

STATEMENT OF THE PROTECTOR OF THE NESTA TRUST

FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2020 TO 31 MARCH 2021

NESTA TRUST

Background

The Nesta Trust is a charitable trust (charity number 1144683) set up for broad charitable purposes including the advancement of education and in particular the study of innovation, research and the publication of the useful results thereof and to advance science, technology, the arts and the efficiency of public services, the voluntary sector, industry, commerce and social enterprise which relieves poverty and unemployment and to advance health or environmental protection or improvement or sustainable development and advances citizenship and community development through or by encouraging and supporting innovation.

The Trust has a substantial endowment provided by the transfer to it from the predecessor body, the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts. Full details of the Trust and the Trustee's activities and their accounts can be found in the annual report.

The sole trustee of Nesta Trust is Nesta, which is also a charity with similar but broader objects (charity number 1144091).

Functions of the Protector

The Protector of the Nesta Trust, James Sinclair Taylor, a solicitor and partner in the Charity and Social Business Team at Russell-Cooke, was reappointed in 2017 for a further period of five years by the Secretary of State. He has a fiduciary responsibility under the deed establishing Nesta Trust as a charity to:

“Ensure the integrity of the administration of the Trust and the propriety of its procedures and if necessary report matters of serious concern to the Charity Commission and where the Protector considers it appropriate the Secretary of State”.

The Protector is also required each year to prepare a statement for publication by the Trustee in such format as the Protector thinks fit consisting of an explanation of the function of the Protector and how the function has been exercised. This statement has been prepared in respect of the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The Protector is given a range of other powers to enable him to carry out his functions.

Discharge of functions

Activities undertaken by the Protector in discharge of his functions have included:

- Attendance at Trustee Board meetings and of board committees
- Consideration of policies, strategies, minutes and other documentation
- Liaison with the Chair of Trustees, the Chief Executive, other staff and in-house lawyers on a range of issues, including management of conflict of interest

- Attendance at events organised by Nesta;
- Consideration of the annual report and accounts;

This work together with consideration of the reports and other documents produced by the Trustee makes it clear that:

- The Trustee has sought suitably qualified advice on the establishment of robust systems of internal controls and sought other professional advice where appropriate;
- The Trustee has pursued an investment strategy based on qualified advice supervised by experienced trustees which took appropriate account of the special obligations in the Trust Deed in respect of the sale of government gilts and the duty to set investment and spending policies with a view to prevent the value of the Trust Fund falling below £260m;
- The Trustee appears to have complied with its other obligations under the Trust Deed and has prepared proper reports and accounts and otherwise took reasonable steps to comply with its obligations as a charitable trustee;

Summary

The Trustee has shown a consistent concern to ensure that its decision making processes have operated with propriety and integrity. An unqualified audit opinion has been given by Nesta's auditors BDO in respect of the Trust for the year ending 31 March 2020.

James Sinclair Taylor
Protector

4 November 2021