

Londonderry Bands Forum

Northern Ireland · Charity number 108021

Details

Status Received

Registered 2021-02-15

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

Address New Gate Arts & Culture Centre
20-22 Hawkin Street
Londonderry
Bt48 6re
BT48 6RE

Phone 02871265869

Email andrew@londonderrybandsforum.com

Website londonderrybandsforum.com

Activities

Purposes: The Objects of the Forum are: • To have a confident, competent membership with the ability to engage constructively with all levels of society in the interest of the band's fraternity. • To promote through music the history, culture and marching heritage of bands and organise events such as concerts, parades, discussions and talks that further the objectives of the Forum members. • To develop a programme to enable people to understand and deal with issues of cultural difference, racism, sectarian, prejudice or conflict. • To gain acceptance and equality by challenging all prejudice, preconceptions, misconceptions and negativity of bands through education, honest dialogue and positive engagement. • Our volunteers will develop their own skills through communications, organising and co-ordinating activities of the organisation. These skills for both participants and volunteers can be transferred into other aspects of their life, be it academically or socially. • Through providing a range of activities to improve the general health and wellbeing of members and volunteers. • To act on behalf of and advise members on issues relating to Marching bands.

What the charity does: The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information,Arts,Community development,Cultural,Education/training,Volunteer development,Youth development

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds),General public,Interface communities,Men,Mental health,Older people,Parents,Unemployed/low income,Voluntary and community sector,Volunteers,Women,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£76,122	£79,029	£0	1

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Joanne Smyth		
Mr David Campbell		
Mr Tim Cairns		
Ryan Simpson		

Londonderry Bands Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108021

Accounts

Londonderry Bands Forum
Receipts & Payments Account
Year ended 31 March 2025

	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>Total</u> <u>2025</u> £	<u>2024</u> £
<u>Receipts</u>				
<u>Grants</u>				
Community Relations Council Core Funding	50,487	0	50,487	40,593
The Act Initiative	400	0	400	0
WHST	150	0	150	0
DC & SDC Culture Quarter	875	0	875	709
Northern Ireland Office	15,939	0	15,939	28,000
Rural Comm Network	288	0	288	0
City Centre Initiative	750	0	750	500
Ulster Scots Assoc	0	0	0	855
Bready District Ulster Scots Assoc	0	1,200	1,200	1,000
Events & workshops	0	3,200	3,200	0
NWCP New Gate Enterprises	2,833	0	2,833	0
	71,722	4,400	76,122	71,657
<u>Payments</u>				
Salaries & Pension costs	46,441	0	46,441	58,182
Programme & Project costs	8,111	409	8,519	7,012
Administration costs	5,625	0	5,625	5,400
Bank Charges	60	60	120	120
Accountancy fees	0	246	246	1,212
Rent, Light & Heat	17,610	0	17,610	3,375
Insurance	309	0	309	283
Sundry Expenses	0	159	159	0
Comm Relations Council Underspend	0	0	0	2,689
	78,156	873	79,029	78,273
Excess payments over receipts	-6,434	3,527	-2,907	-6,616
<u>Reconciliation</u>				
Cash at Bank and on Hand	31/03/2024	13,078	5,839	18,917
Surplus / (Deficit) this year		-6,434	3,527	-2,907
Cash at Bank and on Hand	31/03/2025	6,644	9,366	18,917


 Tim Cairns (Chairperson)
 Londonderry Bands Forum

14/11/2025

Londonderry Bands Forum
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
As at 31 March 2025

	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Funds Reconciliation				
Cash at Bank & in Hand 31 03 24	13,078	5,839	18,917	25,533
Surplus / (deficit) this year end	-6,434	3,527	-2,907	-6,616
Cash at Bank & in Hand 31 03 25	6,644	9,366	16,010	18,917
Debtors				
Amounts due from Funders - DCSDC	0	0	0	0
Paye Credit		0	0	298
	0	0	0	298
Bank & Cash Balances				
HSBC Bank Main Account			15,879	16,299
HSBC No. 2 Account			132	2,618
			16,010	18,917
Other Assets (Restricted Fund)				
Music Equipment (Estimated valuation)			1,905	2,425
Computer Equipment (Estimated valuation)			237	301
Fixtures & Fittings (Estimated valuation)			192	244
			2,334	2,970
Liabilities				
Rent		0	0	2,125
Accountancy Fees		990	990	0
Paye	1,286	0	1,286	0
	1,286	990	2,276	2,125

Approved by the Trustees on 14 November 2025 and signed on their behalf by



 Tim Cairns (Chairperson)

14-Nov-25


Londonderry Bands Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108021

Accounts

Londonderry Bands Forum
Receipts & Payments Account
Year ended 31 March 2024

	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>£</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Receipts</u>				
<u>Grants</u>				
Community Relations Council Core Funding	40,593	0	40,593	57,750
DC & SDC Good Relations Grant Aid	0	0	0	4,000
Northern Ireland Office	28,000	0	28,000	30,000
DC & SDC Cultural Quarter	709	0	709	1,225
City Centre Initiative	500	0	500	500
Ulster Scots Assoc.	855	0	855	0
Bready District Ulster Scots Assoc	1,000	0	1,000	0
<u>Other</u>				
Ukraine Fundraising	0	0	0	560
	<u>71,658</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>71,658</u>	<u>94,035</u>
<u>Payments</u>				
Salaries & Pension costs	56,002	2,181	58,182	64,507
Programme & Project costs	7,012	0	7,012	4,717
Administration costs	5,400	0	5,400	3,515
Bank Charges	0	120	120	120
Accountancy fees	0	1,212	1,212	1,332
Donations	0	0	0	560
Rent	3,375	0	3,375	5,000
Insurance	283	0	283	283
Comm Relations Council Underspend	2,689	0	2,689	0
	<u>74,761</u>	<u>3,513</u>	<u>78,273</u>	<u>80,034</u>
Excess payments over receipts	<u>-3,103</u>	<u>-3,513</u>	<u>-6,616</u>	<u>14,001</u>
<u>Reconciliation</u>				
Cash at Bank and on Hand	31/03/2023	16,181	9,352	25,533
Surplus / (Deficit) this year		-3,103	-3,513	-6,616
Cash at Bank and on Hand	31/03/2024	<u>13,078</u>	<u>5,839</u>	<u>18,917</u>
			<u>18,917</u>	<u>25,532</u>


 Ryan Simpson (Chairperson)
 Londonderry Bands Forum

09/09/2024

Londonderry Bands Forum
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
As at 31 March 2024

	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2024</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2023</u> <u>£</u>
Funds Reconciliation				
Cash at Bank & in Hand 31 03 23	16,181	9,352	25,533	11,531
Surplus / (deficit) this year end	-3,103	-3,513	-6,616	14,001
Cash at Bank & in Hand 31 03 24	<u>13,078</u>	<u>5,839</u>	<u>18,917</u>	<u>25,532</u>
Debtors				
Amounts due from Funders - DCSDC	0	0	0	709
Paye Credit	298	0	298	
	<u>298</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>709</u>
Bank & Cash Balances				
HSBC Bank Main Account			16,299	23,104
HSBC No. 2 Account			2,618	2,428
			<u>18,917</u>	<u>25,532</u>
Other Assets (Restricted Fund)				
Music Equipment (Estimated valuation)			2,425	2,945
Computer Equipment (Estimated valuation)			301	365
Fixtures & Fittings (Estimated valuation)			244	296
			<u>2,970</u>	<u>3,606</u>
Liabilities				
Rent	2,125	0	2,125	0
Underspend to be repaid to Community Relations Council	0	0	0	2,689
	<u>2,125</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,125</u>	<u>2,689</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 9 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by



 Ryan Simpson (Chairperson)

09-Sep-24

Londonderry Bands Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108021

Annual report

Londonderry Bands Forum
Financial Statements and Trustees Report
For the Year ended 31st March 2024

KEITH McELHINNEY & Co.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

CHARTERED TAX ADVISER

42A Clooney Terrace , Waterside , Londonderry , BT47 6AP
Phone : 02871 313330 , Fax : 02871 313330 , e-mail : k.mcelhinney@btconnect.com

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees of The Londonderry Bands Forum are pleased to present their report for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Purposes and Activities of the Charity

The Forum is established “to challenge and communicate at all levels” Going forward our aims are still relevant in the ongoing peace process and our partnerships with others has expanded our remit outside Londonderry. This is evident in our monthly Board reports and the Quarterly reports to funders.

Main Achievements in the year

The Londonderry Bands Forum has had a remarkable year, marked by significant achievements and enhanced performance across various areas. This report outlines our key accomplishments and the progress made in promoting the work of bands and their members.

Leadership Transition

- **New Coordinator:** Mr. Andrew Lynch was appointed as the new coordinator, succeeding Mr. Stephen Porter. This transition has been smooth, with Mr. Lynch bringing fresh perspectives and energy to the role.

Engagement and Outreach

- **Increased Participation:** Our meetings have seen a notable increase in attendance, reflecting improved engagement from the bands.
- **Diverse Outreach:** We have successfully engaged with groups from diverse backgrounds and cultures, promoting inclusivity and the work of bands across the community.
- **Collaboration with Authorities:** Continued collaboration with relevant authorities on parading and other issues has strengthened our position and influence.

Banding Activities

- **Return to Full Activities:** This year marked a full return to banding activities, with both new and returning members joining the bands. This resurgence has been encouraging and bodes well for the future.
- **Positive Outlook:** The end of the year has seen a positive trend in membership, with old and new members actively participating.

Funding and Development

- **Secured Funding:** We have secured funding for the coordinator position for another two years. This financial stability will support the development and promotion of the bands over this period.
- **Development Initiatives:** The secured funding will enable us to implement various development initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills and visibility of our bands.

Conclusion The period from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, has been a year of growth and positive change for the Londonderry Bands Forum. With increased engagement, successful outreach, and

secured funding, we are well-positioned to continue our mission of promoting the work of bands and their members

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees of The Londonderry Bands Forum confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 17 (5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the Society in the year to 31 March 2024.

Review of Financial position as at 31 March 2024

The Charity had excess payments over receipts for the year to 31 March 2024 of £6,616 (2023: surplus £14,001).

As at 31 March 2024 the Charity had no funds in material deficit

No funds are held by the charity as a custodian trustee

Trustee Selection and Management

The Charity is managed by an Executive Committee which consists of all the appointed trustees, and the selection of any new Trustees is dealt with by that Committee.

The following served as Trustees and Committee Members of the Charity throughout the year to 31 March 2024, and were also Trustees and Committee Members as at the date of approval of this Report

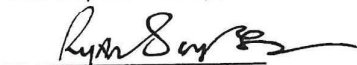
Trustees

Kenneth McFarland
Ryan Simpson
Joanne Smyth Evans
Darren Milligan

Committee members

Tim Cairns
David Campbell
Gordon Porter
Brian Dougherty

This Report was approved on 9 September 2024 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by



Ryan Simpson, Chairperson

The Londonderry Bands Forum

Principal Address and Registered Office Address: 2-4 Kennedy Place, Londonderry, BT48 6RF

Northern Ireland Charity Number: 108021

Londonderry Bands Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108021

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of The Londonderry Bands Forum

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Londonderry Bands Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108021

Accounts

Londonderry Bands Forum
Financial Statements and Trustees Report
For the Year ended 31st March 2023

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees of The Londonderry Bands Forum are pleased to present their report for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Purposes and Activities of the Charity

The Forum is established “to challenge and communicate at all levels” To forward our aims is still relevant in the ongoing peace process and our partnerships with others has expanded our remit outside Londonderry. This is evident in our monthly Board reports and the Quarterly reports to funders.

Chairs report

The past year has been eventful for the Londonderry Bands Forum, it has seen us continue to engage with our member bands and musicians, fostering a strong sense of community. We continued to hold regular meetings and training courses to help share information and up skill our members.

We have actively engaged with local authorities around a number of issues including parading funding and support and continue to advoke for increased support for music education and preservation.

Covid is still causing issues and it is taking longer to get people back to practices and events. Budget restraints and a lack of government are not helping when applying for funding. We are fortunate to be in the first year of a 2-year commitment of funding from CRC. We are looking forward to strengthening our partnerships with other cultural groups and to continue to enhance our youth involvement through outreach programmes.

Main Achievements in the year

We ran a child protection training course which was well attended and important for the bands involved to maintain their governance. As part of CRC Good relations week, we again ran a number of podcasts looking at cross community work bands have engaged in the last 10 years. We counite to share a lot of the good work and event bands are engaged with. Christmas saw the Britannia Concert band play in the city centre which was support by CCI. This was received well by the local shoppers around the town. Our Co-ordinator completed his level 5 in leadership, thanks to NICVA who facilitated the course.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees of The Londonderry Bands Forum confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 17 (5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the Society in the year to 31 March 2023.

Review of Financial position as at 31 March 2023

The Charity had surplus receipts over payments for the year to 31 March 2023 of £14,001 (2022: deficit £6,409).

As at 31 March 2023 the Charity had no funds in material deficit

No funds are held by the charity as a custodian trustee

Trustee Selection and Management

The Charity is managed by an Executive Committee which consists of all the appointed trustees, and the selection of any new Trustees is dealt with by that Committee.

The following served as Trustees and Committee Members of the Charity throughout the year to 31 March 2023, and were also Trustees and Committee Members as at the date of approval of this Report

Trustees

Kenneth McFarland

Ryan Simpson

Joanne Smyth Evans

Darren Milligan

Committee members

Tim Cairns

David Campbell

Gordon Porter

Brian Dougherty

This Report was approved on 15 May 2024 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Kenneth McFarland, Chairperson

The Londonderry Bands Forum

Principal Address and Registered Office Address:

New Gate Arts & Culture Centre, 20-22
Hawkin Street, Londonderry, BT48 6RE

Northern Ireland Charity Number: 108021

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The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Keith McElhinney
Chartered Accountant
42a Clooney Terrace
Waterside
Londonderry
BT47 6AP

15 May 2024

Londonderry Bands Forum
Receipts & Payments Account
Year ended 31 March 2023

	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>Total</u> <u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
<u>Receipts</u>				
<u>Grants</u>				
Community Relations Council Core Funding	57,750	0	57,750	8,516
DC & SDC Peace IV	0	0	0	9,643
DC & SDC Good Relations Grant Aid	4,000	0	4,000	4,200
HMRC JRS Grant	0	0	0	11,728
Northern Ireland Office	30,000	0	30,000	0
DC & SDC Cultural Quarter	1,225	0	1,225	0
City Centre Initiative	500	0	500	0
<u>Other</u>				
External Project Funds	0	0	0	43,821
Ukraine Fundraising	0	560	560	0
	93,476	560	94,036	77,908
<u>Payments</u>				
Salaries & Pension costs	62,568	1,939	64,507	72,438
Programme & Project costs	3,481	1,236	4,717	10,192
Property costs	0	0	0	273
Administration costs	3,515	0	3,515	414
Bank Charges	0	120	120	0
Accountancy fees	990	342	1,332	1,000
Donations	0	560	560	0
Rent	5,000	0	5,000	0
Insurance	283	0	283	0
	75,837	4,197	80,035	84,317
Surplus receipts over payments	17,639	-3,637	14,001	-6,409
<u>Reconciliation</u>				
Cash at Bank and on Hand	31/03/2022	-1,458	12,989	11,531
Surplus / (Deficit) this year		17,639	-3,637	14,001
Cash at Bank and on Hand	31/03/2023	16,181	9,352	25,532

Kenneth McFarland (Chairperson)
Londonderry Bands Forum

15/05/2024

Londonderry Bands Forum
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
As at 31 March 2023

	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2023</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2022</u> <u>£</u>
Funds Reconciliation				
Cash at Bank & in Hand 31 03 22	-1,458	12,989	11,531	17,939
Surplus / (deficit) this year end	17,639	-3,637	14,001	-6,409
Cash at Bank & in Hand 31 03 23	16,181	9,352	25,532	11,530
Debtors				
DC & SDC	709	0	709	
Amounts due from Funders	709	0	709	12,489
Bank & Cash Balances				
HSBC Bank Main Account			23,104	11,236
HSBC No. 2 Account			2,428	295
			25,532	11,531
Other Assets (Restricted Fund)				
Music Equipment (Estimated valuation)			2,945	3,465
Computer Equipment (Estimated valuation)			365	429
Fixtures & Fittings (Estimated valuation)			296	348
			3,606	4,242
Liabilities				
Underspend to be repaid to Community Relations Council	2,689	0	0	0
	2,689	0	0	0

Approved by the Trustees on 15 May 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Kenneth McFarland (Chairperson)

15-May-24

Londonderry Bands Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108021

Annual report

Londonderry Bands Forum
Financial Statements and Trustees Report
For the Year ended 31st March 2023

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

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Covid is still causing issues and it is taking longer to get people back to practices and events. Budget restraints and a lack of government are not helping when applying for funding. We are fortunate to be in the first year of a 2-year commitment of funding from CRC. We are looking forward to strengthening our partnerships with other cultural groups and to continue to enhance our youth involvement through outreach programmes.

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Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees of The Londonderry Bands Forum confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 17 (5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the Society in the year to 31 March 2023.

Londonderry Bands Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108021

Annual return

Londonderry Bands Forum
Financial Statements and Trustees Report
For the Year ended 31st March 2023

Review of Financial position as at 31 March 2023

The Charity had surplus receipts over payments for the year to 31 March 2023 of £14,001 (2022: deficit £6,409).

As at 31 March 2023 the Charity had no funds in material deficit

No funds are held by the charity as a custodian trustee

Trustee Selection and Management

The Charity is managed by an Executive Committee which consists of all the appointed trustees, and the selection of any new Trustees is dealt with by that Committee.

The following served as Trustees and Committee Members of the Charity throughout the year to 31 March 2023, and were also Trustees and Committee Members as at the date of approval of this Report

Trustees

Kenneth McFarland
Ryan Simpson
Joanne Smyth Evans
Darren Milligan

Committee members

Tim Cairns
David Campbell
Gordon Porter
Brian Dougherty

This Report was approved on 15 May 2024 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Kenneth McFarland, Chairperson

The Londonderry Bands Forum

Principal Address and Registered Office Address: New Gate Arts & Culture Centre, 20-22
Hawkin Street, Londonderry, BT48 6RE

Northern Ireland Charity Number: 108021

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of The Londonderry Bands Forum

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It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.