



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	04	2024	To	31	03	202

Reference and administration details

Charity name	The Samaritans of Inverness (SCIO)
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number	SC047836
Charity's principal address	67a Tomnahurich Street
	Inverness
	Postcode IV3 5DT

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				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

APPENDIX 1

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
	Resigned - 16 th December 2024 Resigned – 16 th December 2024 Resigned – 15 th June 2024

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

This report covers the 12-month, period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. We have changed our constitutional structure and from October 2017 are now a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

All of the association's Trustees are appointed or reappointed by the members at our Annual General Meeting which is held in June each year or at an Extraordinary General Meeting if required.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

Our purposes as recorded in our constitution are to be available 24 hours a day to provide confidential, emotional support by telephone, email and face to face for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

This report covers the 12-month, period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. We have changed our constitutional structure and from October 2017 are now a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The Inverness branch of Samaritans is one of over 200 branches and locations across UK and Ireland. Over 22,000 volunteers collectively spent over one million hours providing emotional support to people who are going through difficult times, distress, or despair, responding to a call every 10 seconds.

In the past year every month we averaged 28 Listening Volunteers, collectively answering more than 5,500 calls, over a total of 460 shifts.

Before Covid restrictions the Inverness Branch saw the occasional face-to-face support offered, though the restriction on providing this service has been lifted, the management team have decided that at least, for the time being, we will not be offering this in-person service; the conditions required to reinstate this support are onerous and for now, beyond our capacity. We will review the situation in the year ahead.

We have increased the number of volunteers in the past year. And consequently have been able to increase outreach activities and able to reach out to high risk groups.

APPENDIX 1

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

Working in Partnership

We are an active member of the Highland Multi-Agency Suicide Prevention Group which includes representation from a wide range of public sector and third sector agencies. In particular we have contributed to the work of the Locations of Concern subgroup and its focus on suicide prevention at the Kessock Bridge. We are supporting the extension of that work to address other locations of concern around Highland, harnessing the expertise of Samaritans in working at locations of concern all over the UK and using that to support local work. We've also worked with Breathing Space to support their engagement work in the Highlands.

External Training

We were invited to contribute to the UHI Inverness staff development day with workshops based on our active listening skills. Feedback from these was excellent and we will be joining the college for more workshops in the coming year. We have also continue our support of the Community Planning Partnership's Suicide Intervention and Prevention Programme, delivering courses alongside other partners.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The trustees seek to maintain a reserve fund equivalent to at least 6 months trading activity.

Details of any deficit

Donated facilities and services (if any)

Other optional information

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects continued

Outreach

We have had a very busy year attending new and old venues to spread awareness of our local branch and the work we do. We have continued to attend the University of the Highlands and Islands on many of their Wellbeing days. Winter stalls in December and January have been held once again in the Eastgate Centre. Monthly Community Coffee Mornings held in the Eastgate have also been a great way of raising awareness of our local branch. There is ongoing support being offered through Clachnacuddin FC with our volunteer in attendance at games. Regular monthly dates are now in our diary where we go along to Cafe 1668, Inverness Foodstuff and The Salvation Army's Cheesy Chat.

Prison Support Following our success in 2023-24 in re-establishing contacts with HMP Inverness, we agreed to set up a simple referral system whereby prisoners could ask to have a face-to-face emotional support session with members of the Inverness Samaritans Prison Team. This is offering an alternative to the Listener Scheme as, because of the short-stay nature of most prisoners in HMP Inverness, it has proved difficult to set up a Listener training programme and support service

We have had two referrals, only one of which resulted in a face-to-face session. However, it was an extremely useful experience as the Duty Leadership Team has recognised the need to review this service and to be clear about what we can and cannot offer.

There have been changes to our prison contacts and we are now building new relationships, working with HMP Inverness staff to agree next steps in our support. Meanwhile, we continue to respond to any invitations to explain our service to staff and prisoners and discuss how individuals can use Samaritans.

Recruitment and Training

August Core Training commenced with five trainees. And in January saw us start another round of Core Training with four New Samaritans. Two of these are returning volunteers. Today, we have one trainee with the Training School. We hope to get enough volunteers to warrant us holding Core Training in October. Ongoing Development took place in September.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) & Reasonable Adjustments

The role of the EDI Lead is now fully imbedded in the branch and attends the regular Branch Leadership Team meetings, reporting back updates from the Central Office Branch, E.D.I. Leads network meetings and any other relevant information. Monthly reports are stored with DL meeting minutes.

A well-received E.D.I. Outreach event was held. Branch volunteers joined members of the Highlands VIP Walking group (visual impairment) for one of their regular walks in Inverness. The Samaritans' braille and large print leaflets were promoted to members of the walking group, and Sams volunteers chatted to walkers about the work of Samaritans along the route

Publicity

Although expensive, publicity is vital in keeping the public aware of our service. Adverts have been placed on information boards throughout the city centre and at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness Railway Station, and Tourist Information Office. We have sited roadside banners advertising the Samaritan service in various places where there is high footfall such as in industrial sites, as well as football stadiums and Shinty grounds. Samaritan leaflets and posters can be found in a variety of places, such as Multi-storey car park, supermarkets, libraries and sports centres. These are also available in "Food banks" locally and throughout the region.

Fundraising

In the past year fundraising activities raised the sum of £7,909. Some of our volunteers participated in the Great Wilderness Challenge, this raised £4,300. And some volunteers and friends raised the sum of £200 in a Dawn Walk. Coffee mornings were held, collections at supermarkets, railway station and outreach events raised funds. A supporter did a sponsored challenge, "Dry October" and £300 was donated to the branch. These events are also useful in raising awareness about Samaritans


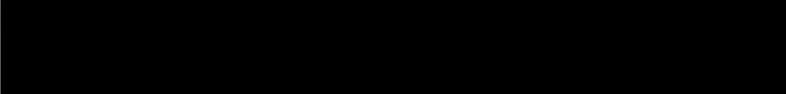
Treasurer's report

The main items of expenditure relate to the promotion of the service, travel and training expenses and premises costs. The overall cost of the service is modest because of the contribution of our volunteers who put in over 10,000 hours of time at no cost. We have no paid staff. We are grateful for the number of donations received from individuals (including our volunteers), groups, and organisations and where possible these were supplemented by Gift Aid. Also the funds raised by our fundraising events are a welcome source of income.

The trustees seek to maintain a reserve fund of at least six months trading activity, which we have been able to sustain..

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)			
Full name(s)			
Position (e.g. Chair)	Trustee	Treasurer	
Date	5-7-25	5-7-25	

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	1	4	2024		31	03	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
A1 Receipts -						
Donations	9,928				9,928	5,955
Legacies					-	-
Grants	-				-	3,400
Receipts from fundraising activities	9,850				9,850	10,808
Gross trading receipts					-	-
Income from investments other than land and buildings	1,238				1,238	-
Prison income					-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	-
					-	-
A1 Sub total	21,017	-	-	-	21,017	20,163
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	21,017	-	-	-	21,017	20,163
A3 Payments -						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	-
Gross trading payments					-	-
Investment management costs					-	-
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	19,721	600			20,321	26,043
Grants and donations					-	-
Governance costs:					-	-
Audit / independent examination	624				624	570
Preparation of annual accounts					-	-
Legal costs					-	-
Other					-	-
A3 Sub total	20,345	600	-	-	20,945	25,892
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	-
Purchase of investments					-	-
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	20,345	600	-	-	20,945	26,613
Net receipts / (payments)	672	(600)	-	-	72	(6,451)
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds					-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for year	672	(600)	-	-	72	(6,451)

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	39,377				39,377	45,828
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	672	(600)			72	(6,451)
	Rounding diff					-	-
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	40,049	(600)	-	-	39,449	39,377
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))						

Details		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
		Total		

Date of approval

5.726

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

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Type of activity or project supported

Individual / institution

Number of grants made

3

	Institution	Made	
		Total	

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)

x

Authority under which paid

£

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)

X

Number of trustees

£

		trustees	

Nature of relationship

Nature of transaction

Transaction
amount (£)

Balance outstanding at period end (£)

nature of relationship		nature of transaction		amount (£)	period end (£)
5					

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1 Donations


2 Grants		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
London North East Railways				-	3,100
Lifescan				-	300
Highland Cross				-	-
Arnold Clark				-	-
Total		-	-	-	3,400

[illegible]

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Heat, light & water	3,076				3,076	4,103
Telephone	2,478				2,478	2,657
Travel	8,429				8,429	8,647
Training	-				-	99
Advertising	305	300			605	222
Property, equipment and office	3,623	300			3,923	3,644
Gifts and cards	73				73	151
Insurance	-				-	2,708
Visit	-				-	-
NBC	920				920	1,135
Social	-				-	129
Fundraising	817				817	2,507
Charges					-	-
Misc					-	41
Total	19,721	600	-	-	20,321	26,042

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Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

		Independent examiner's report on the accounts								v2			
Report to the trustees/members of Registered charity number		The Samaritans of Inverness (SCIO)											
On the accounts of the charity for the period		SC047836											
		Period start date						Period end date					
		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year					
		01	04	24	to	31	03	25					
Set out on pages		7 to 10						(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) Act 2005 (the Act) and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of my examination as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act, 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 Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view'.											
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*]											
		1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> proper accounting records are kept 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 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or											
		2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper view to be reached.											
Signed:						Date:		6/7/25					
Name:													
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body													
Address:		Frame Kennedy Ltd Metropolitan House 31-33 High Street Inverness IV1 1HT											

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