



Soul Food Edinburgh

Trustees' Annual Report

Period From 01 April 2024 to
31 March 2025

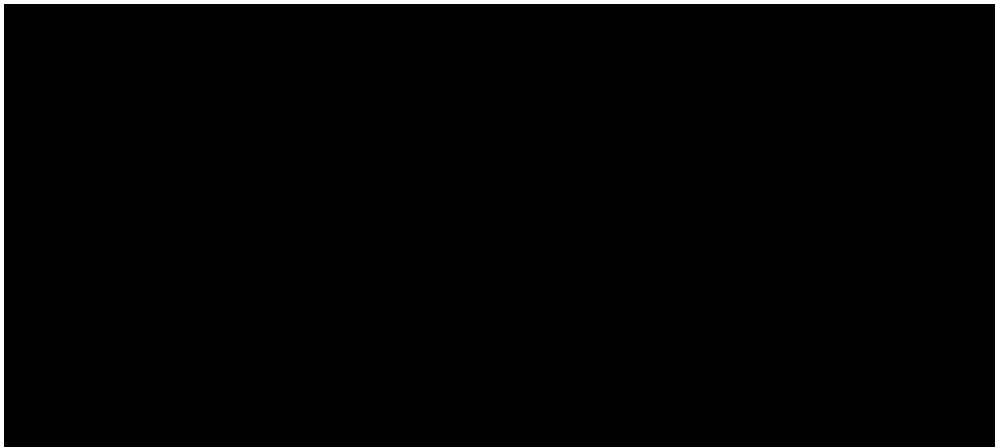




Charity contact information

Soul Food Edinburgh

Scottish Charity Number: SC048599



Charity Trustees

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The charity is established to assist individuals in poverty or at risk of poverty, or who are in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage by providing hot meals, accommodation, community support, signposting support, employment and skills training and drop-in cafes for such people whether they are homeless or otherwise vulnerable or in need and by providing such other support services as the trustees in their sole discretion consider appropriate, including (but not limited to) the provision of meals, clothing, education and guidance.

Summary of the main activities

Our main activity is hosting healthy, home-cooked meals in churches across the city of Edinburgh and also, recently in Livingston. We work with Life Church Edinburgh, Central Church, Oxfams Community Church and Edinburgh City Mission. Further afield, we work with Livingston United Parish Church and with B&A Church in Bristol.

There are meals held four days a week across the City of Edinburgh. We support all the churches who host Soul Food meals in the recruitment of volunteers, training of volunteers, financial support, signposting help, and day to day availability with the general running of their meals, if required.

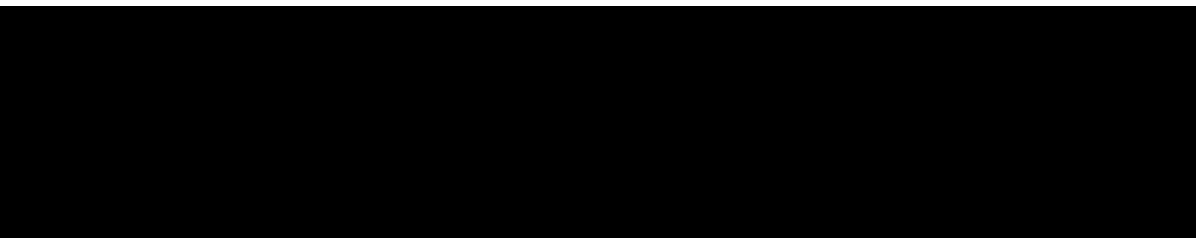
Structure, governance and management

Soul Food Edinburgh is governed by a constitution adopted 02 August 2018

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Soul Food Edinburgh is entirely managed by the Trustees, who act in a voluntary capacity, completely independent of any other body.

There are a minimum of three Trustees, who alone appoint their successors, on a rolling basis.



Achievements and performance

2024 was a significant year for Soul Food Edinburgh as we continue to provide hot delicious, home cooked meals for people dealing with the challenges of homelessness, poverty, isolation and loneliness. During the year we created two new meals, and another existing meal saw a significant transition of leadership. This saw an increase in budget as we now finance two meals completely from central funds as we seek to better meet the needs of our guests.

Our first new meal is held at Grace Church, Shrub Hill in Leith. This replaced the Mustard Seed Meal on a Thursday. An excellent venue, with an up-to-date kitchen, it was able to grow rapidly regularly catering for over 90 guests. The response to it has been overwhelmingly positive with guests loving the space and the modern feel of the venue. We have been especially delighted with the new team of volunteers who understand our vision and go the extra mile to serve and walk alongside our guests.

St George's School is the next new venue. Very kindly they agreed to form a team made up of teachers, school workers, parents and pupils to hold a monthly meal in their refectory for the over 60s. This has

become a much-loved event. It feels very special. Up to 40 guests make their way up the hill for what is often a three-course meal.

Our Central Methodist meal changed leadership from Edinburgh City Mission to become a centrally funded event. We were very grateful to Edinburgh City Mission for pioneering this meal for us and handing it on to us in such good health. The existing team continued to make the meal happen as we took over the leadership and funding. It was a very smooth transition, with a lovely team of volunteers who work so hard to create lovely food, a warm welcome and a safe space for our guests.

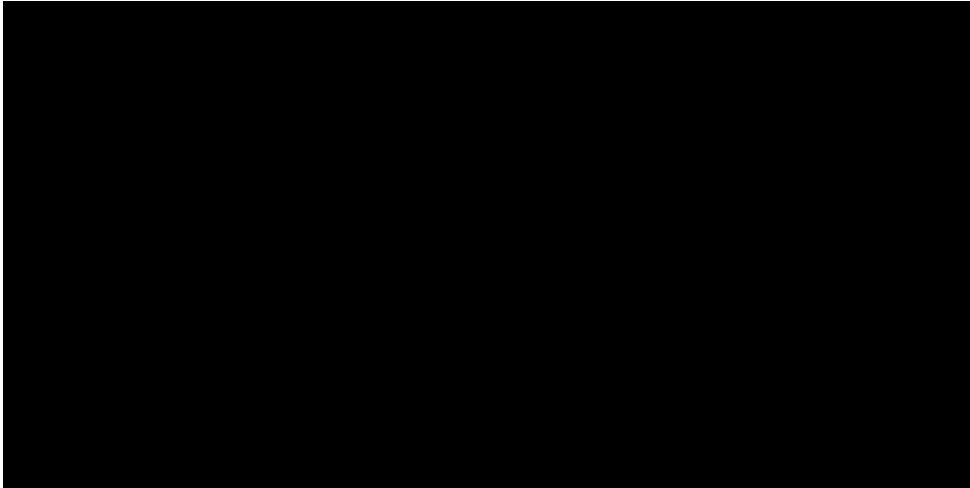


This year we provided 26,000 meals for our guests at these venues and our more established Soul Foods at Life Church Edinburgh, Central Church, Oxfangs Community Church, Edinburgh City Mission, Livingston United Parish Church and B&A Church in Bristol. Over 500 people a week attend a Soul Food Meal. We continue to be grateful to all our partner churches and charities who walk with us and work so hard to create such excellent venues.

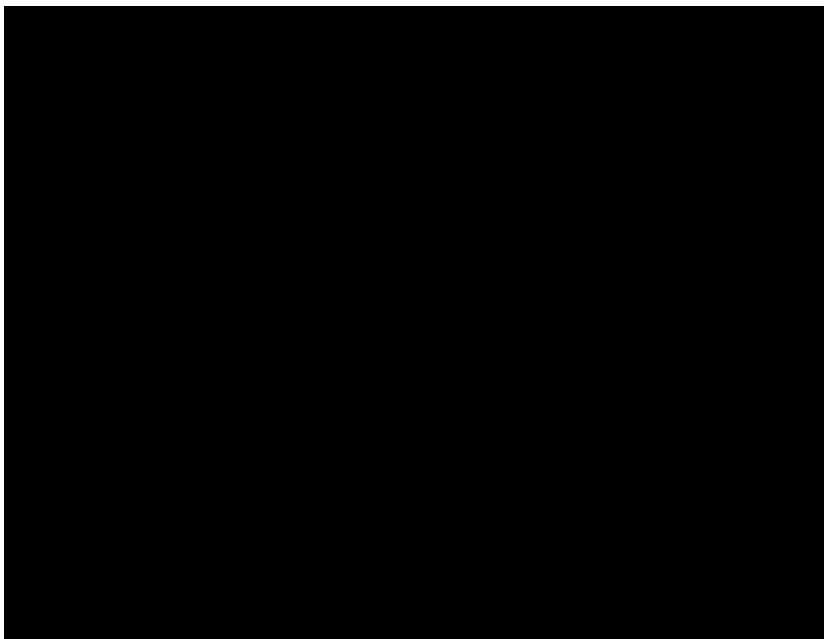
The compelling vision for Soul Food has always been that by setting a table and sharing a meal we hope to provide a context that offers a place of safety and security where people feel accepted, respected, valued, loved, and heard. We hope that the ordinary setting of a dinner place becomes a space of life-changing relationship and community.

In these uncertain economic times, where the cost of living is rising ahead of benefits and wages, there is certainly extra demand for our meals.

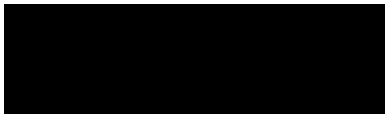
Yet, it is in the invisible more pastoral support that we see a rise in our activities. The pressures of living with uncertain housing arrangements and less money means more of our guests are living with increasingly poor mental health. The effects of loneliness, isolation and addiction are more visible at our meals. We are finding we are having to support more in filling in forms, signposting benefit and housing advice, providing supermarket vouchers, electricity top ups and referrals to Food Banks.



Our volunteer team continues to be excellent in helping facilitate this. We are committed to training them and helping them reach the most of their potential. Alongside this we are grateful to partner charities and other organisations who help us support and walk with our guests.



A Key issue for the coming 12 months will be around the leadership of Soul Food. We recognise that as the present leadership is no longer living in Edinburgh, we will have to find the right way to transition the management to a more local team. However, in the meantime, our Soul Food meals will continue to offer the warmest of welcomes to all people, whatever their situation. No referrals are ever needed to access our meals; they continue to be open to anyone in need of a free meal and a safe space to be.



Chair of Trustees

Financial review

A full financial statement is attached as Appendix to this report

Movement on Funds	Balance at 31 March 2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	6,100	47,559	-34,249	19,410
Restricted Funds	13,562	36,440	-36,949	13,053
Totals*	19,661	83,999	-71,199	32,462

* All totals to nearest whole pound

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Soul Food Edinburgh employ no staff and hold no assets. Therefore, there is minimal need for reserves other than to ensure restricted funds are used for the purposes specified by the respective donors.

Details of any deficit

During the year of this report, there was a net surplus of £12,801 (previous year surplus £12461).

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Designation

Treasurer

Date

18 November 2025

Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Board of Trustees of Soul Foods Edinburgh

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year to 31st March 2025.

Respective responsibilities of the 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 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006(as Amended).

The 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 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 Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006(as amended). 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

1. 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

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date 28 October 2025


Chartered Accountant

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		2024-25			Period ended 31 March 2024
	Notes (see following pages)	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total
		£	£	£	Funds £
Receipts	2				
Donations received		37,278	36,440	73,718	57,998
Sales of merchandise		439.88	0	440	618
Sales of event tickets		0	0	0	0
other (inc gift aid)		9,841	0	9,841	1,090
Total Receipts		47,559	36,440	83,999	64,725
Payments	3				
Consultancy		-26,500	-2,000	-28,500	-27,500
Website and branding		-1385.73		-1,386	-592
Pants			-935.08	-935	-310
Clothing			-1033.28		
Meals			-596.5	-597	-168
Soultalk Costs		0		0	-70
Print and Postage		-458.71		-459	-721
Donations to SF meals			-30,614	-30,614	-17,500
Soul Food families			-270.79	-271	-633
Merkut			-1500		
Books			0	0	-20
Cards		-650.87		-651	
Commission on donations		-720.06		-720	
Parking, mileage and bus		-542.25		-542	
Miscellaneous		-3,992		-3,992	-4,068
Total Payments		-34,249	-36,949	-71,199	-52,225
Net Surplus for the Year		13,310	-509	12,801	12,500
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total Funds Brought Forward		6,100	13,562	19,661	7,160
Net Surplus for the Year		13,310	-509	12,801	12,500
Total Funds Carried Forward		19,410	13,053	32,462	19,660
Statement of Balances		As at 31 March 2025			Period ended 31 March 2024
Current Assets	5				
Cash at bank		32,462			19,661
Petty cash		0			0
Total Cash		32,462			19,661
Total Assets		32,462			19,661
Reserves	6				
Unrestricted funds		19,410			6,100
Restricted funds		13,053			13,562
Total Funds		32,462			19,661

Approved by the Trustees on 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

 Treasurer

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Principal Accounting Policies

a. Basis of Preparation:

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and are consistent with Accounting Standards and the recommended practice for charities.

b. Cash Flow Statement:

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption from preparing a cash flow statement.

2. Donations Received

	Year Ended 31 March 2025			Period ended 31 March 2024
	Unrestricted Receipts	Restricted Receipts	Total Receipts	
Donations received comprise:	£	£	£	£
Meals		30,000	30,000	30,000
Clothing etc		894	894	0
MERCUR Community		1,500	1,500	0
Community Foundation Ireland		4,046	4,046	0
Viridor	5,000	0	5,000	0
Other donations	32,278	0	32,278	27,998
Totals	37,278	36,440	73,718	57,998

3. Consultancy Fees

Soul Food Edinburgh had no employees during the year. Consultancy payments totalling £28,500 were made to [REDACTED] a connected person of [REDACTED] a Trustee.

4. Taxation

Soul Food Edinburgh, being a registered charity, is exempt from corporation tax.

5. Movement on Cash Balances	Balance at 31 March 2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank	19,661	83,999	-71,199	32,462
Petty cash	0	0	0	0
Totals	19,661	83,999	-71,199	32,462

6. Movement on Funds	Balance at 31 March 2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
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Totals	19,661	83,999	-71,199	32,462

All amounts rounded to nearest whole pound