



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024

Charity name: **West Midlands Fire Service Pipe Band**

Charity registration number: **1188218**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To advance the education and appreciation of the public in music and music performance particularly Scottish Pipe Band music for residents of all ages and backgrounds within the West Midlands and surrounding areas by developing skills and competences, by the presentation of concerts and similar activities and by any means as the trustees in their discretion shall determine.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>We provide opportunities to learn to play the pipes and drums, gain a qualification and take part in competitions to improve skills and confidence.</p> <p>We provide opportunities to play and perform with other musicians in the band, other bands and other groups from a variety of genres.</p> <p>We promote the music genre through playing at community and Fire Service events.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The trustees have read the guidance on public benefit and our activities remain open to anyone in the area of benefit.</p> <p>We specifically want those involved to benefit from the improved skills and competence in playing pipes and drums as well as improved health and wellbeing from being a part of a band.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	We have received no grants as yet. We will apply to funders for specific programmes of work as they are identified and developed. We also use community events and performances when possible as

		an opportunity for the band to play together in public and occasionally there is a fee for this.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	None at present.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	All Band members and Trustees are volunteers. Some band members act as voluntary tutors to other band members.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The band has had a busy year building on the success of last year's recruitment and learners are making excellent progress.</p> <p>In February 2024, the band joined with other bands from the Midlands area to perform at the Birmingham Tattoo at the NEC Arena. This was a great opportunity to network with other bands and perform in front of a large audience.</p> <p>In March 2024 the band participated in the Birmingham St Patrick's Day Parade. This was a great opportunity for all members of the band to participate in the first parade as a whole band for many years. This contributed to building the confidence of all players who participated and increased the aspirations of our learner members.</p> <p>In July we performed at the Wem Carnival, taking part in the marching parade followed by a static performance in the arena.</p> <p>Looking forward to the next year, we are participating in the Wolverhampton Remembrance Day Parade in November 2024 and have already arranged several performances in 2025.</p> <p>Six pipers have passed RSPBA examinations this year with two still to complete the practical elements. Tuition is provided weekly at West Midlands Fire</p>

		Service HQ in Birmingham who provide the room free of charge.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The year began with the balance of £7374.07. Income for the year was £1395 including £1210 received for playing in events. Expenses during the year were £1890.21 leaving a balance at the end of the year of £6878.86. Expenses included RSPBA membership and examination fees
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		as well as instrument consumables and uniform items.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We do not currently have a reserves policy. We do not employ staff and the cost of ongoing commitments is low. All cash reserves would be applied to activities when required.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£6878.86 unrestricted
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	No regular sources of funds exist. Grants may be accessed if required and some fees are earned from playing at events.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Risks to the charity are low. A risk assessment which covers governance, finances, operations, external factors and compliance is reviewed annually.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of	Para 1.25	Trustees are appointed for a term of 3 years by a resolution passed at a properly-convened meeting of the charity trustees.

any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees		West Midlands Fire Service may appoint one charity trustee for a period of one year.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	West Midlands Fire Service Pipe Band
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1188218
Charity's principal address	29 School Road Evesham WR11 2PT

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Simon Nicholls	Chairperson		
2	Alastair Jackson	Secretary		
3	Henry Cleaver	Trustee		
4	Thomas Watkins	Trustee		
5				
6				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Dr Alastair Randle Taylor	Simon Nicholls
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	Chair
Date	25/2/25	

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE PIPE BAND

Registered Charity No. 1188218 Registered on 27/2/20

Annual Accounts 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024

INCOME

	2024	2023
Events	1210.00	4100.00
Refund	185.00	0.00
Total income	1395.00	4100.00

EXPENDITURE

RSPBA + Competitions	288.00	0.00
Examinations	689.05	0.00
Events	67.25	0.00
Uniform, instruments + consumables	845.91	534.95
Travel expenses		198.00
Other Bands for contribution to events		2250.00
Stationery and administration		19.32
Insurance		0.00

Total expenditure 1890.21 3002.27

Surplus/deficit -495.21 1097.73

Opening balance 7374.07 6276.34

Closing balance 6878.86 7374.07

Represented by:

Current account 6878.86 7374.07

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have examined the records, bank statements and invoices/receipts for West Midlands Fire Service Pipe Band for the financial year 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. In my opinion, the figures above are a true representation of those transactions.

Signed



Sally Bateman
79 Witherford Way, Birmingham B29 4AN

Date

25/2/25

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Date

25/2/25