registering looted manuscripts, liaising with UK and Netherlands law enforcement.
- Chair participated in bi-annual UK Government’s Illicit Trade Working Group, acting as a source of advice.
- Chair contributed to a study commissioned by DCMS for the Commission for International Justice and Accountability (CJA) to carry out a Feasibility Study ‘Examining the Prospects for Criminal Prosecutions in Response to Antiquities Smuggling from Syria’.
- Chair provided support to the Georgian National Committee of the Blue Shield on the illicit trafficking regulations their report, co-authored with the UKBS Secretary EC in her academic capacity, *Implementation of International Humanitarian Law for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the Occupied Tskhinvali Region* [https://theblueshield.org/bs-georgia-releases-report-on-damaged-georgian-heritage/](https://theblueshield.org/bs-georgia-releases-report-on-damaged-georgian-heritage/)
- Chair presented virtually and in person to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) training and capacity building event, the inaugural Scenario-based Workshop on the Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property, demonstrating the work of the BSI, UKBS and the BSI Illegal Trafficking Working Group (November 2022).

Assist UK Government on implementation of the EU Cultural Property Import Regulations, in particular full application in Northern Ireland (NI) and implementation of Article 3(1) in GB:

- In Summer 2021, the UK Government repealed the EU Cultural Property Import Regulations in Great Britain but not in NI, where it will apply in full. In 2022, UKBS continued to raise awareness of the risk of NI becoming a gateway for illicit antiquities into Europe, and urged the UK Government to set out measures to mitigate the risk.
- Activities in 2022 included:
  
  i. Developing and publishing an Antiquities Coalition Policy Brief titled: ‘Policy Brief 9: Following the UK’s Repeal of the EU Import Regulation in Great Britain, will Northern Ireland become a gateway to Europe for illicit cultural property?’ This paper examined the reasoning behind the UK’s decision to repeal the EU Cultural Property Import Regulations (and failure to replace it with equivalent legislation) and critiqued the assurances given as to the effectiveness of the UK’s current measures, making a series of recommendations to encourage the UK to balance competing interests, meet its international commitments and take the role as a leading example for other art market countries in cultural heritage protection (available [here](#), October 2021).
ii. Discussing the impact of the UK’s decision to repeal the EU Cultural Property Import Regulations, challenges and recommendations for next steps with an expert panel in a webinar ‘Live Expert Panel: Following Brexit, will the UK become a centre of cultural racketeering?’, hosted by the Antiquities Coalition and moderated by Alexander Herman from the Institute of Art and Law (available here, 1 March 2022).

iii. Discussed the impact of the UK’s decision to repeal the EU Cultural Property Import Regulations at the Institute of Art and Law’s seminar on ‘Exporting Art’ (available here, 15 February 2022).

1.4] Investigate the ways in which ICH can be included in our work programme and encourage ratification of the 2003 ICH Convention:

- UKBS has expanded its representation to cover ICH and is developing a structure to leverage this expertise.

1.5] Agree the role and structure of the UKBS and members:

- UKBS has now finalised its legal and charitable structure (see 2.1) and developed a proposal for Membership to put to members in 2023.

2 – Co-ordination of Blue Shield members and with partner organisations:

2.1] Establish UKBS as a Charity. Continue to review and implement corporate / charitable legal compliance:

- UKBS has incorporated as a charitable company limited by guarantee in order to appoint the trustees as directors and open a UK bank account.
- The application for charitable status will follow in 2023.

2.2] Develop fundraising strategy:

- A fundraising strategy is in development to accompany the charitable registration.

2.3] Attend 2022 Blue Shield General Assembly, and other Blue Shield events as the opportunity arises:

- UKBS attended the virtual Blue Shield General Assembly which welcomed representatives from Blue Shield National Committees, committees under construction and the Founding Four organisations (available here, 14 June 2022).

2.4] Maintain quarterly meetings of UKBS and partner organisation guest speaker programme:

- UKBS suspended its meetings in 2022 in order to re-visit its status (charitable company) and review its membership structure and participation. Trustees have developed a new plan to encourage proactive participation and leverage the expertise of UKBS membership in 2023 onwards.

2.5] Aim to have at least 1 representative attend each BSI informal meeting (virtual monthly meetings):
• At least one member of UKBS attends every BS meeting.

2.6] Continue to build relationships with the National Trust, and other partners as opportunities arise:
• EC began working closely with the National Trust on resilience work evaluating safeguarding and emergency planning measures in the National Trust, looking at the 1954 Hague Convention and wider resilience planning post-pandemic. In late 2022, this discussion expanded to include Historic England.
• In 2022, UKBS worked closely with partners including NT, HE, the OSCE, NATO ARRC, and see 3.2 below for additional examples of building relationships with other organisations.

2.7] Review UKBS membership to cover all aspects of heritage:
• UKBS is reviewing its membership structure and participation. Trustees have developed a new plan to encourage proactive participation and leverage the expertise of UKBS membership in 2023 onwards.
• UKBS has expanded its representation to cover additional areas and has developed a structure to leverage this expertise, including ICH and underwater heritage.

2.8] Widen UKBS representation from Scotland, NI, and Wales:
• UKBS has widened representation to include members from Scotland and Wales. UKBS has invited representation from Northern Ireland and will follow up in 2023.

2.9] Investigate potential contacts and how UKBS could assist in better coordination regarding CPP in UK dependencies:
• This matter is on hold until re-organisation of membership structure is implemented, but UKBS members have proposed several suitable candidates.

Other
• Two members of UKBS are on the BSI Illegal Trafficking Working Group (See 1.2 above).

3 – Capacity building activities, education and training:

3.1] Investigate potential of contributing to publications (online or hard copy, academic or non-academic publications i.e. blog articles):
• Developed and published an Antiquities Coalition Policy Brief (See 1.3(i) above).
• EC and FR contributed to the Movable and Immovable Heritage chapters in the forthcoming Cultural Property Encyclopaedia.

3.2] Continue to investigate opportunities to deliver and participate in public/student awareness raising activities
• Members of the UKBS lectured on various student courses (Sotheby’s Summer School, Christie’s Education, Institute of Art and Law and MA courses at Durham and Newcastle Universities).

Activities in 2022 included:

i. Chair presented at Institute of Art and Law on ‘Importing cultural goods into the EU’ (March 2022).

ii. Chair presented at Institute of Art and Law on ‘Sustainable Tourism and Heritage in the Middle East’ (March 2022).

iii. Chair presented at Leiden University on the ‘Illegal Trafficking of African Objects today vs Colonial Looted Objects’ and lectured on the approach of museums and contemporary art collectors, organised by UNESCO UK and Leiden University (April 2022).

iv. Chair presented at Sotheby’s Institute of Art on ‘Cultural Heritage Protection’, lecturing on key threats arising from conflict and natural disaster, the resulting need for CPP measures and the international CPP regulatory framework (April 2022).

v. PG presented at Sotheby’s Institute of Art Summer School (Summer 2022)

vi. Chair prepared a paper for conference organised in partnership with Blue Shield Austria on the legal issues surrounding protection of cultural heritage in Nagorno Karabakh (April 2022).


viii. EC spoke at the Expert Panel ‘What constitutes a Commander’s dilemma?’ at the ARRCADE EXPERT 22/1 study day – Commander’s Dilemmas in Urban Warfare: Threats to Human Security as a Factor in Mission Success or Mission Failure, NATO Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (Virtual, March 2022).

3.3 Investigate potential training and capacity building strategy to be rolled out in relation to NI particularly in respect of illicit trafficking and EU Cultural Property Import Regulations and partner organisations such as ICOM in relation to HC54 as it applies to Museums and accreditation:

- Due to the uncertainty caused by the changes to the Northern Ireland Protocol, this activity was suspended until the logistics between GB and NI were finalised. However, Chair liaised with [Professor at Queen’s University Belfast to do [XXX]

3.4 Ongoing support for BSI’s work developing and delivering training and educational materials for the heritage sector and armed forces:

- UKBS has continued to develop strong links with the British Army Cultural Property Protection Unit, who attend UKBS meetings. UKBS members also attended British Army CPP meetings in the first half of 2022, before they ceased.

- EC conducts military training and support with UK based NATO forces, e.g., ARRC. In 2022 she attended 3 events and exercises with the NATO ARRC to provide cultural property protection subject matter expertise, and attended the MoD Human Security roundtable.
• UKBS members supported the development of leaflets for BSI (in co-ordination with National Trust) regarding the safeguarding measures under HC54, such as peacetime proactive safeguarding, preparing for conflict, emergency evacuation).

4 – Proactive protection and risk preparedness

4.1) Preparedness to be included in strategy in NI which may be a target for illicit trafficking at the border:
• See 3.3.

4.2] Develop and implement a strategy to increase UKBS’s activity in natural disasters/ climate change and in particular, integrate the four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk in the Sendai Framework:
• Due to capacity we were unable to progress this activity

4.3] Investigate with a view to expanding our activities to cover Underwater CH:
• UKBS has expanded its representation to Underwater CH and has developed a structure to leverage this expertise.

5 – Stabilisation, post- disaster recovery, & long-term/ongoing activities:

This was considered a low priority activity for UKBS, with no activities in the Strategic Plan to report against. However, The Chair of UKBS has been working with BSI to try and provide support to Afghan cultural heritage workers and their heritage following the Taliban takeover.

6 – Emergency response:

This was considered a low priority for UKBS, with no Strategic Plan activities to report against.

4. Main issues faced:

The UKBS struggles with a lack of funding and lacks capacity to fully engage on all issues. This has been hindered by the lack of legal registration which has prevented applying for a bank account – problems which are now largely solved.

The UKBS has historically been a reactive committee, being proactive in its support for BSI activities, and seeks to change that in 2023.
5. Future goals

The key goals for the UKBS are:

- To achieve charitable status; paperwork is expected to be submitted in Q1 2023.
- To develop and implement a fundraising strategy.
- To host at least one event, and others if the opportunity arises.
- To continue to provide advice and support regarding implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and prevention of illicit trafficking.
- To develop and implement a revised membership structure to encourage proactive participation and leverage expertise of the membership.

6. Other

Through its connection to Newcastle University, BSI is sometimes able to access funding that can be shared with research institutions to further the work of Blue Shield. Does your national committee have any connections with research institutions interested in its work (e.g. in risk management, heritage protection, etc.). If yes, please supply the names and contact details here.

Professor Peter Stone, Newcastle University

Dr Emma Cunliffe, Newcastle University

Professor Nigel Pollard, Swansea University

7. Confidential Information for Blue Shield International

Please include here any confidential information you do not wish to be made public.