

Scottish Borders Council Charitable Trusts

Charity Registration Number: SC043896

annual report and financial statements

for the year to 31 March 2023



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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Background

The implementation of the audit and reporting requirements of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) now requires that full audited accounts for this Charity are prepared.

In late 2012/13 the charitable status of 76 various funds was formally recognised under a single Charity registration.

Work commenced in 2014/15 to re-organise several of the other registered Charities managed by Scottish Borders Council into three new Charities covering Welfare, Community Enhancement and Education. Following public consultation meetings and discussion with OSCR during 2017 a report was presented to Scottish Borders Council on 21 December 2017 recommending the transfer of a number of the restricted funds to the Scottish Borders Council Welfare Trust and Scottish Borders Council Community Enhancement Trust. The formal submission requests were submitted to OSCR during February 2018 for approval; following receipt of this approval from OSCR, the transfer took place on 1 April 2018 leaving 32 various funds remaining within this Charity. The next step of reorganisation work to be undertaken is being led by Director, Education & Lifelong Learning, in relation to the Education related Trusts/Bequests. This will include further refinement of existing disbursement criteria and will result in submissions to OSCR for approval to amalgamate into Scottish Borders Council Education Trust. A further report will be submitted to Scottish Borders Council for the remaining Funds.

Structure

The Charity currently comprises 32 charitable funds originally established for a variety of purposes - their charitable status was regulated by OSCR at the end of 2012/13.

Charitable Purpose

- The charitable purpose of this charity is to hold funds for each Trust, Endowment or Bequest comprising the Charity. Each of these funds have their own purpose related to the general purpose of the prevention or relief of poverty by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

Summary of the Main Activities

- A number of the funds have made donations to eligible beneficiaries during the year to 31 March 2023. 38 donations totalling £17,909 were made including contributions through area based Education Trusts for Further Education including course fees, residential trips and living expenses. This expenditure is included within the Charitable activities figure in the Statement of Financial Activities, which is detailed further in Notes 2 and 7 to the Financial Statements.

Plans for the Future

- Reorganisation work to be undertaken and led by Director, Education & Lifelong Learning in relation to the Education related Trusts/Bequests. This will include further refinement of existing disbursement criteria and will result in submissions to OSCR for approval to amalgamate into Scottish Borders Council Education Trust.

Governance and Management

Type of Governing Documents

- a) Since this Charity was originally formed as a holding charity for some 76 individual funds there is no overall governance document. 44 of these funds have now been successfully amalgamated into other SBC Trusts. An ongoing review is being undertaken into each of the remaining constituent funds with a view to further amalgamation into existing SBC Trusts.
- b) In terms of the Trustees' governance of the fund, these have been approved by Scottish Borders Council at its meeting on 21 May 2015 and have been reflected in its governance codes. The Local Code of Corporate Governance of Scottish Borders Council covers the governance of the Charity and is comprised of the following:



- c) When considering any action in connection with the Charity the Trustees have to act in the interest of the Charity Funds.
- d) The financial statements comply with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

There is no recruitment process. Appointment is by virtue of election to the Council.

Financial Review

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with current statutory requirements and the charity's governing document.

The applications of the Funds are detailed in the Notes to the Accounts.

Reserves

The charity has considered the reserves required and has taken into account its current and future liabilities, ensuring reserves will be maintained at a level sufficient to respond to:

- all approved applications for grants
- all support and governance costs

At 31 March 2023, the reserves of the SBC Charitable Trust Funds amounted to:

- Restricted Income Funds - £686,804

Investments

Per the Council's Common Good and Trust Fund investment strategy, the main balance of funds is invested with Aegon Asset Management in a diversified income fund.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name Scottish Borders Council Charitable Trusts

Charity registration number SC043896

Business Address Council HQ
Newtown St Boswells
Melrose
Scottish Borders
TD6 0SA

Trustees

The Trustees of this charity for the period 1 April to 5 May 2022 were the duly elected members of Scottish Borders Council (the Council) at that time. These were:

Sandy Aitchison	Andy Anderson	Heather Anderson
Stuart Bell	Jim Brown	Kris Chapman
Caroline Cochrane	Gordon Edgar	Jim Fullarton
John Greenwell	Carol Hamilton	Scott Hamilton
Shona Haslam	Euan Jardine	Helen Laing
Jenny Linehan	Stuart Marshall	Watson McAteer
Tom Miers	Donald Moffat	Simon Mountford
David Parker	David Paterson	Clair Ramage
Neil Richards	Euan Robson	Mark Rowley
Harry Scott	Sandy Scott	Eric Small
Robin Tatler	Elaine Thornton-Nicol	George Turnbull
Tom Weatherston		

Due to Local Government elections on 5 May 2022, the Trustees for the remainder of the year to 31 March 2023 were the duly elected members of Scottish Borders Council (the Council) at that time. These were:

James Anderson	Drummond Begg	Pam Brown
Caroline Cochrane	Jane Cox	Leagh Douglas
Marshall Douglas	John Greenwell	Carol Hamilton
Scott Hamilton	Euan Jardine	Jenny Linehan
Watson McAteer	Neil Mackinnon	Stuart Marshall
Donald Moffat	Simon Mountford	Aileen Orr
David Parker	John Paton-Day	Julie Pirone
Clare Ramage	Neil Richards	Euan Robson
Mark Rowley	Sandy Scott	Fay Sinclair
Eric Small	Annette Smart	Hannah Steel
Robin Tatler	Viv Thomson	Elaine Thornton-Nicol
Tom Weatherston		

- Chief Executive**
- During the period of these financial statements, the Chief Executives of Scottish Borders Council were:
 - Netta Meadows 1 April to 11 July 2022
 - David Robertson 12 July to 31 March 2023 (on an interim basis from 12 July to 17 January 2023)

Auditor Audit Scotland
 102 West Port
 Edinburgh
 EH3 9DN

Professional support

The Council provides the Administrative, Legal and Financial support and advice to the Charitable Trusts. All financial transactions go through the Council's books of account and their Bankers are the Royal Bank of Scotland, Galashiels.

Parent Entity

Scottish Borders Council is a local authority, constituted under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994, whose principal purpose is to provide a range of public services such as education, housing and planning, social care, roads and transport, economic development, environmental protection and waste management. A copy of the group financial statements can be obtained from the Council's website www.scotborders.gov.uk.



Euan Jardine
Trustee
Scottish Borders Council Charitable Trusts

01 December 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Under charity law, the trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS102, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice entails that the trustees:

- **Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;**
- **Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;**
- **State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;**
- **State where applicable, whether the financial statements comply with the trust deeds and rules, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and**
- **Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.**

The trustees are required to act in accordance with the rules of the charity, within the framework of trust law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, sufficient to disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time, and to enable the trustees to ensure that, where any statements of accounts are prepared by them under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations under that Act. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial and other information included on the charity's information/section on the Scottish Borders Council website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 March 2023

As restated 2022 £		2023 £	Notes
	Income from:		
500	Donations and legacies	1,000	3
35,514	Investments	34,887	1
36,014	Total Income	35,887	
	Expenditure on:		
(13,208)	Charitable activities	(17,909)	2
0	Raising funds	0	
(500)	Other : Governance Costs	(1,000)	3
(13,708)	Total Expenditure	(18,909)	
401,889	Gain / (loss) on investment assets - unrealised	(49,472)	
424,195	Net Movement in Funds	(32,494)	
	Reconciliation of Funds		
295,103	Total funds brought forward	719,298	
719,298	Total Funds Carried Forward	686,804	7

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 March 2023

as restated 2022			2023		Notes
£	£		£	£	
605,325	605,325	Fixed Assets			
		Investments	556,085		4
				556,085	
964	113,973	Current Assets			
		Debtors	560		5
113,009		Short term investment in SBC loans fund.	130,159		6
		Total Current Assets		130,719	
	719,298	Total Net Assets		686,804	
		The Funds of the Charity			
(719,298)		Restricted income funds	(686,804)		7
	(719,298)	Total Charity Funds		(686,804)	

All income and expenditure transactions derive from continuing activities.

The Accounting Policies on pages 11 to 13 and the Notes on pages 14 to 16 form part of these Financial Statements.

The unaudited accounts were issued on 29 June 2023 and the audited accounts were authorised for issue on 01 December 2023

Suzanne Douglas

Suzanne Douglas CPFA
Director of Finance & Procurement

01 December 2023

Euan Jardine

Euan Jardine
Trustee
Scottish Borders Council Charitable Trusts

01 December 2023

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material to the financial statements.

Basis of Preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the FRS102, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Funds Structure

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include the designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed.

Income Recognition

Under FRS102, income is recognised when its receipt is “probable”, rather than “virtually certain”, which was the case under the previous Charities SORP 2005.

Full recognition criteria are:

- Entitlement – control over the rights or other access to the economic benefit has passed to the charity
- Probable – it is more likely than not that the economic benefits will flow to the charity
- Measurement – the monetary value or amount of the income and the costs to complete the transactions can be measured reliably

Accruals of Income and Expenditure

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular:

- Donations and grants are recorded as expenditure when they are approved, or if approved in principle only, when final confirmation of amount is received by the applying body.
- Where income and expenditure have been recognised, but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the balance sheet.
- Income and expenditure are credited and debited to the relevant revenue account, unless they properly represent capital receipts or capital expenditure.

Donations & Legacies

All donations and gifts are included within incoming resources under Restricted Funds. Donations and Gifts in Kind are brought into the financial statements at their market value to the charity.

Resources Expended

Resources expended are analysed between charitable activities, costs of generating funds and governance costs. Charitable activities include all direct costs and other support costs.

Investments

Investments are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their market value as at the balance sheet date using closing quoted market price.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the difference between market value at the beginning and the end of the financial year, or if purchased in the year, the difference between cost and market value at the end of the financial year. Realised gains and losses represent the difference between the proceeds and cost.

Short Term Investments

Short Term Investments are current asset investments which are disposable without curtailing or disrupting the business and are convertible into known amounts of cash at or close to their carrying values. Short Term Investments comprise of call deposits with the Council.

Correction of errors – prior year restatement

During 2023, the trustees clarified the ownership of shares held in JP Morgan Claverhouse Investment Trust. This investment had previously been accounted for within Scottish Borders Council with the dividend income received proportionately allocated to the Education Trust, the Welfare Trust and Scottish Borders Council Charitable Trusts and the Scottish Borders Council. Consequently, the investment assets, the charitable funds as detailed below and the related unrealised gain/(loss) on investment assets has been understated. This has been corrected by restating each of the financial statement line items in the prior period. The following tables summarise the impact on the financial statements.

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2022	As previously reported £	Adjustments £	As restated £
Investment assets	203,230	402,095	605,325
	203,230	402,095	605,325

Charitable Funds at 31 March 2022	As previously reported £	Adjustments £	As restated £
Andrew, Agnes & John Kyle Berwickshire Educational Trust	1,249	1,677	2,926
C W Dunnet Award	9,725	14,145	23,870
Campbell Calderhead Prize	404	543	947
Col. Jem Richard Prize	1,122	952	2,074
Fund	4,158	3,219	7,377

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Coldstream Guards Prize	1,235	1,676	2,911
Dr Milne Memorial Fund	1,925	1,405	3,330
Geoffrey Simpson Bequest	25,158	37,587	62,745
Hans D Langmack Prize Fund	732	816	1,548
J Purves Bequest	3,298	3,536	6,834
J A S Henderson Memorial Scholarship	26,304	-	26,304
James Robertson Trust	1,459	1,269	2,728
Jane Grieve Endowment	1,893	1,541	3,434
Jean Kincaid Grieve Endowment	2,445	1,814	4,259
Jedburgh Public Library Fund	1,802	-	1,802
John Jamieson Prize Fund	891	634	1,525
Kelso Library Book Fund	733	-	733
Kennedy Medal Fund	864	725	1,589
Kenneth Cochrane Library Fund	1,971	-	1,971
F W Dobson VC	5,449	7,208	12,657
Mary Dickson Prize Fund	1,218	1,223	2,441
Mr & Mrs W F Johnstone Fund	1,104	680	1,784
Mrs Clelland Memorial Prize	1,315	952	2,267
Murray Medal Fund	4,248	4,035	8,283
Peebles Public Library Peeblesshire Educational Trust	311	-	311
Roxburghshire Educational Trust	30,664	53,003	83,667
Special Air Service Reg. Fund	146,059	231,083	377,142
Selkirk Library Fund	1,593	1,768	3,361
Selkirkshire Educational Trust	4,224	-	4,224
Sir Walter Leitch Scholarship	13,522	29,426	42,948
Walter Geddes Prize Fund	18,405	-	18,405
	1,723	1,178	2,901
	317,203	402,095	719,298

Statement of Financial Activities at 31 March 2022	As previously reported £	Adjustments £	As restated £
Gain / (loss) on investment assets - unrealised	(206)	402,095	401,889
	(206)	402,095	401,889

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Investment Income

2022 £		2023 £
48	Bank Interest Receivable from SBC Loans Fund	2,119
35,466	Income from Investment Portfolio	32,768
35,514		34,887

Following a drop in the income from the Aegon Investment Fund due to the impact of Covid-19 in 2020/21, dividend income returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2021/22 and remained at a similar level in 2022/23.

2 Charitable Activities

The charitable activities during 2022/23 are included in note 7 by individual fund within the charity. All expenditure incurred was for direct charitable activities.

3 Governance Costs

The fee for the external audit of the charity is charged against Scottish Borders Council General Fund and notionally recharged to the SBC Charitable Trust, recognised under Governance Costs. This fee amounted to £1,000 in 2022/23. A notional grant from SBC to cover the full cost is recognised under Donations and Legacies. No Trustee remuneration or other expenses were incurred.

4 Investments

All investments are through regulated funds or are traded on a recognised investment exchange.

At 31 March 2023 all investments were with the Aegon Asset Management Diversified Monthly Income Fund. An unrealised loss for the 12 month period of these accounts means the market value of the funds invested has now fallen below the book value. However, taking account of the income received, the fund has achieved an overall positive return since the initial investment.

5 Debtors

2022 £		2023 £
964	Prepayments and accrued income	560
964		560

6 Short Term Investments in SBC Loans Fund

All surplus cash is invested on behalf of the charity with Scottish Borders Council

7 Restricted Funds

The funds held with the Charity are restricted by area, purpose or both.

Restated 2022 Balance £	Fund	Income £	Expendi- ture £	Unrealised Gain/(Loss) £	2022/23 Balance £
2,926	Andrew, Agnes & John Kyle	126	(3)	(194)	2,855
23,870	Berwickshire Educational Trust	1,014	(1,227)	(1,529)	22,128
947	C W Dunnet Award	40	(290)	(66)	631
2,074	Campbell Calderhead Prize	86	(2)	(135)	2,023
7,377	Col. Jem Richard Prize Fund	307	(9)	(491)	7,184
2,911	Coldstream Guards Prize	128	(4)	(205)	2,830
3,330	Dr Milne Memorial Fund	138	(4)	(224)	3,240
62,745	Geoffrey Simpson Bequest	2,712	(72)	(4,126)	61,259
1,548	Hans D Langmack Prize Fund	69	(2)	(114)	1,501
6,834	J Purves Bequest	305	(322)	(528)	6,289
26,304	J A S Henderson Memorial Scholarship	3,284	(3,109)	(1,675)	24,804
2,728	James Robertson Trust	113	(3)	(177)	2,661
3,434	Jane Grieve Endowment	143	(4)	(226)	3,347
4,259	Jean Kincaid Grieve Endowment	177	(5)	(287)	4,144
1,802	Jedburgh Public Library Fund	77	(3)	(169)	1,707
1,525	John Jamieson Prize Fund	63	(2)	(104)	1,482
733	Kelso Library Book Fund	31	(1)	(69)	694
1,589	Kennedy Medal Fund	65	(2)	(103)	1,549
1,971	Kenneth Cochrane Library Fund	85	(3)	(185)	1,868
12,657	F W Dobson VC	577	(16)	(976)	12,242
2,441	Mary Dickson Prize Fund	104	(3)	(163)	2,379
1,784	Mr & Mrs W F Johnstone Fund	75	(2)	(124)	1,733
2,267	Mrs Clelland Memorial Prize	94	(3)	(153)	2,205
8,283	Murray Medal Fund	351	(10)	(559)	8,065
311	Peebles Public Library	14	(0)	(31)	294
83,667	Peeblesshire Educational Trust	3,704	(2,773)	(5,789)	78,809
377,142	Roxburghshire Educational Trust	16,483	(5,864)	(25,388)	362,373
3,361	Special Air Service Reg. Fund	149	(4)	(247)	3,259
4,224	Selkirk Library Fund	182	(6)	(396)	4,004
42,948	Selkirkshire Educational Trust	1,970	(1,455)	(3,158)	40,305
18,405	Sir Walter Leitch Scholarship	3,100	(3,703)	(1,682)	16,120
2,901	Walter Geddes Prize Fund	121	(3)	(199)	2,820
719,298		35,887	(18,909)	(49,472)	686,804

8 Related Party Transactions

Due to the nature of the operations and composition of the SBC Charitable Trusts (Trustees are comprised of Elected Council Members of Scottish Borders Council), Scottish Borders Council is registered as a related party. Transactions with Scottish Borders Council for the year under review are listed below:

	£
Interest received on funds invested in SBC Loans Fund	2,119

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the trustees of Scottish Borders Council Charitable Trusts and the Accounts Commission

Reporting on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the statement of accounts of Scottish Borders Council Charitable Trusts for the year ended 31 March 2023 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulation 8 of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the [Code of Audit Practice](#) approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees intend to discontinue the charity's operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- using my understanding of the local government sector and charity sector to identify that the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 are significant in the context of the charity;
- inquiring of the Trustees and Director of Finance and Procurement as to other laws or regulations that may be expected to have a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity;
- inquiring of the Trustees and Director of Finance and Procurement concerning the charity's policies and procedures regarding compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework;

- discussions among my audit team on the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the charity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Reporting on other requirements

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information in the statement of accounts. The other information comprises the Trustees' Annual Report.

My responsibility is to read all the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Trustees' Annual Report to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

Opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the Trustees' Annual Report

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required by The Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 to report to you if, in my opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Use of my report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 108 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Stephanie Harold

Stephanie Harold
Audit Scotland
4th Floor
8 Nelson Mandela Place
Glasgow
G2 1BT

01 December 2023

Stephanie Harold is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

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Contact us at Suzy Douglas, Director of Finance and Procurement, Financial Services,
Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells Melrose TD6 0SA
Tel: 01835 825881 Fax: 01835 825011 or email: sdouglas@scotborders.gov.uk