

Honorary Treasurer

Role Description

First prepared:	20 February 2018 Governance Committee and Honorary Treasurer
Last updated:	11 November 2020 Finance, Audit and Investment Committee and Governance Committee <i>(Terminology updated 24 May 2022)</i>
Governing Board approved:	Approved 13 June 2018 – Board teleconference

Cochrane’s Articles of Association (‘Articles’) provide the Governing Board (‘Board’) with the power to make ‘Executive Appointments’ amongst its membership (Clause 18). The role of Honorary Treasurer (‘Treasurer’) is an Executive Appointment.

The Treasurer supports the Trustees to fulfil their obligation to provide financial oversight for the organization.

The role of the Honorary Treasurer can be summarized as follows:

To act as the leading interface between the Board and Central Executive Team (CET) – the paid staff of the Charity - on financial matters. To provide advice, assistance and information to the Board, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and the Director of Finance & Corporate Services, so as to help ensure the Charity’s current and future financial obligations are met; and financial stewardship responsibilities and practices are in compliance with the Articles of Association, legal requirements and best practice.

The main duties of the Treasurer are:

- Chairing the Board’s Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, whose primary role is to take responsibility on behalf of the Board for overseeing all financial aspects of Charity operations so as to ensure short- and long-term viability.
- Identifying strategic implications arising from the relevant financial reports and lead the Board in discussion of these implications.
- Liaising with, and providing guidance to the CEO, who is responsible for the financial activities of the organization; to the Director of Finance & Corporate Services, who manages the Charity’s finances; and to the Company Secretary, who is responsible for the efficient administration of the Charity, particularly with regard to compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.
- Along with the Board Co-Chairs, work with the CEO and Editor in Chief to take decisions and conduct Board business in-between formal Board meetings.
- Sitting on the Board’s Remuneration Committee, which is responsible for ensuring the Charity has transparent, appropriate, and fair remuneration for employees and consultants that is aligned with its purpose and values.

The Treasurer is responsible for:

- Working with and supporting the CEO and Director of Finance & Corporate Services in the development and presentation of budgets, internal management accounts and annual financial statements to the Board so as to ensure they are properly understood by all Board members.
- Leading in the Board's duty to ensure that proper accounting records are kept, financial resources are properly controlled, invested and economically spent; in line with good governance, legal and regulatory requirements in the UK and overseas where appropriate.
- Working with the Director of Finance & Corporate Services in the development and implementation of financial reserves, cost-management and investment policies.
- Monitoring and advising on the financial implications and sustainability of the Charity's strategic plan.
- Overseeing the implementation of and monitoring specific financial controls and adherence to systems.
- Overseeing the Charity's financial risk-management process.
- Board-level liaison with the external auditors on specific issues such as the Auditors' Management Letter and the related Board representations.

The Treasurer is guided in their work by the best practice guidance of the Charity Commission.