

Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society

Scotland · Charity number SC042568

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	Unincorporated association
Registered	2011-09-06
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	United Nations House Scotland 44 Frederick Street Edinburgh EH2 1EX
Website	www.scottishahlulbaytsociety.org

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of religion','the promotion of religious or racial harmony'

What the charity does: The Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society is a Shia Muslim organisation dedicated to supporting the Scottish Shia Muslim community and society at large. We aim to foster religious, racial, and cultural harmony by engaging with various communities, faiths, civil society, academic institutions, governmental bodies, and healthcare systems. Our efforts focus on education, Shia-centric religious and community activities, grassroots interfaith/intrafaith projects, civic-engagement, and philanthropic and humanitarian initiatives. We provide educational activities to promote a deeper understanding of Shia Islam and its contribution to social, communal and spiritual growth. We support community-development, especially of youth, women, and the elderly, and provide assistance to those facing disadvantage. Our goal is to foster dialogue, mutual understanding, and humanitarian collaboration for the betterment of society and the nation.

Beneficiaries: 'Children or young people','Older People','People with disabilities or health problems','People with a particular ethnic or racial origin'

Objectives: 2. The association's objects are to advance the religion of Islam in accordance with the doctrines of the Shia Ithna-asheri Jafari faith, promote religious and racial harmony, equality and diversity across Scotland, for the benefit of the public, in accordance with the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad and his Household. In furtherance thereof but not otherwise the association shall seek. (a) To organise a committed project to establish links and build bridges between the Scottish Shia Muslim Community and society at large, to enlighten others about the teachings of Islam. (b) To engage with institutions, systems, charities, organisations, communities and other bodies from across the domains of healthcare, academia, politics, religion and interfaith, the public sector and civil society on a humanitarian basis, so as to advance the

positive contribution of the Shia Muslim community as regards improving the general wellbeing of members of the public both mentally and physically, encouraging civic responsibility, promoting cultural exchange and understanding, promoting social action, promoting interreligious harmony, and working towards cohesion, integration, and reconciliation. (c) To provide a place of gathering for lectures, seminars and public meetings for the following purposes: faith-based, cultural and educational dialogue, the propagation of knowledge, to promote civic harmony, to promote healthcare work, to promote interfaith dialogue, and to promote equality and diversity. Emphasis is to be placed on these being delivered in the English language, so as to keep the programs accessible to the general public, academics, the Scottish Muslim community and the youth of the established Muslim community. (d) To provide support, practical assistance, counselling and education for the Scottish community of people who have converted to the religion of Islam, and the community of 'raised' Muslim men, women, youth and children. (e) To provide support and practical assistance relief for the immigrant, refugee and converted individuals and families, either living in or coming to live in the major cities of Scotland and to aid their integration into society. Also, we aim to provide relief and inclusion, through social projects, to those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, hardship or other disadvantage.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** City of Edinburgh
- **Geographical spread:** Wider, but within one local authority area

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£41,656	£32,161	-	0
2024-03-31	£26,733	£30,867	-	0
2023-03-31	£41,171	£35,299	-	0
2022-03-31	£26,317	£25,460	-	0
2021-03-31	£16,496	£10,967	-	0

Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society

Scotland - Charity number SC042568

Accounts

APPENDIX 1



Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	APR	2024	To	31	MAR	2025

Reference and administration details

Charity name
Other names charity is known by
Registered charity number
Charity's principal address

SCOTTISH AHLUL BAYT SOCIETY
SABS
SC042568

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	CO-CHAIR		
2	SECRETARY		
3	CO-CHAIR AND TREASURER		
4	DIRECTOR-GENERAL		
5	VICE-CHAIR		
6	YOUTH CO-CHAIR		
7	YOUTH CO-CHAIR		
8	ENGAGEMENTS DIRECTOR		
9	VICE-CHAIR		
10			
11			
11			
22			
33			

Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
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Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Constitution
Constitutional form: Unincorporated association

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustees are appointed and recruited through Annual General Meetings.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The core charitable purposes of the organisation are the advancement of religion, the promotion of religious or racial harmony, and engaging with Scottish civic society, and civic society at large.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The promotion of religious and racial harmony, equality and diversity across Scotland, for the benefit of the public. Organising a committed project to establish links between the Scottish Muslim Community and society at large, across all sectors, nationally and internationally, to enlighten others about the peaceful teachings of Islam. To provide a place of gathering for lectures and public meetings for religious, cultural and educational purposes, to promote harmony, equality and diversity. To provide support, practical assistance, and education for the Muslim community to aid their integration into society, and members of the public. And to provide relief to those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage by working with charities, conducting social outings, and providing aid.

APPENDIX 1

Achievements and performance

Summary of Main Achievements of the Charity During the Financial Period

As a faith-based organisation, SABS serves the Scottish Shia Muslim community and the broader public. During 2024 to 2025, SABS pursued its mission of fostering dialogue and education, building partnerships, and promoting harmony and wellbeing through interfaith/intrafaith engagement, community development, humanitarian work, civic participation, and communal religious observances.

Interfaith and Intrafaith Collaboration

SABS has maintained a steadfast commitment to building bridges between faith communities throughout the year, recognising that dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation are essential pillars for a harmonious and inclusive society. The charity has actively engaged with Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Hindu, and other faith communities through a comprehensive programme of interfaith activities, including engagement in major religious celebrations, collaborative events, joint statements on matters of social concern, educational engagements, and high-level meetings with faith leaders and covenants that promote cohesion at the grassroots. SABS has also prioritised intra-faith dialogue, particularly between Shia and Sunni Muslim communities, fostering partnership within the broader Islamic tradition.

Throughout the year, SABS leadership engaged in numerous high-level interfaith meetings and collaborative efforts. For instance, in April 2024, members supported an Iftar hosted by ██████████ representing the Sunni tradition, symbolising unity between Muslim denominations during Ramadhan. SABS actively participated in Sikh celebrations at the Guru Nanak Edinburgh Gurdwara for Vaisakhi, with Co-Chair ██████████ and Vice-Chair ██████████ joining the Sikh community alongside other faith leaders, MSPs, MPs, and Councillors; demonstrating civic-level interfaith engagement. ██████████ hosted His Excellency ██████████ from Mumbai to underscore appreciation for the work of the community on the Holy Shrines in Najaf and Karbala; examples of intra-religious dialogue crucial for promoting peace.

SABS organised and held its 8th Annual United Eid Dinner, centred around "Bridging Muslim communities across Great Scottish Cities," bringing together Imams, community elders, faith leaders, and youth champions from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, in light of SABS's mission of bolstering intra-faith cooperation and understanding between denominations. The event was held at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, reflecting trust between our faith families, and collective prayers were offered for those oppressed and suffering in global conflicts.

SABS maintained active participation in educational initiatives of many kinds, advancing its mission to enable an authentic understanding of Islamic teachings that encourage constructive participation in society, peace-building, and compassion. One type of educational initiative was school roadshows arranged through Edinburgh Interfaith Association or Interfaith Scotland. At these, SABS members engaged with pupils at Dollar Academy, over 200 pupils at Longstone Primary School, approximately 270 pupils at Tynewater Primary School, 600 pupils at The High School of Glasgow, and over 90 pupils at Davidson's Mains Primary School, among others. These sessions were conducive to building respect and mutual learning alongside representatives from various faith communities and Police Scotland demonstrating SABS's interface with civic institutions and contribution to broader educational outcomes.

SABS was invited to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, witnessing the address of the Archbishop of Canterbury and congratulating the Right Reverend ██████████ in his installation as Moderator. A subsequent meeting between SABS chairs with the Moderator and Reverend ██████████ marked a step towards deepening the SABS-CoS relationship to drive positive change in society. Vice-Chair ██████████ joined the Edinburgh Interfaith Association Peace Walk in July 2024, promoting peace, unity, and friendship. ██████████ represented at the Apostolic Nuncio's summer reception (representing the Holy See) in London and Ameer Versace engaged with

Scotland's International Day of Yoga at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall with the Hindu community, all of which bolstered ties and enabled work essential to SABS' interfaith mission.

Following the Southport attacks in August 2024, SABS worked with Edinburgh Interfaith Association in coordinating an official joint statement in condemnation of the attacks showing commitment to standing against hatred and promoting community safety. SABS then took part in meetings with First Minister John Swinney, senior government officials, and Police Scotland to address the safety of minority ethnic communities in respect of SABS' work to interface with government on policy and community needs.

[REDACTED] joined the Scottish Religious Leaders Forum, addressing poverty alleviation, education, combating hatred, and promoting connected communities - priorities directly aligned with our objectives. Moulana [REDACTED] also organised a programme with Muslim leaders from various traditions including MINAB, the European Deobandi Sunni community, and Shia Ismaili representatives, to work towards practical efforts at improving cross-denominational unity.

SABS organised an Open Evening Interfaith Event at Maggie's Glasgow (in partnership with Maggie's), bringing together faith and civic groups to explore life-changing cancer care initiatives, reflecting our partnerships with healthcare charities to better wellbeing. Moulana [REDACTED] visited Newham with senior Imams and the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal [REDACTED] around projects supporting domestic violence victims, asylum seekers, and the homeless to direct actions towards betterment through collaborative platforms and the provision of aid.

SABS participated in the Edinburgh Interfaith Association AGM, and was pleased to submit a member [REDACTED] to the EIFA Board to contribute much more broadly towards the interfaith spectrum within the City. SABS attended the Scottish Parliament's 25th anniversary celebration, reconnecting with church leaders and offering prayers for peace. SABS contributed to the 'Uniting for Peace and Friendship Service' at St Giles' Cathedral, with Co-Chair [REDACTED] and Vice [REDACTED] leading a universal prayer for peace and expressing a commitment to coexistence and trust. SABS members participated in a faith-based reconciliation event at Mansion House titled 'Disagreeing Agreeably,' addressing challenges of diminishing common ground. SABS also engaged in programmes hosted by the Scottish Bishops' Committee for Interreligious Dialogue, and engaged with Catholic Church leaders including Bishop Brian McGee and Archbishop William Nolan to discuss civic engagement and charitable activities.

SABS leaders contributed to the launch of the 'Four Seasons in Faith' exhibition with Museums & Galleries Edinburgh, developed with EIFA. SABS put on displays showcasing the history and artefacts of the Shia community in Edinburgh in efforts directed towards public education about religious diversity. Sister [REDACTED] represented SABS at an interfaith reception hosted by Anas Sarwar MSP, Leader of the Scottish Labour Party, with speakers including Lord [REDACTED] discussing community cohesion and inclusivity. The SABS Youth Team's annual Roses for Peace project saw them joined by Reverend [REDACTED] presenting the Moderator of the General Assembly, visiting The Scottish Parliament to hand roses to MSPs and invite engagement in charitable work, once more embodying the organisation's grassroots interfaith mission.

SABS attended the Scottish Hindu Foundation's Diwali Celebration and Glasgow Afghan United's Burns and Rumi Supper, strengthening ties with diverse communities in service to interfaith harmony and cross-cultural collaboration.

[REDACTED] hours over Christmas, with members meeting Reverend [REDACTED] of the Church of Scotland, His Grace Archbishop [REDACTED] of the Catholic Church, and [REDACTED] Cathedral strengthening mutual understanding between our neighbouring faith families. Brother [REDACTED] engaged at the Glasgow Interfaith Initiative at Glasgow Cathedral marking Glasgow 850.

SABS continued its decade-long tradition of visiting St Mary's Cathedral during Ramadhan, with this year's gathering on Laylatul Qadr coinciding with Lent. The SABS community sat with church congregants, offering prayers and collectively praying for peace and alleviation of suffering.

Community Building and Development

SABS has continued to invest significantly in building and strengthening the Scottish Shia Muslim community through diverse educational, recreational, and social programmes, fulfilling its commitment to address the needs of adherents of the Shia community. Recognising that a thriving community is built upon knowledge, connection, and mutual support, SABS has delivered initiatives serving all age groups, including focused work to socially include and integrate youth, women, and the elderly. From the Children's Islamic School now in its 12th year to adult education programmes, SABS has prioritised learning and development as core community values, enabling authentic understanding of Shia Islamic teachings and their contribution to spiritual development and community building.

SABS delivered a 10-Week Quran Course for adults titled "Lessons for Life from Surah Yusuf," led by Head of Education [REDACTED], allowing participants to deepen their understanding of the Islamic scripture in harmony with core teachings. The SABS Children's School operated throughout the year at MacDonald Road Library, stepping into its 12th year with new and returning pupils. In February 2025, the school received a visit from [REDACTED] who engaged with children, parents and teachers.

SABS established the Sisters Badminton Club which thrived throughout the year, maintained by the SABS Youth Team, providing an important social and physical outlet contributing to women's fitness, inclusion and wellbeing in Edinburgh, with Edinburgh Leisure. The Sister's Book Club, also established and organised by SABS' youth, continued meeting regularly throughout the year for discussions about faith, providing a spiritual and social gathering space to advance understanding and women's social inclusion. In the theme of fitness, SABS also attended the first-ever Women's Scottish Cup Final through Queen's Park FC Foundation to open up an access point to this historic sporting event and recreational opportunities for the community.

SABS and Generations Working Together collaborated towards the Learning Roadshow in Dundee bringing together participants for intergenerational learning, and incorporating methods to socially include youth and elderly in spheres of life. SABS, in furtherance of the partnership, supported the GWT Excellence Awards 2024 at the Scottish Parliament.

SABS arranged our Annual School Summer Outing to Blair Drummond Safari Park which brought nearly 200 members from the community together, from children to elderly, strengthening communal bonds and social inclusion across all age groups and backgrounds.

SABS organised multiple Sisters Games Night events in local mosques for elders and youngsters to enjoy games, discussions, and moments of worship. The youth team organised community workshops like a workshop on Upbringing led by [REDACTED] providing scholarly perspectives and practical Q&A as educational initiatives addressing practical needs.

SABS launched the first project in our newly-designed core programme, supported by The National Lottery Community Fund, geared towards enhancing the resilience of the community to emergencies and disasters by delivering a First Aid training programme with BPM Training and providing SCQF Level 6 qualifications in Emergency First Aid at Work. SABS, in this year, gained 12 newly qualified First Aiders (based in multiple localities across the Central Belt) prepared to serve the community and wider public, reflecting a serious drive within SABS to build an apparatus that saves lives, and assists members of the community (in, for example, community centres) and general public spaces. More work has been delivered by SABS through this programme in FY 25-26.

SABS organised an educational working session on PCOS Relief led by [REDACTED] enabling a range of attendees to understand symptoms, connect with others facing similar challenges, and [REDACTED] themselves with resources to better physical and mental wellbeing within the community, especially amongst women.

Humanitarian Work and Social Action

SABS has demonstrated deep attentiveness to our humanitarian work and social action throughout the year, guided by the Islamic principle "whoever saves a life, it will be as if they saved all of Humanity" (Quran 5:32)—central to the charity's mission to provide support, humanitarian and charitable aid, and relief to those in need. The charity has delivered comprehensive initiatives addressing critical societal needs, from alleviating food poverty and supporting vulnerable populations to promoting health through blood and stem cell donation campaigns and raising funds for

cancer care, all linked to partnerships with national and international healthcare charities to better the nation's wellbeing.

SABS' Scottish Food Aid programme has grown significantly, now reaching over 70 organisations across Glasgow and Edinburgh, providing Halal chicken provisions to vulnerable, refugee, and disadvantaged families with dignity, fulfilling SABS's commitment to provide relief to those in need. Over the financial year, and with the support of a generous donor, SABS has distributed on the order of 3 tonnes of chicken supplies. The programme operates through dedicated SABS volunteers, supplier partnerships, and support from distribution partners, including SCOREScotland, Mayfield & Easthouses Development Trust, The Castlemilk Pantry, Linthouse Larder, Good Food Scotland, and many others in the third sector. Some partnerships possess an interfaith and intrafaith connection, as they were brought about through our relationship-building work as an example of shared concern for humanitarian work. For example, support from our Sunni partners serves as a proven project in our Shia-Sunni Alliance. This programme runs monthly, and supply lines were bolstered at key junctures like in honour of Challenge Poverty Week, in October 2024.

As a flagship development, spun out from our Scottish Food Aid project, SABS and the Hibernian Community Foundation partnered this year to launch a brand new initiative called Pitch-to-Plate in May 2024; a monthly series of Multi-Cultural, Halal Community Meals feeding all Scots and New Scots with warmth, hospitality and dignity, fulfilling SABS's mission to foster inclusion, alleviate distress caused by cost of living hardships, and construct a platform for engagement with civic society, healthcare partners, and dialogue with diverse faith communities and leaders. Each event has between 120 and 200 participants, and we have successively enjoyed the support and partnership and participation of distinguished guests including Tommy Sheppard MP, the [REDACTED] Macpherson MSP, The Bishop of Edinburgh, and [REDACTED] II evidencing the practical nature of SABS's interface with religious leaders and key personnel to realise positive outcomes for local communities. These community meal events have also featured Changeworks (who provide tips to reduce energy costs for struggling families) and Diabetes Scotland. SABS now has 2 Diabetes Scotland Community Champions amongst our membership to act as support systems for a community predisposed to diabetes.

SABS furthered our work with [REDACTED] and carried out multiple stem cell registration campaigns across Scotland this FY building on a healthcare partnership rooted in our resolve to save lives in light of Islamic teachings to help others. At large-scale events, SABS youth volunteers gathered numerous swabs, each with potential to save lives. At The Halal Food Festival, the SABS Youth Team signed up over 50+ new potential donors in support of children like Eesa, who found a donor after being diagnosed with aplastic anaemia. This campaign was guided by principles: "Man is either your brother in Faith or your Equal in Humanity" (Imam Ali) and "Whoever saves a life, it will be as if they saved all of Humanity" (Quran 5:32). In March 2025, SABS also ran a digital social media campaign during Ramadhan highlighting Eesa's story and encouraging stem cell registration in partnership with Anthony Nolan.

In another SABS initiative, [REDACTED] inspired by his brother's cancer treatment, organised and undertook a 100-mile Ultra Walk from Dundee to Edinburgh to Glasgow raising awareness and funds for Beatson Cancer Charity; a partnership cherished by SABS in line with our drive to save [REDACTED] Ultra Walk was supported by each of the Lord Provosts of Dundee, Dunfermline, and Edinburgh who met [REDACTED] the journey. Bill Kidd MSP put forward a parliamentary motion recognising this extraordinary achievement. The initiative aimed to advance cancer screening, early detection, and treatment throughout Scotland, and allowed SABS to raise over £4,000 for Beatson Cancer Charity.

SABS, in partnership with SNBTS, organised the Imam Hussain Blood Donation Campaign Scotland, in its 11th consecutive year; a flagship example of grassroots interfaith activities and partnerships with national [REDACTED] organisations. The initiative centres on saving lives by upholding the universal values epitomised by [REDACTED] The campaign constituted multiple blood donation sessions organised by SABS in late July and early August [REDACTED] with participation from the likes of [REDACTED] (SNBTS Director), and representatives from Church of Scotland, Hindu, Jewish, Sikh, and Methodist communities demonstrating our continued success in building grassroots interfaith alliances around practical humanitarian action.

On World Blood Donor Day 2024, SABS ran a social media campaign highlighting the partnership with SNBTS. In November 2024, at the Scottish Government's first Faith, Belief, and Community Cohesion Conference (which SABS worked closely with the Government, alongside partners, to organise), SABS Co-Chairs presented on the Imam

[REDACTED]ood Donation Campaign's evolution, highlighting success in creating grassroots cross-sectional and cohesion. Giving blood becomes a basis for building neighbourly alliances. SABS also worked on filming and screening "Blood Under the Skin". This is a documentary that we launched at the Scottish Parliament, born of a research collaboration with [REDACTED] from the University of Nottingham. The documentary showcases the power of grassroots interfaith efforts and speaks to the determination of Scottish Shia Muslims to contribute to bettering Scotland's health and wellbeing, demonstrating how Shia Islamic ideology can contribute to broader humanitarian outcomes, using SABS as a model. The screening featured a panel including [REDACTED] Liberator, Professor [REDACTED] SABS co-chair and director [REDACTED] with support from Bill Kidd MSP and Kaukab Stewart MSP.

SABS facilitated provision of hundreds of copies of the Holy Quran and prayer mats to New Scots and asylum seekers to provide them with comfort. SABS worked with Islamic Relief UK Scotland, Broomhouse Mosque, and Al Gilani Foundation who made generous donations. By February 2025, SABS provided over 300 Qur'ans and 300 prayer mats to New Scots as the month of Ramadhan approached, making a profound difference to individuals navigating challenging circumstances. SABS further distributed food bags directly and with support from SCOREscotland and Mayfield & Easthouses Development Trust.

Civic and Governmental Engagement

SABS has maintained active engagement with civic institutions and governmental bodies throughout the year, recognising that positive change requires partnership between faith communities, elected representatives, public services, and civil society organisations. The charity has participated in significant governmental events, contributed to policy discussions on matters ranging from community cohesion to housing and poverty, and worked collaboratively with Police Scotland and other public services to promote safety and inclusivity. Through items like climate advocacy, participation in national commemorations, and contribution to discussions on poverty alleviation and community safety, SABS has demonstrated commitment to being an active participant in Scottish civic life.

SABS' Ameer Versace joined over 30 religious leaders, academics, and conservationists signing statements urging Scottish and UK governments to bridge the gap between climate promises and action, advocating for a fairer, greener society. Ameer also signed the Scottish Faith Leaders' Statement on climate change in line with SABS' views on environmental stewardship.

D [REDACTED] attended the Wilton Park conference on religious leadership in times of crisis, to develop on groundwork to make society more well-connected, resilient to trial, and cooperative. SABS leadership attended Remembrance Sunday services and National Memorials across Scotland, with SABS Co-Chair Ifty laying a wreath at the Stone of Remembrance alongside the First Minister and civic leaders in Edinburgh, while [REDACTED] presented SABS at Glasgow's programme. First Minister John Swinney reaffirmed [REDACTED] inclusivity and SABS presented The First Minister with the book The Voice of Human Justice [REDACTED] on Imam Ali's legacy of justice and compassion, and elucidating on how the teachings of Imam Ali can inform discussion around how to achieve broader positive national outcomes.

Ameer engaged in policy discussions affecting community wellbeing, for example around ending forced marriage at a Scottish Parliament programme. SABS participated in the Religious Leaders' Representatives Conference at Edinburgh City Chambers, with Co-Chair Ifty and Youth Coordinator [REDACTED] engaging in conversations about standing united to combat hatred and promote equality. Co-Chair Ali participated in the OneCity Trust's Round Table on Edinburgh's Housing Crisis, pushing forward discussions among third-sector organisations on improving policy engagement on the matter.

SABS participated in the Kirking of the Deacons ceremony, with Vice-Chairman [REDACTED] sending the charity and paying tribute to the Incorporation of Candlemakers for their dedication to crafting candles advocating for human values in honour of SABS' Imam Hussain Day activities.

Scotland's faith leaders including SABS came together calling for a Minimum Income Guarantee to help end poverty, releasing a joint statement ahead of Challenge Poverty Week emphasising the urgent need to tackle poverty. SABS worked closely with the Scottish Government to organise the first Faith, Belief, and Community Cohesion Conference,

at which co-Chairs Ali and Iffy presented a case study on the Imam Hussain Blood Donation Campaign and its model in creating grassroots interfaith alliances around practical action. SABS also maintained ties with Police Scotland representatives to ensure their connection with the grassroots, and Iffy and Kashan attended the Chief Constable's Engagement Dinner at Police Scotland Headquarters to connect with other community organisations and charities.

Religious and Communal Observances

SABS has continued to serve the spiritual needs of the Scottish Shia Muslim community by facilitating religious observances and commemorations throughout the year, fulfilling a commitment to meet the needs of the community across the religious spectrum. These programmes have provided opportunities for the community to gather in worship, remembrance, and celebration of significant occasions in the Islamic calendar, particularly those connected to the Ahl al-Bayt (the Prophet Muhammad and his family), enabling adherents to deepen their understanding and practice. From solemn commemorations of Arbaeen and Imam Hussain Day honouring sacrifice, to joyful celebrations of birth anniversaries in Islamic calendar inspiring hope and devotion, SABS has created spaces for spiritual reflection and communal bonding - contributing to spiritual development and community building. The charity has hosted distinguished scholars delivering lectures connecting timeless teachings to contemporary challenges, enabling an authentic and sophisticated understanding of Shia Islamic teachings. The annual Imam Hussain Day event at Edinburgh City Chambers has grown to become a significant civic occasion bringing together representatives from across Scottish society-faith leaders, politicians, civic figures, and public servants-united in values of peace, justice, and coexistence.

In October, SABS organised and delivered a "Light Candles for Peace" event at the Edinburgh City Chambers marking Imam Hussain Day. The year's theme, Peace and Coexistence in Difficult Times, resonated deeply demonstrated by an attendance that included the First Minister, Secretary of State for Scotland, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, Jackson Carlaw MSP, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Catholic, Jewish, Hindu, and other faith representatives, the Lord Lyon King of Arms, the Duke of Hamilton, Sir Geoff Palmer, Sir Iain Livingstone, NHS Scotland, Recovery Scotland, Legion Scotland, Police Scotland, Scottish Refugee Council, SNBTS, and others, showcasing our breadth of partnerships with civil society and third sector organisations. This exemplified a religious observance that is centred on universal values becoming a platform for bringing together diverse sectors of society in service to principles of humanity and peace.

SABS organised a series of community events to mark Arbaeen, the 40th day after the Martyrdom of Imam Hussain, which is commemorated by hundreds of millions worldwide. We organised educational programs and events with the Shia Communities in Aberdeen and Edinburgh. One such programme specifically also welcomed [REDACTED] from the Chinese community, demonstrating the inclusive nature of SABS' religious observances and commitment to building bridges across communities.

SABS, in December, held a Grand Celebration event with Jafaria Foundation marking the Prophet Muhammad's birth anniversary, providing opportunities for spiritual reflection. SABS also organised and arranged the first Scottish visit of Sayed Mahdi al-Modarresi in a two-day Lecture Series [REDACTED] In January, SABS also organised a community lecture and celebration featuring [REDACTED] These are just some examples of many other lecture programmes and community events organised by SABS in the year to mark various auspicious occasions in the Islamic calendar; others include events held on the occasions of Imam Hussain, Hazrat Abbas, Imam Mahdi, and Imam Ali al-Sajjad with speakers like [REDACTED] providing numerous opportunities for worship and learning in congregation throughout the year.

Conclusion

Throughout 2024-2025, SABS advanced its mission through interfaith dialogue, community development, humanitarian aid, civic engagement, and religious observances, benefiting the Scottish Shia Muslim community and wider society in general. Guided by compassion, tolerance, and service to humanity, SABS demonstrates how Shia Islamic teachings contribute to humanitarian outcomes and community development, and looks forward to building upon these achievements.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The trustees' policy is to retain 3 months' worth of normal running costs in order to meet commitments and to cover any unexpected expenditure.

Three months expenditure stands at roughly an average of £8,040.43 and reserves are in excess of this .

Details of any deficit

N/A

Donated facilities and services (if any)

N/A

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year ended 31/03/25	Period ended 31/03/24
Receipts				
Donations	22,216.43	13,440.00	35,656.43	26,732.94
Grants	-	6,000.00	6,000.00	-
Total Receipts	<u>22,216.43</u>	<u>19,440.00</u>	<u>41,656.43</u>	<u>26,732.94</u>
Payments				
Cost of charitable activities	18,286.96	13,874.77	32,161.73	30,867.17
Total Payments	<u>18,286.96</u>	<u>13,874.77</u>	<u>32,161.73</u>	<u>30,867.17</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	3,929.47	5,565.23	9,494.70	(4,134.23)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>3,929.47</u>	<u>5,565.23</u>	<u>9,494.70</u>	<u>(4,134.23)</u>

Statement of Balances - As at 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Opening cash at bank and in hand	20,202.92	-	20,202.92	24,337.15
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	3,929.47	5,565.23	9,494.70	(4,134.23)
Closing cash at bank and in hand	<u>24,132.39</u>	<u>5,565.23</u>	<u>29,697.62</u>	<u>20,202.92</u>
Bank and Cash Balances				
Bank account	24,132.39	5,565.23	29,697.62	20,202.92
	<u>24,132.39</u>	<u>5,565.23</u>	<u>29,697.62</u>	<u>20,202.92</u>
Other assets - unrestricted fund				
Fitness equipment (estimated value)				1,000
				<u>1,000</u>

Notes to the accounts - for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2 Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the charity.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

3 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No remuneration was paid to the trustees or any connected persons during the financial year. However, as is authorised within the constitution under the section on *Personal Interests*: "The members of the management committee may be paid all travelling and other expenses reasonably incurred by them in connection with their attendance at meetings of the management committee, general meetings, or meetings of committees, or otherwise in connection with the carrying-out of their duties." In accordance with this, fuel and travel expenses wrought from members of the management committee, were reimbursed by the charity over this financial year. This has been included in the *cost of charitable activities* as the reimbursement is valid only for the travelling borne from the management committee's carrying out charitable activities.

4 Donations

All unrestricted donations received by the charity were charitable donations made by members of the Shia Muslim community, and members of society at large.

Restricted donations totalling, for the year, £13,440.00 were received from a donor to be used solely for the purchasing of the halal chicken supplies that support SABS' Scottish Food Aid Project and Pitch to Plate. The entirety of the sum was spent on purchasing chicken provisions from suppliers over the course of the financial year.

5 Grants Received

This financial year, we were awarded a restricted grant from the Ethnic Minority Development Fund (EMDF), provided by the National Lottery Community Fund, totalling £6,000.00. The grant was designated solely for use to deliver our "EMDF R2 Thrive - Nurturing Wellbeing and Resilience in the Community" project. The project is aimed at improving the Shia Muslim community's collective resilience and response to emergencies, and its social and emotional welfare. Specifically, the project seeks to train physical and mental health first aid champions for the community, while also organising social outings to boost community connection and wellbeing and combat isolation amongst elders, youth, and the underprivileged. This FY, £434.77 of this grant monies was spent to deliver a First Aid training course and certification.

6 Cost of charitable activities

The cost of charitable activities comprise the following expenses incurred during the financial year:

Expense Breakdown	Amount (£)
Chicken Supplies - Scottish Food Aid & Pitch to Plate	14,552.00
Office Costs & Membership fees	1,025.00
Ladies Badminton Project	823.20
Honorariums - Guest Lecturers	2,547.42

Training & Certification - Food Safety & First Aid qualification	564.37
Mobile & Insurance	196.20
Annual Community Outing	1,811.28
Roses for Peace Initiative	144.00
Project Delivery, Logistics & Operations – including supplies to vulnerable groups; venue hire for events & community programmes; provision of food, refreshments, & serveware at events; remembrance sunday wreath; travel, accommodation, & subsistence for committee members and invited speakers incurred due to travelling for charitable activities; stationery & postage; printing & production of school & educational supplies/resources; media, video, & pop-up banner/leaflets production; and website maintenance & hosting	10,498.26

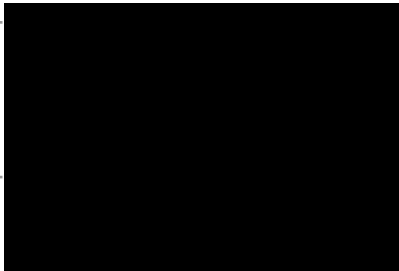
7 Governance costs

There were no expenses incurred that may be categorised under the governance costs of the charity.

8 Transfer between funds

In the financial year in question there was no monetary transfer between funds.

The following trustee declares that they have approved the Financial Statements above.

Signature(s)	
Full name(s)	
Position (e.g. Chair)	TREASURER
Date	8/12/2025

APPENDIX 3

OSCR

Scottish Charity Regulator

Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2							
Report to the trustees/members of	Charity name SCOTTISH AHLUL BAYT SOCIETY						
	Registered charity number SC 04 2568						
On the accounts of the charity for the period	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year	to	Day	Month	Year
	01	04	2024		31	03	2025
Set out on pages	11 to 14						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.						
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.						
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*] - which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a person						
Signed:	[Redacted Signature Area]						
Name:							
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):							
Address:							

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose