

Universal Credit Essentials SCIO

Scotland · Charity number SC050201

Details

Known as	UCE
Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	2020-06-02
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	53 Drummohr Gardens Wallyford East Lothian EH218BJ
Website	www.uceplus.co.uk

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the prevention or relief of poverty', 'the advancement of education', 'the advancement of citizenship or community development', 'the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage'

What the charity does: to make benefit information clear and accessible.

Beneficiaries: 'No specific group, or for the benefit of the community'

Objectives: 4 The organisations purposes are: 4.1 The prevention or relief of poverty by providing accurate information and advice to those in receipt of, or preparing to claim, Universal Credit and other welfare benefits. 4.2 The advancement of education by providing access to resources and information that enables individuals to understand and take control of their own claim. To deliver training and advice to outside agencies and other interested parties. 4.3 The advancement of citizenship or community development providing training and advice to charities and their trustees, employees or volunteers to ensure they are able to understand how Universal Credit is delivered. Working in partnership to relieve poverty through accurate information and advice. 4.4 The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage by providing accurate advice, information and support to those in receipt or preparing to claim welfare benefits.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** East Lothian
- **Geographical spread:** Scotland and other parts of the UK

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£542	£727	-	0
2024-06-30	£259	£1,527	-	0
2023-06-30	£3,157	£759	-	0
2022-06-30	£32	£421	-	0
2021-06-30	£3,166	£1,546	-	0

Accounts

Universal Credit Essentials
Trustees' Annual Report
July 2024 to June 2025

Charity contact information

Universal Credit Essentials
53 Drummohr Gardens
Wallyford
East Lothian
EH21 8BJ

info@uceplus.co.uk
www.uceplus.co.uk

Scottish Charity Number: SC050201

Charity Trustees

Claire Sharp
Lynda Combe
Katherine Jagger
Katie West

Objectives and activities

Universal Credit Essentials (UCE) began in 2017 with the goal to make benefit information clear and accessible to the public.

We knew that to support as many people as possible, UCE would provide help online, making us available day and night. Often people are looking for help around their work schedule or in the middle of the night when their worries can be at their worst.

We make our information engaging and written in plain language that makes it easier for people to understand. We have volunteer advisers who monitor our online community and are on hand to provide expert information and help those seeking advice to understand the options available to them.

All of us have experience of the benefits system and we empathise with how stressful and worrying it can all be. We have a huge team of volunteers actively involved in our organisation and many of us appreciate the difficulty of benefits, disability, working, and childcare.

We have continued to use our own community forum space through our website. This has allowed us to reach a wider range of people and provide more detailed answers while still maintaining the high-quality individualised service we are known for.

Structure, governance and management

Universal Credit Essentials is a SCIO with a single tier constitution.

Achievements and performance

Universal Credit Essentials continued to provide vital online advice and support, reaching over 135,000 people. Our website remained a trusted resource for Universal Credit information, and we saw increased momentum in our online presence, with recommendations from a growing number of organisations and frequent referrals from community forums and peer networks.

We are proud that, even in a quieter operational year, our work continued to make a significant difference to individuals navigating the complexities of the benefits system.

Date ↓	Page views	Site sessions ⓘ	Unique visitors ⓘ
Summary	328,401	184,076	135,493

Volunteers

Our volunteers continue to play a vital role in the success of Universal Credit Essentials. Their ongoing commitment ensures that our services remain available to those who need them. We are incredibly grateful for the time, skills, and dedication they bring to the charity. Maintaining and developing our work simply would not be possible without them.

Financial Review

The charity's financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2025 are summarised in the Receipts and Payments statement attached. Income and expenditure were minimal, reflecting a year of limited operational activity. The trustees continue to ensure that the charity's funds are managed prudently and in line with its charitable purposes.

Date	Description	Money In	Money Out
Carried forward from end June 2024 £1570.78			
22/07/2024	Google adsense	£105.38	
27/07/2024	Forum monthly charge		£38.27
23/08/2024	Google adsense	£63.18	
27/08/2024	Forum monthly charge		£37.69
23/09/2024	Client bereavement gift		£35.98
24/09/2024	Forum monthly charge		£37.13
07/10/2024	Postage		£3.05
23/10/2024	Google adsense	£99.51	
24/10/2024	Forum monthly charge		£38.06
25/11/2024	Forum monthly charge		£39.46
24/12/2024	Forum monthly charge		£39.50
27/12/2024	Google adsense	£106.14	
24/01/2025	Forum monthly charge		£40.03
24/02/2025	Forum monthly charge		£39.01
25/02/2025	Google adsense	£99.99	
24/03/2025	Forum monthly charge		£38.21
24/04/2025	Google adsense	£68.26	
24/04/2025	Forum monthly charge		£36.89
19/05/2025	Wix website hosting and domain		£230.40
27/05/2025	Forum monthly charge		£36.79
24/06/2025	Forum monthly charge		£36.71

Money In	£542.46	
Money Out		£727.18
Funds Held		£1,386.06

Future plans

The trustees have been working behind the scenes on exciting new developments for Universal Credit Essentials. Our focus remains on expanding our reach, strengthening our volunteer network, and ensuring that high-quality Universal Credit advice is accessible to as many people as possible.

While we are not yet in a position to share full details, we look forward to unveiling new initiatives in the coming year that will build on the strong foundations we have established.

We are confident that the next phase of UCE's growth will bring significant benefits to the communities we serve.

Audit and Scrutiny

In accordance with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, no external scrutiny of the accounts has been carried out for the year ended 30 June 2025, as the charity's gross income was below the threshold requiring an independent examination.

Trustees' Statement of Approval

The Trustees of Universal Credit Essentials SCIO (charity number SC050201) approve the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025.

This report and accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signed: C Sharp

Name: Claire Sharp

Position: Trustee Chairperson

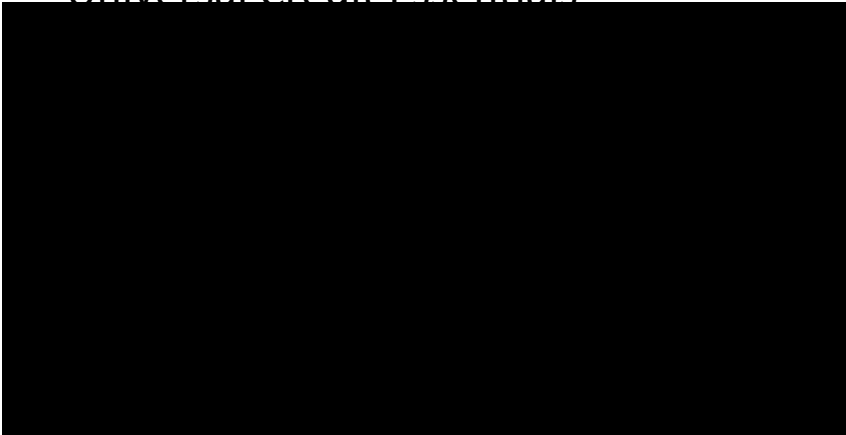
Date: 20 July 2025

Accounts

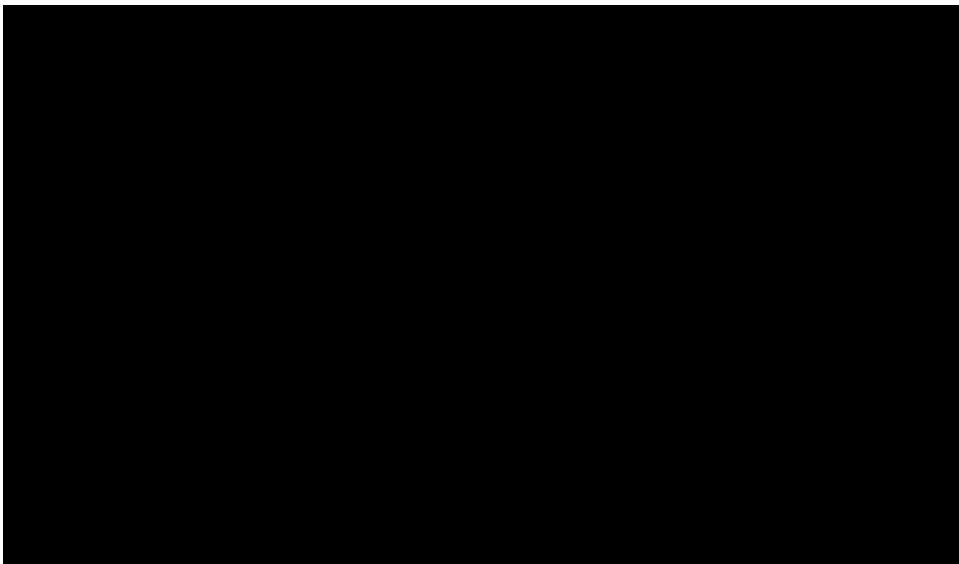
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Universal Credit Essentials



Scottish Charity Number: SC050201



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We have continued to use our own community forum space through our website. This has allowed us to reach a wider range of people and provide more detailed answers while still maintaining the high-quality individualised service we are known for.

Structure, governance and management

Universal Credit Essentials is a SCIO with a single tier constitution.

Achievements and performance

During the year ended 30 June 2024, Universal Credit Essentials maintained its role as a trusted source of Universal Credit information and support. Our online presence remained strong, with consistent engagement from individuals, community groups, and organisations who rely on our resources. While no major new projects were launched during this period, we continued to update and maintain the website to ensure that accurate advice remained available to those who needed it.

Behind the scenes, the trustees focused on strengthening the charity's governance, reviewing operational processes, and laying the groundwork for future development.

Volunteers

Our volunteers remain central to everything we do. Their ongoing support, skills, and commitment have been essential in keeping Universal Credit Essentials running smoothly. We are incredibly grateful for their contributions and value the important role they will continue to play as we move into the next phase of the charity's growth.

Financial Review

The charity's financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2024 are summarised in the Receipts and Payments statement attached. Income and expenditure were minimal, reflecting a year of limited operational activity. The trustees continue to ensure that the charity's funds are managed prudently and in line with its charitable purposes.

Date	Description	Money In	Money Out
closing balance on 2022/2023 report £2838.93			
Charge relates to June 2023 but was not included in 2022–23 accounts.			
25/06/2023	Forum annual membership		£267.78
26/06/2023	Forum monthly charge		£38.84
carried forward from end June 2023 £2532.31			
24/07/2023	Forum monthly charge		£38.44
25/08/2023	Amazon Smile donations	£63.28	
26/08/2023	Forum monthly charge		£38.50
25/09/2023	Forum monthly charge		£40.27
24/10/2023	Forum monthly charge		£40.74
23/11/2023	Forum monthly charge		£40.26
26/11/2023	Amazon Smile donations	£20.71	
27/12/2023	Forum monthly charge		£38.92
24/01/2024	Forum monthly charge		£38.84
09/02/2024	Laptop		£485.00
14/02/2024	UT representative expenses		£250.00
25/02/2024	Forum monthly charge		£39.24
25/03/2024	Google adsense	£80.12	
25/03/2024	Forum monthly charge		£39.18
26/04/2024	Forum monthly charge		£40.06
10/05/2024	Postage		£13.43
23/05/2024	Google adsense	£95.07	
24/05/2024	Forum monthly charge		£38.80
24/06/2024	Forum monthly charge		£39.03

Money In	£259.18	
Money Out	£1,527.33	
Funds Held		£1,570.78

Note: The Forum annual membership (£267.78) and monthly charge (£38.84) from June 2023 were omitted in the 2022–2023 accounts. These have been carried forward and are included in the 2023–2024 reporting period for transparency.

Future plans

The trustees are actively working on plans to expand and enhance the charity's services. While we are not yet able to publicly announce full details, our future direction will focus on increasing our reach, developing new resources, and building a stronger infrastructure to support our community. We look forward to sharing more about these exciting developments in the year ahead.

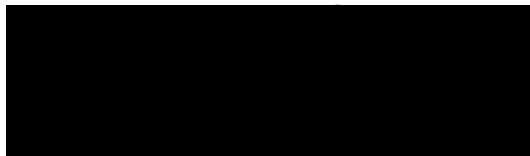
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This report and accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Trustee Chairperson.

Position: Trustee Chairperson

Date: 30 April 2025