



UKCAT

2009/10 Annual Report



UK CAT CONSORTIUM

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010

Company Registration Number: 05620264

Charity Registered Number: 1133667

Company address: The Dean's Office, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham NG7 2UH

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INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

This has been a busy year for the Board and its sub-groups. UKCAT has achieved its ambition to register as a charity. This work required us to make changes to our Company Articles which gave us a chance to thoroughly review this document in the autumn.

In 2009 the test was delivered to record number of candidates and we were pleased to note that such a significant increase in candidate numbers was easily accommodated. A candidate survey was undertaken at close of testing and gave us some really useful feedback which has helped us develop our on-line presence and review our communications with candidates.

Test Development Group have focussed this year on internal reliabilities of the test but are also starting to look ahead to see what developments nationally and internationally can inform where UKCAT goes from here. The Research Group has been particularly active, putting in place agreements with Consortium members for the provision of progression data to inform our longitudinal cohort study. Alongside this, plans are well in place for the funding of research projects to focus on the impact of the test on widening participation in medicine and dentistry. The report describes a number of incidents which occurred during testing and required attention by UKCAT. In the light of these Test Delivery Group has been working with Pearson Vue around the quality assurance of our test delivery procedures.

Trustees and the Chief Operating Officer have been active in engaging with our stakeholders with meetings having taken place with the Medical Schools Council, GMC, BMA Students and Medical Schools Secretaries. UKCAT was a significant focus of an ASME meeting this year and also provided a focus for the Northern Admissions Meeting.

2010/11 promises to be an even busier year. Our research on widening participation should be getting under way in the autumn. At the same time we intend to put out a tender for holding our database. As we start to collect progression data we hope that the timelines for the longitudinal study will become clearer. We will be starting work soon on the retendering process for delivery of testing services beyond 2011 when our current contract with Pearson Vue comes to an end.

On behalf of the Trustees I am pleased to present the annual report and audited financial statements for the UKCAT Consortium for the year ended 31 March 2010. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements and the requirements of our governing document.

Sandra Nicholson
Chair, UKCAT

TRUSTEES' REPORT 2010

The Trustees are pleased to present their Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2010. UKCAT is registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1133667. Details of the Charity's Trustees, senior staff, bankers and professional advisors can be found towards the end of this document.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that, for each financial year, financial statements are prepared which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity at the end of that year and of the incoming resources and resources expended for that year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

UKCAT is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Articles of Association which were revised and adopted by its members in December 2009. The members of the Company are those Universities who having joined the UKCAT Consortium use the test in admissions to medical and dental programmes.

The Directors of the Company and Charity Trustees comprise:

- Seven persons elected by the members for a term of up to three years;
- the chair of the Medical Schools' Council;
- the Medical Schools' Council Executive Director;
- a person nominated by the Dental Schools' Council for a term not exceeding three years

In addition to the above the Board may from time to time appoint up to four additional persons. Such Trustees shall hold office for a term of up to three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

When appointing Trustees the Consortium attempts to represent the geographical spread and diversity of Members. No more than two representatives or other members of staff from any Member shall be Directors at the same time.

INDUCTION OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees are the Directors of the Company. They are largely elected from the representatives of the members of the Company and as such tend to be familiar with the company, its structures, objectives and operations. On appointment Directors and members are provided with relevant information regarding the company alongside copies of recent minutes of relevant meetings and recent annual reports. Directors are provided with information from the Charity Commission's website regarding their role as trustee to the charity.

MEETINGS

The Board meets approximately every two months. The Board sets the strategic direction for the company. Operational matters are delegated to the Board's sub-committees and to the staff of the organisation. The Board is responsible for:

- determining annual objectives and monitoring performance against them;
- ensuring effective organisational planning to achieve the objectives;

- monitoring resource allocation and ensuring adequate resources are available for the delivery, development of the test and research agenda;
- promoting the organisation to the outside world and to identified stakeholders;
- liaising and communicating with Consortium members to ensure their needs regarding test delivery and aspirations regarding test development are met.

There are three groups to whom the Board delegates areas of work:

Test Delivery Group

The group is responsible for overseeing the logistics of delivering the test and distribution of results and recommending policy to the Board, as appropriate, on all delivery matters including:

- Setting the testing timetable on an annual basis;
- Overseeing the process of delivering the test (including the process of registration);
- Ensuring that there is sufficient capacity for candidates wishing to take the test;
- Overseeing the delivery of results to consortium medical and dental schools;
- Reviewing test delivery on an annual basis and identifying areas for improvement;
- Working with PV to address any incidents which occur in relation to test delivery;
- Overseeing the implementation of the UKCAT Communication Policy with regard to communication with candidates, schools, consortium members and external stakeholders.

Test Development Group

The Test Development Group works with Pearson Vue and other experts in the field to develop each of the UKCAT sub-tests to enable them to be fit for purpose for use in admissions by medical and dental schools. To achieve this, the group:

- Receives a detailed annual report of statistics relating to each round of testing including data regarding item performance, 'fairness', performance of different subgroups of candidates
- Considers recommendations for changes to the test based on annual statistics or developments in computer based testing nationally and internationally
- In conjunction with the Research Panel, identifies and takes forward relevant research related to the development of the test.

Research panel

The Panel supports the Research Lead in creating and delivering the UKCAT Research Strategy with a particular focus on:

- establishing and overseeing the governance framework for all UKCAT related data collection and research activity;
- maintaining the UKCAT database(s);
- commissioning and selecting short term studies to achieve UKCAT's objectives (such as widening participation and non-cognitive attributes);
- planning a longitudinal cohort study to establish the predictive value of the test;
- liaising with other bodies (such as Medical Schools Council, General Medical Council) on opportunities to create a linked postgraduate follow-up mechanism.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

The Chief Operating Officer (COO) is responsible for the day to day running of the test and supporting operations. The COO's main duties include the following:

- Acts as the main contact with Pearson Vue who delivers the test on behalf of UKCAT. The COO would resolve issues directly with Pearson Vue unless the issue was significant enough to warrant escalation to the Chair or other board member.
- Acts as Company Secretary, leading on appointment/retirement of members and Directors, arranging induction as necessary, ensuring that decisions made by the Board and Consortium are in line with the Company articles
- Responsible for monitoring budgets and reporting on these to the Board
- Responsible for ensuring that systems are in place to ensure good standards of financial management
- Leads on any liaison with solicitors, auditors and the company bank.
- The COO is responsible for ensuring that alongside the UKCAT Administrator, the work of the Board and its sub-groups is supported and ensures that decisions are acted upon in a timely fashion.

PEARSON VUE

The test is delivered on UKCAT's behalf by Pearson Driving Assessments Limited (Pearson Vue). UKCAT entered into a contract with Pearson Vue regarding the development and delivery of the test in 2006. This contract comes to an end in December 2011. Pearson Vue contributes to the Test Delivery and Development Committees.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board reviews risks to UKCAT formally on an annual basis. Risks are regularly assessed on an informal basis by the Board and its subcommittees with a particular focus placed upon smooth test delivery and reputation management.

The following risks have been identified by the Board:

- Consortium members withdrawing from UKCAT and therefore impacting reputationally, on candidate numbers and ongoing research.
- The current contract with Pearson Vue comes to an end in December 2011. During 2010 UKCAT will start the process of retendering for the provision of testing services. Risks exist around the potential value of the new contract and around continuity of delivery in the event of a new provider being identified.
- Major failure in delivery resulting in reputational impact.
- Uncertainty around future university student funding which may impact on candidate numbers.
- Fluctuations in candidate numbers impacting on contractual, financial and delivery issues.
- Legal challenge from an individual.

OBJECTIVES

The objects for which the Company is established are to promote and provide for the advancement of education in the United Kingdom and in particular to establish and operate, tests to aid selection for admission to medical and dental degrees.

UKCAT is committed to achieving greater fairness in selection to medicine and dentistry and to the widening participation in medical and dental training of under-represented social groups. Through an ongoing programme of research UKCAT is seeking to identify the characteristics in applicants which will make them good dentists and doctors and thus to improve the quality of those that enter the professions with the ultimate aim of improving patient care.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The following sections summarise UKCAT activity during the 2009 test cycle (2009/10 financial year).

Test Overview

The UKCAT is an aptitude exam and is designed to measure innate cognitive abilities, personality and learning styles. The exam consists of four cognitive subtests: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, Abstract Reasoning and Decision Analysis. Items include those developed from the operational items used in the previous administrations and from new items trialled in 2008. The fifth component (Behavioural Test) is intended to assess non-cognitive attributes of empathy, integrity and robustness that are associated with good doctors and dentists. The behavioural tests were administered for research purposes and not intended for use within admissions; general results were provided to candidates in the form of narrative descriptors of their trait characteristics.

Each exam consisted of a total of 175 items (162 operational and 13 pretest) for the cognitive tests and 49 to 125 items for the behavioural tests. The exam was administered via computer in a 120-minute time period. Examinees were given 90 minutes to complete the cognitive tests with each of the four tests timed separately. Thirty minutes were allotted for the behavioural section. Results were provided to the candidates at the conclusion of testing and later to schools to which the candidates had applied.

Candidate Statistics

The UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) was administered in 2009 beginning on 7 July 2009 and ending 10 October 2009. In this period, a total of 23,721 exams were administered. This was a significant rise in candidate numbers representing a 15.6% increase on 2008. This rise was replicated in rises in applications to medical and dental schools across the country. Pearson Vue did not encounter difficulties in accommodating this increase in numbers. A brief summary of testing statistics is provided below. A more detailed version of these can be found in the Executive Summary of the 2009 Technical Report which can be found on the UKCAT website (www.ukcat.ac.uk).

Examinees' scale scores were reported for each cognitive subtest and were based on all the scored items for each section. The valid scale score ranged from 300 to 900, with a mean set to 600 in the 2006 reference sample. Universities received the subtest scaled scores for each candidate, plus a total score that is a simple sum of the four subtest scores and that had a valid range of 1200 to 3600.

Table 1 presents summary statistics for the 2009 candidates. The distributions are generally symmetric around their means and reasonably well spread out.

Table 1: Subtest and Total Scale Score Summary Statistics

	Total N	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum
Verbal Reasoning	23721	582.36	79.17	300	900
Quantitative Reasoning	23721	637.77	86.92	300	900
Abstract Reasoning	23721	606.82	79.65	300	900
Decision Analysis	23721	677.62	46.33	300	900
Total Scale Score	23721	2504.57	220.35	1200	3340

The performance patterns for different subgroups (ethnic, gender, age and NS-SEC) are shown below and closely parallel those of previous years.

Table 2: Subtest and Total Scale Score Summary Statistics by Gender

	Gender	Total N	Total %	Mean	SD
Verbal Reasoning	Female	13252	55.87	577.72	79.32
	Male	10469	44.13	588.23	78.60
Quantitative Reasoning	Female	13252	55.87	625.19	86.05
	Male	10469	44.13	653.69	85.38
Abstract Reasoning	Female	13252	55.87	606.98	78.63
	Male	10469	44.13	606.61	80.93
Decision Analysis	Female	13252	55.87	678.59	45.98
	Male	10469	44.13	676.39	46.73
Total Scale Score	Female	13252	55.87	2488.48	219.70
	Male	10469	44.13	2524.92	219.51

Males performed somewhat better than females on VR and QR. Performance on the other cognitive tests were roughly equivalent between gender groups.

Table 3: Total Scale Score Statistics by Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Total N	Total %	Mean	SD
White – British	10654	44.91	2576	190
White – Other	2783	11.73	2445	222
Asian	5590	23.57	2451	214
Black	1236	5.21	2339	231
Mixed Race	864	3.64	2488	242
Chinese	1054	4.44	2572	193
Other	1141	4.81	2385	232
Information withheld	399	1.68	2480	236

Ethnic groups performance trends also closely paralleled those of 2008, with some minor differences. For all cognitive tests, the lowest performing groups was black – black/british – other, although it is also the ethnic group with the fewest candidates and has relatively larger standard deviation compared with other ethnic groups. For VR, the highest performing group was white – british. For QR, AR and DA the highest performing group was Chinese. The same results were observed in 2008. The range of difference from low to high for the ethnic groups typically exceeded one standard error of measurement.

Table 4: Total Scale Score summary statistics by NS-SEC Class

SEC Group	Total N	Total %	Mean	SD
1 Managerial and professional occupations	15618	65.84	2526	215
2 Intermediate occupations	938	3.95	2508	202
3 Small employers and own account workers	1842	7.77	2480	209
4 Lower supervisory and technical occupations	796	3.36	2478	220
5 Semi-routine and routine occupations	962	4.06	2442	213

For NS-SEC classifications, category 1 was consistently associated with the highest average scores. The lowest average scale scores occurred for category 5. Both the age and NS-SEC trends mirrored those of 2008.

Table 5: Total Scale Score summary statistics by age

Age	Total N	Total %	Mean	SD
<16	24	0.10	2359	250
16 – 19	17060	71.92	2520	210
20 – 24	4689	19.77	2480	226
25 – 34	1462	6.16	2445	261
>34	265	1.12	2300	313

Table 6: Total Scale Score summary statistics by highest qualification

Highest qualification	Total N	Total %	Mean	SD
Higher Education	5779	24.36	2480	232
Pre-higher Education (eg access course)	405	1.71	2280	270
School Leaving Qualifications	17316	73	2519	211
No information	221	0.93	2442	242

Age was broken into five groups. Scores across all age groups were examined controlling for candidates highest qualifications. In general, scores showed negative correlations with age. However, score patterns across age groups varied when highest qualification was taken into account. For candidates with school leaving qualifications, the age group 16 – 19 showed the highest scores and score declination with age. For candidates with highest qualifications higher education or pre-higher education, the highest scores were observed in age groups 20 – 24 and 25 – 34.

Test and item analysis

Each year test results and item performance are analysed using a variety of methods in order to report on test reliability, internal construct validity and individual item performance.

Test Reliability

Score reliabilities of the cognitive subtests ranged from moderate to high. SEM for the subtest and total scores was satisfactory. Variation in score reliability and SEM across the four subtests can be attributed to test length, range of discrimination and difficulty among items. Internal construct validity (evaluated through item-total correlations with scales and subscales) provided strong evidence that most items were measuring consistently within expected scale structures.

Internal Construct Validity

Most of the correlations between the behavioural and cognitive tests were small (absolute value < .10) and negative. The value of this cannot be determined at this point, but this finding leaves open the possibility that they may contribute useful information in a predictive sense.

Item Performance

Differential Item Functioning (DIF) refers to the potential for items to behave differently for different groups. DIF is an undesirable characteristic because it means that an item is measuring both the construct it was designed to measure and some additional characteristic or characteristics of performance that depend on classification or membership in a group, (usually a gender or ethnic group classification). The Mantel-Haenszel procedure is used to identify DIF. For the UKCAT, MH DIF items are classified into one of three categories, A, B, or C. Category A

contains items with negligible DIF, Category B contains items with slight to moderate DIF, and Category C contains items with moderate to large DIF. Items flagged in Category C are typically subjected to further scrutiny while Category B items may be reviewed.

DIF analyses were conducted for the pretest and operational items when sample sizes were large enough. The UKCAT DIF comparison groups are based on gender, age, ethnicity and SEC.

For the operational pools, there were 23 occurrences of Category C DIF across all cognitive subtests and comparisons. Of these 11 occurred for the Age <20/>35 comparison; 4 for the White/Black comparison; 5 for the White/Other comparison; 2 for the White/Withheld Information comparison; 1 for the SEC Class 1/5 comparison.

For the pretest items, there were 10 occurrences of Category C DIF: 2 for the Male/Female comparison; 2 for the White/Black comparison; 3 for the White/Mixed comparison; 2 for the White/Other comparison; 1 for the SEC Class 1/3 comparison.

Items with Category C DIF will have content and wording are examined for the potential bias. These items will either be revised or retired based on the review in the item writing workshops.

These analyses which are performed annually reassure UKCAT that the test is fair and reliable.

Charitable Status

A key objective of UKCAT in 2009/10 was to apply for charitable status. This was achieved in January 2010.

Financial Forecasting

The Board has considered financial forecasts in order to inform future discussions regarding any increase in the candidate fee (which has remained static since the first year of testing in 2006). It is anticipated that an increase in the test fee will be required for 2011 but this will be reviewed before any firm decision is made.

Swine Flu

At the beginning of testing UKCAT was concerned about the potential impact of swine flu on testing with national projections at the time suggesting a significant proportion of the population would contract the illness during September/October 2009 which is a period of peak testing. Contingencies were discussed with Pearson Vue and a communication strategy put in place. Ultimately there was no impact on candidate testing but this proved to be a useful exercise in risk assessment which may assist in future years in the event of national events impacting on test delivery.

Incidents

Test Content Issues

During testing two issues were identified regarding test items. One item was being incorrectly marked and another item was sufficiently ambiguous for UKCAT to conclude that candidate scores were being affected. The subgroup of candidates affected by this had their scores remarked and amended results were sent to them. In the light of this incidents Pearson have introduced additional item quality checks

Results Delays

Delivery of results to Universities was delayed by a working day due to an issue regarding candidate percentiles. Increased quality assurance of this process has been put in place.

Candidate Survey

In December 2009 candidates were requested to complete a questionnaire regarding the test. 4620 candidates responded (19.5% response rate). The more significant outcomes are summarised here.

- Whilst the majority of candidates consider the test to be 'useful', candidates remain unconvinced it tests the right attributes to become a good medical/dental student or a doctor/dentist. Candidates consider the test to be a hard one. Candidates agree that Consortium members should provide more information about how the test is used.
- Disappointingly, 40% candidates felt their school/college was not well informed about the test. Only 34% of candidates reported they found out about the test from these sources.
- Candidates find the website helpful. Better links to the bursary section of the site are needed. Candidates requested an increase in practice questions, for the practice tests to be marked on line, details regarding test marking and tips about taking the test to help their preparation.
- Candidates felt the on-line tests were useful. A quarter had attended medlink (or equivalent) but not thought it helpful with regards to UKCAT. Three quarters of candidates had purchased or had access to preparation books and found them useful. Specific preparation courses were thought useful though relatively small numbers of candidates attended them. 40% candidates were not aware that UKCAT does not endorse commercially available training materials.
- Only 4% candidates were negative regarding their experience when booking into the test centre. A small minority of candidates who reported faulty or missing equipment.
- 90% of candidates were happy with their testing environment. The most significant comment made by those with concerns was regarding disturbance from other candidates.
- A significant number seek help during testing and many reported waiting for assistance.

Actions taken in response to the survey:

- UKCAT continues to work with Consortium members to ensure that sufficient information is provided to candidates regarding their use of the test.
- Communication links through to schools/colleges are under review.
- The website contains a specific Bursary section linked directly from the front page.
- An additional fully timed practice test has been provided with the ability to mark on line.
- A Hints and Tips section has been introduced to the website.
- UKCAT is continuing to discuss with Pearson Vue how we ensure that equipment provided to candidates is suitable, disturbance from other test candidates is minimised and that candidate problems during testing are dealt with promptly.

Communications Strategy

Test Delivery Group is charged with implementing the UKCAT Communications Strategy which was agreed by the Board early in 2009/10. The following actions have taken place as a result of this strategy:

- An induction pack has been developed for new Directors and Consortium members which includes information regarding the Charity and Company and their role in the Consortium. In the case of Directors this includes information regarding their role as a trustee.

- The COO has embarked on a series of structured visits to Consortium members to identify any local issues regarding delivery, discuss their use and aspirations for the test, and discuss candidate feedback and the current research agenda. It is a priority for the COO to undertake a significant number of these in 2010/11.
- An information booklet has been produced for admissions staff and tutors outlining the full range of UKCAT activities identifying actions needing to be taken by the office and institutions.
- The candidate survey was undertaken in the autumn and outcomes outlined above.

Review of Website

A thorough review of the website took place in 2009/10 drawing upon feedback from candidates in the survey. Navigating through the site is more intuitive. Candidates may apply for exemptions on line rather than having to send in documents to the UKCAT office. The site now contains an additional fully timed practice tests and both tests will mark candidate answers on line. This is a major development for candidates and it is hoped addresses issues around candidates feeling the need to pay for commercially available test preparation. Pages have been developed which include information regarding test centre conditions. Hints and tips for taking the test are available.

Bursary Criteria

In 2009 testing 6.5% candidates received a bursary covering the full costs of their test. The Test Delivery Group were asked to review bursary criteria since there remained a concern that uptake of bursaries was not as great as it should be. It was agreed to extend the criteria to include all levels of Educational Maintenance Allowance, candidates in receipt of Adult Learning Grants and candidates in receipt of a full maintenance grant. The new criteria apply to 2010 test takers.

Test Development

Following 2008 testing concerns had been expressed regarding the reliability of the decision analysis (DA) subtest. This led to a more general review of reliability issues which has informed the development of the 2010 test. Key actions taken have been to introduce new items to DA and in particular to continue to trial new items for this subtest. Developments in the technology underpinning test delivery, allow for increased trialling of new items which will help with improving test reliability. A review of speededness in the test identified that the majority of candidates were failing to complete the quantitative reasoning (QR) section of the test. As a result of this review the number of test items in QR has been reduced and additional time allocated.

The incidents in 2009 testing highlighted some issues regarding the quality of item writing. Test Development Group has discussed this with PV and additional quality checks have been introduced.

Research Group

The Research panel was established in 2009 and its remit is identified above. Significant work has taken place since in moving the research agenda forward.

University Agreements

Legal advice was sought in 2009 regarding UKCAT's position in regard to data protection issues associated with the development of the database and in particular relating to the collection of student progression data from schools. This advice informed the development of a University Agreement which summarises what data is collected, how it is stored, what security measures

are put in place and how it will be used in research. To date 19 Universities have signed this agreement, committing them to providing progression data for candidates. Collection of data will take place in 2010/11 allowing for work on the longitudinal cohort study to commence.

Research Projects

Work has taken place to define the expected outcomes of both the Longitudinal Cohort Study and the studies in relation to the impact of the test on widening participation in medical and dental admissions. A call for expressions of interest in the WP studies will take place over the summer 2010 with work expected to commence on this in the autumn.

Database Management

As the complexity of the data held by UKCAT increases and the volume of requests for access increases following clarification of related data protection issues we intend to tender for a more formal database management service. This process should be completed in early 2011.

FUTURE PLANS

The Board has set the following objectives for 2010/11

- To deliver the test successfully to medical and dental school candidates and ensure that Universities receive test results in good time to contribute to their admissions processes.
- To identify key stakeholders and external organisations and to put in place a communication strategy in order to further develop relationships with them and to better promote UKCAT.
- To anticipate the process of tendering/contract negotiations for the delivery and development of the test beyond 2011 and to ensure that appropriate timescales are put in place in good time.
- To embark on the longitudinal cohort study of 2006/7/8/9 test candidates having collected progression data from Consortium members.
- To study the impact of the UKCAT on widening participation in medical and dental selection.
- To consider long term options for the location, support and development of the UKCAT database.
- In line with the Communications strategy to undertake structured visits to Consortium members to engage further with them regarding their aspirations/concerns regarding the test, their use of the test and their requirements for support from UKCAT.
- To facilitate sharing of good practice regarding the use of the test within the Consortium.
- To review the 'fitness for purpose' of each of the cognitive sections of the test in the light of the report on 'speededness' and national/international developments in testing.
- To identify the best fit of the current non-cognitive tests.

The Board and its sub-groups are charged with achieving the objectives as outlined above. The Board monitors performance against these objectives at its regular meetings through reports from the Chairs of these groups. These objectives inform the work of the UKCAT office.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves Policy

UKCAT needs reserves to:

- Meet contractual liabilities should the organisation have to close. This includes redundancy pay, amounts due to creditors and commitments under leases.

- To meet unexpected costs like break down of essential office machinery, staff cover in relation to illness, maternity leave and parental leave.
- To meet any legal costs defending the charities interest.
- To replace equipment as it wears out.
- To meet the costs of one-off developments to the test or its delivery (eg new fully timed practice test made available to candidates in 2010 testing).
- To meet the organisation's fixed costs in the event of a significant fall in candidate numbers bearing in mind that the contract with our business partner specifies a minimum number of candidates.
- To undertake and provide infrastructural support for a programme of research which may span several years with the costs of research varying significantly between those years.

Expenditure in 2009/10 totalled £1.65m. Current reserves stand at £0.48m (30% of annual expenditure). UKCAT aims to have reserves in the region of 20 – 25% of annual expenditure. UKCAT anticipates that with the current anticipated research activity in 2010/11 that the level of reserves will be close to this by the year end 2010/11.

The Board of Directors reviews the level of reserves at each Board meeting. The current level of reserves will be considered particularly carefully before there is any agreed increase in the candidate fee.

Member's Liability

The Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibility

The Trustees (who are also directors of UK CAT Consortium for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company and charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Provision of Information to Auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any information needed by the charity's auditors in connection with preparing their report and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on 10th September 2010.

Sandra Nicholson
Chair of UKCAT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF UK CAT CONSORTIUM

We have audited the financial statements of UK CAT Consortium for the year ended 31 March 2010 as set out on pages 17 – 21. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein and the requirements of the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

The Trustees' (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) responsibilities for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view, are set out in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Chair's report and the Trustees' report is consistent with those financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the charity has not kept adequate accounting records, if the charity's financial statements are not in agreement with these accounting records and returns, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made.

We read the Chair's report and the Trustees' report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of Audit Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the Trustees in the preparation of the financial statements and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2010 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities;
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006; and
- the information given in the Chair's and Trustees' report is consistent with the financial statements.

Christopher Dougherty (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

LAKIN ROSE LIMITED
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors

Pioneer House
Vision Park
Histon
Cambridge
CB24 9NL

Date: 10 November 2010

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2010 £	Total funds 2009 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Incoming resources from generated funds:			
Investment income	2	2,502	31,401
Incoming resources from charitable activities:			
Testing fees - clinical aptitude testing		1,691,495	1,478,385
Contributions from members		1,000	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		1,694,997	1,509,786
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Charitable activities - clinical aptitude testing	3	1,640,929	1,407,503
Governance costs	6	10,583	2,342
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		1,651,512	1,409,845
MOVEMENT IN TOTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR - NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR		43,485	99,941
<i>Total funds at 1 April 2009</i>		<u>444,565</u>	<u>344,624</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2010		£ 488,050	£ 444,565

The notes on pages 19 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

UK CAT CONSORTIUM (Registered number 05620264)
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2010

	Note	£	2010 £	£	2009 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	1,881		1,881	
Cash at bank		<u>525,845</u>		<u>511,249</u>	
		527,726		513,130	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(39,676)</u>		<u>(68,565)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>488,050</u>		<u>444,565</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>£ 488,050</u>		<u>£ 444,565</u>
CHARITY FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	10		<u>488,050</u>		<u>444,565</u>
			<u>£ 488,050</u>		<u>£ 444,565</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 10th September 2010 and signed on their behalf, by:

Sandra Nicholson
Chair of UKCAT

The notes on pages 19 – 21 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in March 2005, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the charity are the medical and dental schools who have chosen to implement the clinical aptitude test. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

1.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

1.4 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of financial activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1.5 Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.6 Cash flow

The financial statements do not include a Cash flow statement because the charity, as a small reporting entity, is exempt from the requirement to prepare such a statement under the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2010 £	Total funds 2009 £
Bank interest receivable	154	4,727
Other interest receivable	2,348	26,674
	<u>£ 2,502</u>	<u>£ 31,401</u>

3. ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2010 £	Support costs 2010 £	Total 2010 £	Total 2009 £
Charitable activities - clinical aptitude testing	<u>£ 1,488,784</u>	<u>£ 152,145</u>	<u>£ 1,640,929</u>	<u>£ 1,407,503</u>

4. DIRECT COSTS

	Clinical aptitude testing £	Total 2010 £	Total 2009 £
Testing provider's charges – testing	1,283,616	1,283,616	1,097,495
Testing provider's charges – other	197,781	197,781	158,186
Corporation tax	7,387	7,387	26,567
	<u>£ 1,488,784</u>	<u>£ 1,488,784</u>	<u>£ 1,282,248</u>

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Clinical aptitude testing £	Total 2010 £	Total 2009 £
Office and administration recharges	114,671	114,671	57,713
Data management	-	-	10,182
Hotels, travel and subsistence	12,845	12,845	12,223
Premises	16,894	16,894	16,745
Recruitment fees	-	-	20,243
Printing and stationery	1,338	1,338	1,849
Sundry expenses	3,611	3,611	3,469
Insurance	2,674	2,674	2,655
Bank charges	112	112	176
	<u>£ 152,145</u>	<u>£ 152,145</u>	<u>£ 125,255</u>

6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted funds 2010 £	Total funds 2009 £
Auditors' remuneration	4,113	-
Accountancy and taxation fees	-	899
Legal fees	6,470	1,443
	<u>£ 10,583</u>	<u>£ 2,342</u>

7. STAFF COSTS

The charity has no employees other than the Trustees, who did not receive any remuneration (2009 - *ENIL*). No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year. 10 Trustees received reimbursement of expenses amounting to £5,254 in the current year, (2009 - 10 Trustees - £6,595).

8. DEBTORS

	2010 £	2009 £
Other debtors	<u>£ 1,881</u>	<u>£ 1,881</u>

9. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2010 £	2009 £
Corporation tax	7,387	26,567
Accruals and deferred income	32,289	41,998
	<u>£ 39,676</u>	<u>£ 68,565</u>

10. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Brought Forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Carried Forward £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	<u>444,565</u>	<u>1,694,997</u>	<u>(1,651,512)</u>	<u>488,050</u>

SUMMARY OF FUNDS

	Brought Forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Carried Forward £
General funds	<u>£ 444,565</u>	<u>£ 1,694,997</u>	<u>£ (1,651,512)</u>	<u>£ 488,050</u>

CURRENT CHARITY TRUSTEES

Dr Sandra Nicholson, Queen Mary University of London, Chair (elected 10/11/05)

Dr Jane Adam, Hull York Medical School (elected 16/11/05)

Mr Martyn Annis, University of Brighton, Vice-Chair (elected 16/11/05)

Dr Lyndon Cabot, King's College London (co-opted 12/02/10)

Professor Barbara Chadwick, Dental Schools' Council (ex officio, appointed 07/06/07)

Dr Jon Dowell, University of Dundee (elected 04/06/08)

Professor John McLachlan, University of Durham (elected 03/02/09)

Dr Katie Petty Saphon, Medical Schools' Council (ex officio, appointed 10/11/05)

Professor Anthony Warrens, Imperial College London (elected 03/02/09)

Professor Tony Weetman, Medical Schools' Council (ex officio, appointed 05/08/09)

Professor David Yates (elected 11/12/07)

Mr Nigel Siesage (term of office ended 4/12/09) and Dr Paul Dennis (term of office ended 4/12/09) were trustees during the financial year 2009/10. Their terms of office came to an end in December 2009.

Significant elements of the day to day management of UKCAT are delegated to the Chief Operating Officer, Rachel Greatrix.

Company Secretary

Rachel Greatrix

Bankers and Professional Advisors

Bank: Natwest, Nottingham University Branch, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2AG

Solicitors: Eversheds, Kett House, Station Road, Cambridge CB1 2JY

Auditors: Lakin Rose Limited, Pioneer House, Vision Park, Cambridge CB24 9NL

CONSORTIUM MEMBERS 2009/10

University of Aberdeen

Brighton and Sussex Medical School

Cardiff University

University of Dundee

University of Durham

University of East Anglia

University of Edinburgh

University of Glasgow

Hull York Medical School

Imperial College London

Keele University

Kings College London

University of Leeds

University of Leicester

University of Manchester

University of Newcastle

University of Nottingham

University of Oxford

Peninsula Medical School

Queen Mary, University of London

Queen's University, Belfast

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University of St Andrews

St George's, University of London

University of Warwick

Registered Office

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