

Annual Report 2024

In 2024 the German Welfare Council advised clients of German origin and many others who had any questions relating to Pensions, German Child benefit, German Health Insurance and many other matters relating to Germany and the United Kingdom.

For people who have had experienced financial hardship, we have made grant applications and received generous grants totalling more than £62,000 for our clients. Please see more details on page 2.

We are pleased to have helped more than 1,150 cases via email or over the phone, in addition to this, we have offered 150 consultations and 25 home visits.

In September Doreen had the pleasure to meet politicians from the German Bundestag to discuss the social systems in the UK.



We offer

- Pension Advice - help and advice with German and UK pension applications, Life Certificates, tax on German pensions
- Advice for moving between Germany and UK, health insurance & social security systems, and benefits with Pre/Settled Status
- General Social Advice – benefits and health insurance in Germany and the UK
- Support for vulnerable people

Patron:

His Excellence the Ambassador of the
Federal Republic of Germany
Miguel Berger

Committee:

Mr U. Bauer – Chairman
Mr J. Rhys - Treasurer
Ms V. Gronewold - Secretary
Mr A. Blum
Mrs A. Haase
Mrs A Palmer

Employee:

Mrs D. Scording
(full-time qualified Social Worker)

Independent examiner:

TC Group
King's House
9-10 Haymarket
London
SW1Y 4BP

Bank:

HSBC sort code: 40 04 07
Account number: 31055909

OUR GRATITUDE GOES TO:

The German Ambassador
Miguel Berger and his staff

The Schroder 1905 Trust

The German YMCA

Our corporate members and
members

Our volunteers

The German Churches in
England

All organisations and
individuals, not specially
mentioned

AGM 2024

Last year we had the pleasure to experience the 'Chasing Deer' in concert after our AGM. Members and guests loved the live music and beats and some people even took to the dance floor.

A big thank you goes to the members, trustees and the German YMCA for helping to make this special night.



News

Since 2023 we have been available via **WhatsApp** and this has proven to be a very positive experience. Many clients from all age groups have made use of this service and it has reduced our face-to-face appointments. Especially for elderly people who are happy to not have to come to central London with their letters and receive 'quicker' help as a result.

German Driving licenses which have been issued after 1999 need to be exchanged. Please see the following link for more information: <https://uk.diplo.de/uk-de/02/a-z-themen/fuehrerschein-internationaler-fuehrerschein-2487348>

ETA (Electronic Travel Authorisation) has been in place since April 2025. Non British citizens may need to apply for this before traveling. **EES** (Exit/ Entry System) is expected to start in October 2025. It will collect, record and store your facial image, fingerprints, travel documents and Entry/Exit dates when British citizens enter the EU. **ETIAS** (European Travel Information and Authorization System) is expected to start the last quarter of 2026. Once ETIAS comes into force British citizens visiting a European Country for up to 90 days need to apply. For more information please see: https://travel-europe.europa.eu/index_en

Grants

In 2024 we had helped 35 people with heating grants, some received £200 twice a year and more severe cases £200 four times a year. Our clients welcomed the regular help towards heating costs. A number of whom are on a prepayment meter, paying before the usage. The usage of these type of meters are typically more expensive and considering the higher usage due to illness or old age add to the costs.

We collaborated with other charities and paid out 58 Emergency grants totalling £38245. Most of these grants helped clients to pay their council tax, rent and utility bills. However, for some a grant meant that they could replace a broken washing machine, a bed or a stove. It seems that for most people who receive benefits (or additional benefits when working in the low paid sector) finances are very tight and bills are piling up. Often friends and family had already helped to their best abilities.

For 5 clients we have been able to secure a Holiday Grant, in total we paid out £5800. This grant enabled some to visit their elderly and long not seen family members in Germany and one of them their son who lives in a mental health ward in a German support home.

We would like to thank all the charities for their hard work.