



Annual Transparency Report

2025-26



Company Number: 03547531

British Equity Collecting Society, 22 Tudor Street, London, EC4Y 0AY

British Equity Collecting Society Ltd.
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The non-executive Directors of BECS, as detailed in section 6, have been appointed by the Members of BECS to provide the supervisory function over BECS as required by the Regulations.

The Supervisory Board of BECS present this Annual Transparency Report¹ to the Members of BECS for consideration at the Annual General Meeting of the Members of BECS, to take place from 1pm on Tuesday 1st December 2026.

The Collective Management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016

This transparency report relates to BECS's financial year ended 30 April 2026 and has been published in accordance with the Collective Management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016 (the "Regulations").

The Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 April 2026 shall be deemed part of this Report for consideration by Members of BECS.

Audit and Publication

The directors of BECS have appointed Moore Kingston Smith LLP of 9 Appold Street, London, EC2A 2AP to audit the accounting information referred to in this report for the purposes of compliance with Regulation 21 (2) of the Regulations². Moore Kingston Smith LLP have performed work in accordance with the International Standard on Related Services (ISRS) 4400 (Revised) 'Engagements to perform agreed-upon procedures regarding financial information' and 'The Agreed Upon Procedures for the Audit of the Annual Transparency Report' as published by the Intellectual Property Office.

Individual Statements have been made by each non-executive Director to support the publication of this Annual Transparency Report, including all declarations of conflicts of interest made and approved by the Board of Directors and noted in the company's Register of Interests.

Once adopted by the Members of BECS, this Annual Transparency Report will be published alongside the Directors' Report and Financial Statements³ on the BECS' website⁴ at www.becs.org.uk for the purpose of reporting the activities of the company during the financial year ended 30 April 2026.

The Annual Transparency Report along with the Directors' Report and Financial Statements will remain available on the BECS website for at least 5 years⁵.

¹ Regulation 21 (1) (a)

² Regulation 21 (2) (b)

³ Regulation 21 (4) (a)

⁴ Regulation 21 (1) (b)

⁵ Regulation 21 (1) (c)

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AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF BRITISH EQUITY COLLECTING SOCIETY LIMITED

We have performed the procedures agreed with you and enumerated below with respect to the annual transparency report of British Equity Collecting Society Limited for the year ended 30 April 2026. Our engagement was undertaken in accordance with the International Standard on Related Services applicable to agreed-upon procedures engagements. The procedures were performed solely for the purpose of your compliance with Regulation 21(2)(b) of the Collective Management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations (2016) and are summarised in guidance issued by the Intellectual Property Office to Auditors in October 2017.

The procedures are set out in Annex A: Agreed upon procedures for the audit of an annual transparency report of the "Guidance on the collective management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016: annual transparency reports and audit" issued by the Intellectual Property Office in October 2017.

Solely on the basis of the above procedures we report that:

We carried out the procedures as set out in Annex A: Agreed upon procedures for the audit of an annual transparency report of the "Guidance on the collective management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016: annual transparency reports and audit" issued by the Intellectual Property Office in October 2017. There were no errors or exceptions found as a result of our testing.

Because the above procedures do not constitute engagements made in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) or the International Standard for Review Engagements (UK and Ireland), we do not express any assurance on the annual transparency report for the year ended 30 April 2026.

Use and purpose of our report

Our Report is prepared solely for the use of British Equity Collecting Society Limited and solely for the purpose of its compliance with Regulation 21(2)(b) of the Collective Management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations (2016). It may not be relied upon by British Equity Collecting Society Limited for any other purpose whatsoever. Our Report was not prepared for the benefit of any party other than British Equity Collecting Society Limited. Moore Kingston Smith LLP neither owes nor accepts any duty to any other party (including any copyright owner, heirs to copyright owners, agents or licensees) and shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature which is caused by their reliance on our Report.

Tim Hardy

Moore Kingston Smith LLP,

of 9 Appold Street, London, EC2A 2AP

Date:

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1. BECS Members

All applicants for Membership of BECS are required to complete and sign a Performer Registration Form (or Performer Heir Registration Form) and Membership Agreement and provide proof of name and address. At the time of writing, BECS has 29,920 members (including performers and performer heirs). Members assign the rights specified in the Membership Agreement to BECS whilst they remain in membership. They also accept a liability of £1 if BECS is dissolved whilst their membership is current. BECS does not currently operate any Extended Collective Licensing ("ECL") scheme.

BECS operates a **Code of Practice** relating to its activities. BECS's published Code of Practice includes details of the complaints procedure to be adhered to, should a complaint be made.

2. Governance Structure of BECS⁶

BECS is a private company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. BECS has no subsidiary undertakings⁷. BECS operates on a not-for-profit basis. BECS is a collective management organisation for the purposes of the Regulations⁸. It is owned and controlled by its members being performers and their heirs.

3. Amounts deducted for the purposes of Social, Cultural and Educational services⁹

In accordance with company policy, BECS has not made any deductions for third party social, cultural or educational services during the financial year ended 30 April 2026.

Affiliations

During the financial year ended 30 April 2026, BECS has been a member of or affiliated to the following bodies and recorded respective expenses:

- British Copyright Council (BCC: www.britishcopyright.org)
 - o £ 1,333 as membership fees
- Societies' Council for the Collective management of Performers' Rights (SCAPR: www.scapr.org):
 - o £ 9,428 as membership fees
 - o £ 13,733 as fees for VRDB2
 - o £ 8,137 as fees for IPD

The above fees are based on BECS' membership numbers and collections.
- AEPO ARTIS (www.aepo-artis.org):
 - o £ 6,410 as the year's contribution.

This charge is based on BECS' collections in the year.
- Global Audiovisual Alliance (GAVA: www.gava.global):
 - o £3,725 as voluntary contribution

4. Information on refusals to grant a licence¹⁰

BECS does not grant licences and therefore this information is not applicable.

⁶ Regulation 21 (4) (d)

⁷ Regulation 21 (4) (e)

⁸ Regulation 21 (4) (b)

⁹ Regulation 21 (3) and 21 (4) (g)

¹⁰ Regulation 21 (4) (c)

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5. The Financial Statements for British Equity Collecting Society Ltd (company registration number 03547531) for the year ended 30 April 2026 including the Directors' Report form part of this Annual Transparency report.

The Financial Statements and the Directors' Report for the year ended 30 April 2026 include: -

- The total revenue for the year ended 30 April 2026
- The total costs incurred by BECS as administration costs
- A breakdown of personnel costs

A detailed breakdown of BECS' administration expenditure is as follows:

Expense Category	2025/26 £	2024/25 £
Directors salaries	116,728	127,409
Directors pension costs	56,663	48,273
Staff salaries and related costs	205,758	226,340
Office costs	76,813	69,418
Database materials / System Expenditure	52,244	61,961
Travel and subsistence	7,417	5,652
Communication / Lobbying costs	6,607	21,421
Affiliations	42,766	37,211
Sundry expenses	2,344	5,100
Legal and professional fees	16,175	19,905
Auditors' remuneration	18,700	20,000
Amortisation of intangible assets	989	1,974
Depreciation	3,510	2,188
Bank charges	2,128	2,242
TOTAL	608,842	649,094

6. Directors and officers

Procedures for the appointment of Directors are set out in the BECS Articles of Association which are published and made accessible on the BECS website at <http://www.becs.org.uk/articles-of-association>.

The directors who served on the BECS' Board during the year ended 30 April 2026 were:

- | | |
|---|---|
| - Jean Hartley (Chair) | - Ryan Early |
| - Natasha Gerson – deceased 27 Jul 2025 | - Kevin Francis |
| - Peter Barnes | - Robin Browne – appointed 9 Feb 2026 |
| - Fiona Branson | - Tayyiba Nasser |
| - Jo Cameron Brown | - Samuel Gardner - appointed 2 Dec 2025 |

All directors are non-executive Directors except for Tayyiba Nasser who is an executive director.

No remuneration was paid for the services of any non-executive Director during the year. The following Directors received payments made by BECS in respect of their rights as Performers and as reimbursement of expenses¹¹:

¹¹ Regulation 21 (4) (f)

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	Performers' Remuneration	Expenses
Peter Barnes	33	0
Jo Cameron Brown	185	78
Robin Browne	11	0
Ryan Early	456	171
Tayyiba Nasser	0	843
Jean Hartley	0	165
Samuel Gardner	88	0

The executive director's remuneration is detailed in section 5

BECS paid £2,434 for insurance to cover its Directors and Officers against liabilities in relation to their duties to the company.

7. BECS Activities in the year¹²

During the year ended 30 April 2026, BECS continued its core role of collecting and distributing performers' remuneration on behalf of its members while pursuing a range of policy, legal, governance and operational initiatives designed to protect and enhance performers' rights. The principal activities undertaken during the year are summarised below.

Collections and Distributions

The principal activity of BECS is the collection and distribution of audiovisual rights revenue on behalf of its membership. BECS did not undertake any activities unrelated to collective rights management.

During the financial year, BECS collected £6.19 million in rights revenue for distribution to members. This was lower than the £9.64 million collected in the previous year, principally reflecting the continued interruption or reduction of payments from certain European collective management organisations following the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union.

BECS ordinarily undertakes two principal distributions each year, with the main distribution in June and a supplementary distribution later in the year. A total of 13,501 members received at least one payment in the year, either directly or via their agent, from BECS. A detailed analysis of collections, rights categories and deductions is provided in Section 11 of this report.

Impact of the UK's Withdrawal from the EU

BECS continued to address the loss of statutory remuneration from certain European territories following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. Some collective management organisations have taken the position that their national laws no longer permit payments to UK nationals or in respect of performances in UK productions.

During the reporting period, BECS continued to engage with the affected organisations, supported by specialist legal advice and discussions with the UK Intellectual Property Office. The most significant financial impact continues to arise from France and Belgium. BECS also raised concerns regarding the cessation of private copying remuneration payments from Denmark. Despite continuing engagement, payments had not resumed by the end of the reporting period. BECS remains committed to protecting members' rights and pursuing solutions to these issues.

¹² Regulation 21 (4) (b)

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The Smart Fund and Private Copying Remuneration

BECS continued to support the Smart Fund campaign, which seeks the introduction of a UK private copying remuneration scheme. Such a scheme would provide an additional source of income for performers and other creators while helping to establish reciprocity with countries that already operate private copying systems.

During the year, campaign partners continued engagement with the Intellectual Property Office and developed further evidence on private copying practices in the UK. Following the year end, independent research was commissioned from Verian, to which BECS contributed £11,500, to strengthen the evidence base for future discussions with government and policymakers.

Artificial Intelligence and Performers' Rights

Artificial intelligence remained a major focus of BECS's policy and advocacy work throughout the year. BECS continued to promote the principle that performers should be able to control the use of their performances, voices, images and likenesses in AI systems and should receive appropriate recognition, transparency and remuneration where such uses occur.

During the reporting period, BECS participated in consultations and parliamentary discussions relating to copyright, artificial intelligence, digital replicas and performers' rights. At the December 2025 AGM, members approved amendments to BECS's Articles of Association and membership framework to strengthen BECS's ability to manage and protect AI-related rights on behalf of members. Following the member consultation process, BECS also issued an opt-out reserving members' repertoire against text and data mining for AI training purposes.

BECS continued to work with UK and international partners on issues including AI licensing, digital replicas, deepfakes and performer remuneration, and contributed evidence to parliamentary inquiries examining the future relationship between copyright and artificial intelligence.

Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances (BTAP)

BECS continued to advocate for UK ratification and implementation of the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances and for improved remuneration rights for performers in relation to on-demand and streaming services. These issues were raised with parliamentarians and policymakers throughout the year.

While progress remained slower than BECS would have wished, the organisation continued to make both the Beijing Treaty and streaming remuneration key priorities within its UK and international advocacy activities.

International Cooperation and Bilateral Relationships

BECS continued to strengthen its international relationships through bilateral cooperation and participation in AEPO-ARTIS, SCAPR and GAVA. These organisations provide important forums for exchanging operational expertise, supporting reciprocal payments and advocating improved rights for audiovisual performers.

During the financial year, BECS signed a new bilateral agreement with the Slovenian collective management organisation and explored cooperation with organisations in Austria, Finland, South Korea, Turkey and other territories.

Through GAVA, BECS supported international advocacy for improved audiovisual performers' rights. During 2026, GAVA participated in WIPO discussions and advocated for audiovisual performers to be included in international work concerning creators' remuneration.

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Technology and Operational Development

During the year, BECS undertook a detailed review of its finance, membership and distribution systems. The Board approved the implementation of new cloud-based systems as part of a wider programme to modernise BECS's operations. The programme is intended to strengthen financial controls, improve reporting and oversight, enhance operational resilience, and support the efficient administration of member data, rights revenue and payments.

At the date of this report, the programme was in its final implementation and testing phase. What began as a replacement of legacy systems has evolved into a broader operational transformation programme incorporating improved workflows, automation, governance safeguards, reporting capabilities and future enhancements to member services.

Governance, Data Protection and Organisational Resilience

During the reporting period, BECS completed an external data protection audit. The audit assessed BECS's existing practices as low risk and recommended further internal procedures relating to data breaches and subject access requests, together with updates to the organisation's privacy information.

Members approved amendments to BECS's Articles at the December 2025 Annual General Meeting to permit physical, electronic and hybrid general meetings, recognise electronic attendance for quorum and voting purposes, and enable the Board to manage physical attendance fairly where venue capacity is limited. Members also approved provisions enabling an interim Board vacancy to be filled, in appropriate circumstances, by the eligible unelected nominee who received the next highest number of votes at the preceding election.

Since the year end, the Board has approved a comprehensive review of BECS's governance and employment policy framework. The policies were updated to reflect current legal requirements and good governance while remaining proportionate to BECS's size and structure.

8. Revenues

Total revenue for the year is shown in the Directors' Report and Financial statements for the year.

9. Distribution Policy

BECS' Members have seen and approved the Distribution Policies applied by BECS and the Collective Management Organisations from which BECS received payments of Performers Remuneration for the purposes of proposing and (subject to required approvals) making distributions to BECS Members. The approved Distribution Policies are referred to on the BECS website [here](#).

10. Allocations to categories of right holders¹³

Each BECS member assigns certain exclusive rights to BECS to enable BECS to exercise the "Mandated Rights", including the right to collect and distribute "Performers Remuneration" (as defined in the BECS Membership Agreement and Articles of Association respectively).

BECS does not currently recognise any monies collected for distribution that it considers as non-distributable. As at 30 April 2026 BECS had £7.6 million recorded as distributable to members. This balance represents rights revenue received but not yet paid to members at the balance sheet date, and the full amount is recognised as a current liability. Of this amount, £6.1 million, less administration fees, was allocated for distribution in June 2026, and a further £306,000, less any applicable fees, is expected to be allocated in November 2026. The remaining balance of £1.2 million is outstanding either because further information is required to enable

¹³ Regulation 21 (4) (j)

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payment or because the amount payable to an individual member is below BECS' minimum payment threshold of £10 for BACS payments and £50 for international wire transfers.

Due to the volume of individual transactions and the structure of BECS' legacy distribution systems, it is not currently practicable to analyse allocated but undistributed amounts by year of original collection. BECS is implementing new systems that are expected to improve reporting capability in this area.

BECS allocates all monies received for distribution to members within 9 months of the end of the financial year in which the rights revenue was collected, unless there are objective reasons preventing BECS from doing so. All allocated monies are ordinarily distributed as soon as they reach the payment threshold.

11. Collections and Management Fees¹⁴

BECS' bilateral agreements cover a range of rights relevant to local national legislation. The table below gives a breakdown of the monies collected by region and by the type of right. The rights are described in more detail on our website: www.becs.org.uk/payments/#income-sources.

Region	Amount Collected	Private Copying	Lending / Rental	Comm to Public*	Broadcast-ing	Re-transmission	Making Available	Other Adjustment
Belgium	618,823	489,011	13,501	0	0	116,257	0	56
Chile	61,255	0	0	4,060	14,271	15,676	27,001	247
Colombia	67,793	0	0	67,793	0	0	0	0
France	224,576	224,576	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hungary	28,919	10,452	0	18,467	0	0	0	0
Italy	727,000	124,920	0	0	353,541	0	248,539	0
Mexico	52,598	0	0	0	0	0	52,598	0
Netherlands	1,772,515	816,511	34,198	165,344	751,708	0	390	4,362
Norway	262,270	516	0	5,199	16,105	237,100	1,932	1,419
Peru	28,938	0	0	0	0	0	28,938	0
Portugal	75,498	37,205	0	38,292	0	0	0	0
Romania	148,810	33,058	0	44,690	10,565	60,497	0	0
Spain	1,037,265	128,721	38	140,290	504,581	105,007	158,628	0
Sweden	1,002,168	1,002,168	0	0	0	0	0	0
Switzerland	77,522	77,522	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6,185,950	2,944,660	47,737	484,134	1,650,771	534,537	518,026	6,084

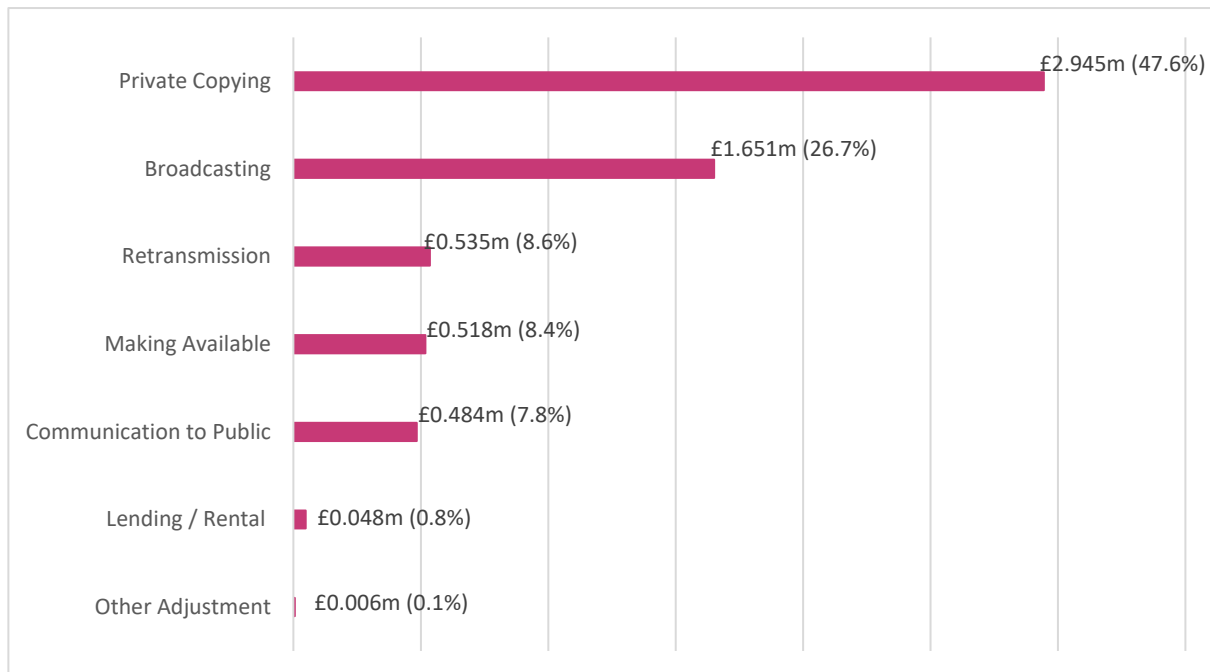
Comm to Public = Communication to the Public

¹⁴ Regulation 21 (4) (i)

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Sources of Rights Revenue 2025/26 (£'ms)



BECS' total deductions for administering performers' rights payments during the year ended 30 April 2026 amounted to £582,000. The BECS Membership has approved deductions of up to 10% across all categories of statutory remuneration collected by BECS. BECS applies deductions only to the extent required to meet its approved administration costs and therefore may apply a lower rate, or no deduction, where those costs have already been recovered.

Region	Amount Collected	BECS Admin Fee deducted	Admin Fee %
Belgium	618,823	61,600	10.0%
Chile	61,255	4,900	8.0%
Colombia	67,793	0	0.0%
France	224,576	22,400	10.0%
Hungary	28,919	2,800	9.7%
Italy	727,000	72,000	9.9%
Mexico	52,598	0	0.0%
Netherlands	1,772,515	172,800	9.7%
Norway	262,270	25,700	9.8%
Peru	28,938	2,600	9.0%
Portugal	75,498	6,300	8.3%
Romania	148,810	0	0.0%
Spain	1,037,265	103,700	10.0%
Sweden	1,002,168	100,000	10.0%
Switzerland	77,522	7,000	9.0%
Total	6,185,950	581,800	9.4%

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12. Income arising from Investment of Rights Revenue¹⁵

Bank income received by BECS from holding monies on behalf of BECS Members pending distribution as authorised together with company funds amounted to £293,903.

With the approval of BECS' Members, the company used the interest earned to meet approved management costs, rather than allocating the monies for distribution to members.

13. Relationships with other Collective Management Organisations

Below is a list of sister CMOs that BECS has active Bilateral Agreements with as at the end of April 2026:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Belgium – PlayRight | 11. Sweden - COPYSWEDE |
| 2. France – ADAMI / SAI | 12. Norway - NORWACO |
| 3. Denmark – FILMEX | 13. Romania – CREDIDAM |
| 4. Netherlands – NORMA | 14. Slovenia - AIPA |
| 5. Italy – Nuovo IMAIE | 15. Chile – CHILEACTORES |
| 6. Germany – GVL | 16. Colombia – Colombia ACTORES |
| 7. Hungary – EJI | 17. Ecuador – UNIARTE ACTORES |
| 8. Switzerland - SwissPerform | 18. Peru - IAP |
| 9. Portugal – GDA | 19. Panama - ASDAP |
| 10. Spain – AISGE | 20. Mexico - ANDI |

¹⁵ Regulation 21 (4) (h)