



Trustees Annual Report
for
International Directed Evolution Competition SCIO
for the period
to 1st February 2025



Scottish Charity No: SC050826

Index

| | |
|------------|---|
| Page 3 | Reference & Administrative Information |
| Page 4 - 5 | Trustees Annual Report: Structure Governance & Management Objectives & Activities |
| Page 6 - 9 | Achievements & Performance |
| Page 10 | Financial Review |
| Page 10 | Statement of Trustees |
| Page 11-12 | Annual Accounts: Page 11 Receipts & Payments Account Page 11 Statement of Balances Page 12 Notes to the Accounts |
| Page 13 | Independent Examiners Report |

Reference & Administrative Information

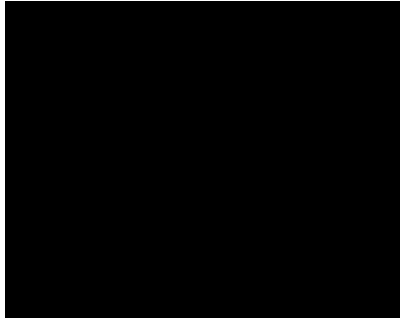
Charity Name: International Directed Evolution Competition SCIO (iDEC)

Scottish Charity No: SC050826

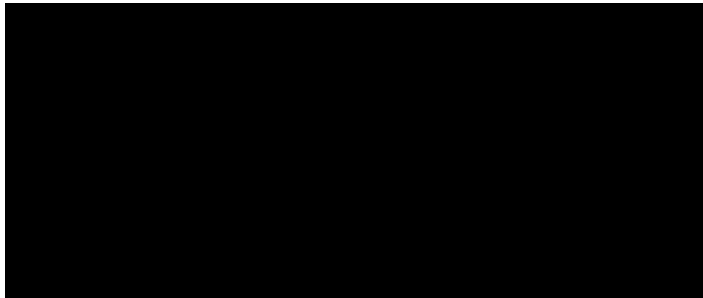
Email:

Website:

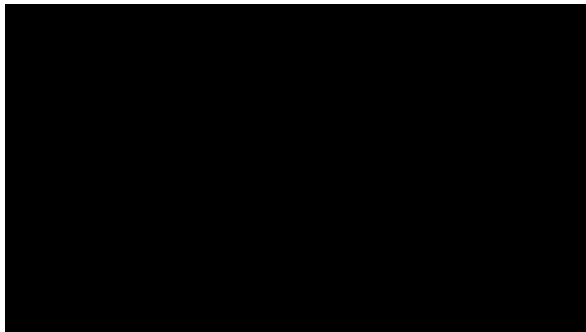
The Charities Principal Address:



Charities Trustees on date of approval including office held:



Names of other trustees during the period:



Independent Examiner:

Bankers:

Bank of Scotland
30 Nicolson Street
EDINBURGH
EH8 9DL

Structure, Governance & Management

Governing Document:

The International Directed Evolution Competition was recognised as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) on the 10th March 2021

Trustee Recruitment & Appointment:

At each AGM, the members may elect any member (unless he/she is debarred from membership under clause 16 of the Constitution) to be a charity trustee. All of the charity trustees elected/appointed shall retire from office, but shall then be eligible for re-election.

A charity trustee retiring at an AGM will be deemed to have been re-elected unless: -

- he/she advises the board prior to the conclusion of the AGM that he/she does not wish to be re-appointed as a charity trustee; or
- an election process was held at the AGM and he/she was not among those elected/re-elected through that process; or
- a resolution for the re-election of that charity trustee was put to the AGM and was not carried.

Objectives & Activities

The Charities Charitable Purpose:

As set out in the 'Constitution' and 'The Charities and Trustee Investments (Scotland) Act 2005' the purpose(s) of International Directed Evolution Competition SCIO are the following:

- the advancement of education
- the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science

Any other purpose that may reasonably be regarded as analogous to any of the preceding purposes.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objectives:

Promoting the education of young scientists.

The International Directed Evolution Competition (iDEC) aims to encourage young students worldwide to design and implement an innovative research project by themselves through competition. In this process, participants will learn, practice, share their knowledge, and improve their scientific skills, to become talented individuals who will promote future scientific development. iDEC will organize related activities, build a communication platform, and share academic resources to support the educational process of participants.

Objectives & Activities

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objectives cont'd

Promoting the development of genetic engineering science

iDEC is committed to building a science and technology community through scientific competition activities. Participants can publish their research results and knowledge on the iDEC online platform and get feedback from senior scientists. In this academic exchange process, young people's innovative inventions and ideas will continue to be optimized and eventually produce scientifically valuable results.

Encouraging young scientists to deal with real-world problems

Our world is facing major challenges from environmental, public health, food, and other issues. Directed evolution technology is one of the most powerful tools from the life sciences to deal with these challenges in the next ten years. iDEC will encourage participants to innovate and invent with real-world challenges as the goal, anticipating the emergence of new technologies that can help humanity cope with crises.

A science community that allows the public participation.

As a public welfare project for students, iDEC will encourage participants to introduce their innovative work to the public through an online platform to understand the latest technological developments. This will build a bridge between the public and scientists.

Enriching the diverse international academic communication platform

There are some successful precedents of an international educational platform for young scientists and students. However, the number is too small to meet the needs of global young scientists and students. So far, no similar non-profit project has provided a platform for scientists and students engaged in directed evolution research. The University of Edinburgh is Darwin's alma mater, and so has a deep scientific historical connection with evolutionary theory. This project was proposed by scholars and students from the University of Edinburgh and designed by scientists from multiple countries to fill this gap.

Achievement & Performance for 2024-25

1. iDEC held its second on-site event

Following iDEC's first on-site event in 2023, the competition was once again successfully held at Homerton College, University of Cambridge. The event ran smoothly, bringing together 14 teams from four countries and around 70 participants, including volunteers. As in previous years, the participants included not only students but also scholars from various institutions, including senior academics from the Universities of Oxford, Manchester, and Cambridge.

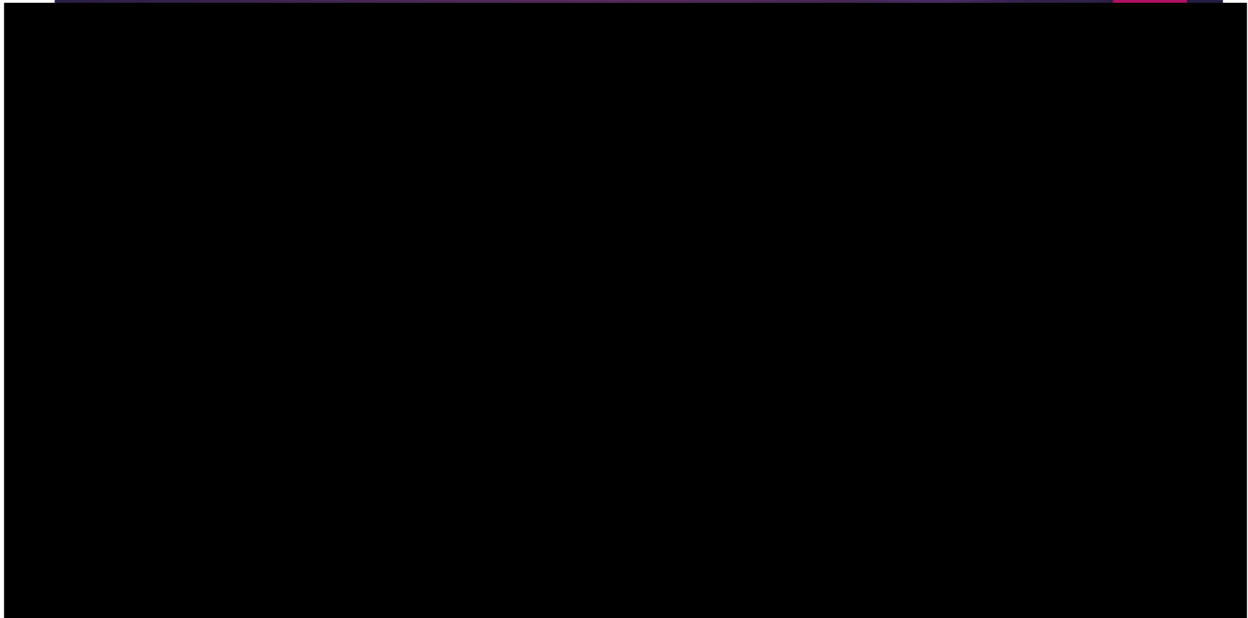


Figure 1. On-site competition held at Cambridge University

Once again, 14 iDEC teams published a total of 14 preprint articles, many of which contained outstanding directed evolution research results.

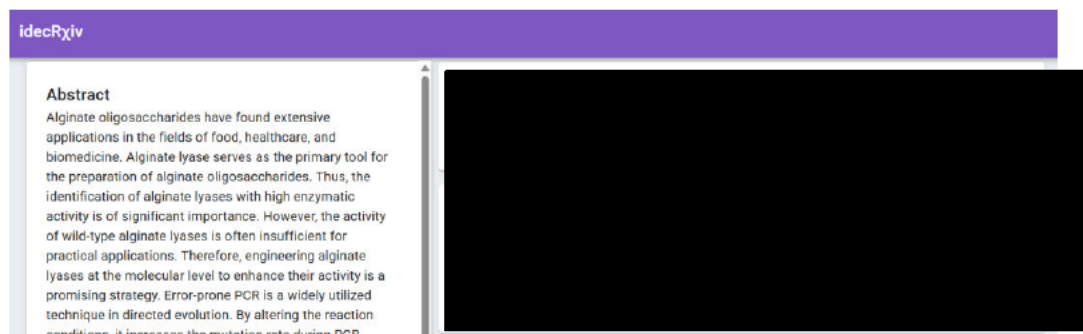


Figure 2. In 2024, there were 14 new publications on iDecRxiv (<https://arxiv.idec.io/>)

Achievement & Performance cont'd

2. We build bridges for the public, students, and scientists.

In 2024, we once again hosted the iDEC Summer Webinar, further broadening its reach and influence. Scientists with extensive expertise in directed evolution were invited to engage with participating students and teachers. Among our notable guests were [REDACTED] who gave insightful talks and interacted with attendees, greatly enhancing the event's educational value and networking opportunities.

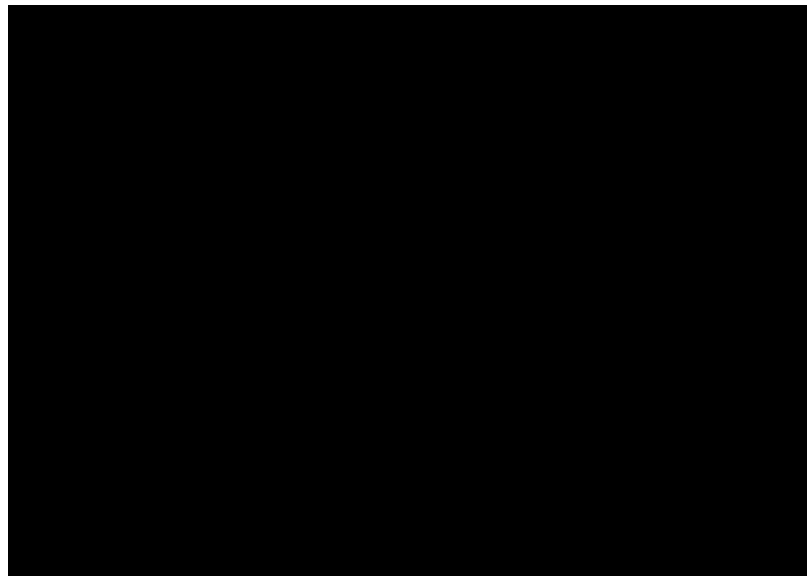


Figure 3. iDEC held a summer webinar in Aug 2024.

3. The iDEC festivals provide participants with the opportunity to directly interact and learn from each other.

In October 2024, iDEC HQ successfully held the grand iDEC Festival, featuring both on-site and online participation. The event attracted an estimated total of over 220 attendees, with around 60 joining in person.

The on-site portion was a great success, marked by an energetic and engaging atmosphere. With its hybrid format, the event ensured a comfortable and inclusive experience for all participants.

Once again, we were honored to welcome three distinguished scholars to the awards ceremony — [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Their inspiring speeches explored the evolution and future prospects of directed evolution technologies, leaving a strong impression on everyone present.


Achievement & Performance cont'd



**iDEC Festival
2024**

Opening Ceremony Speech

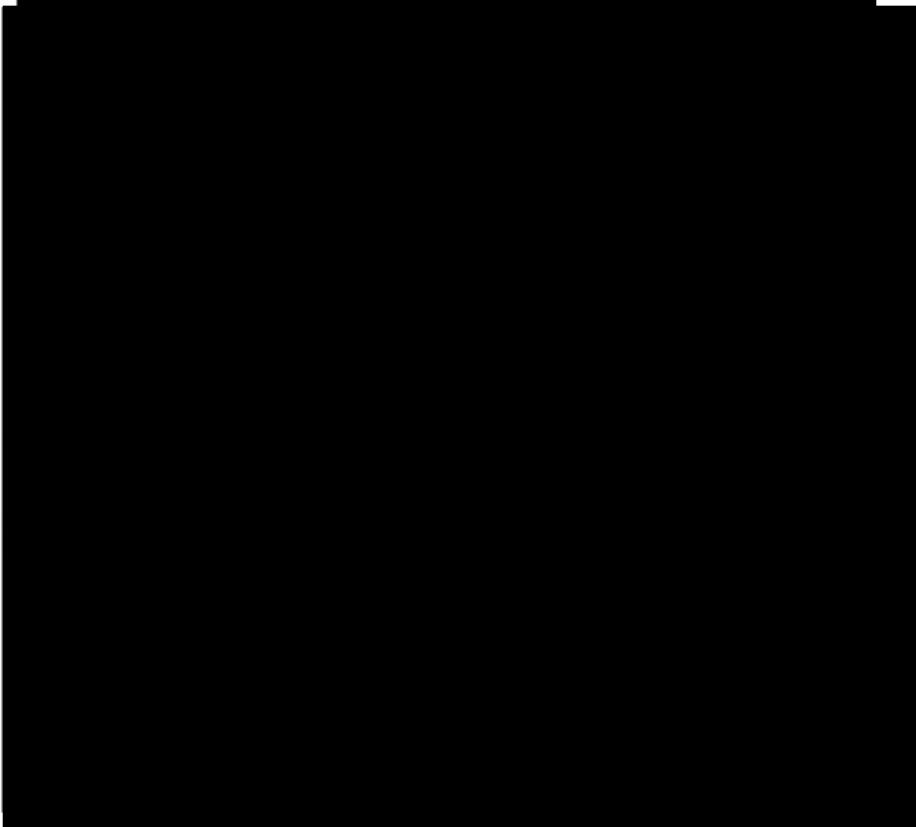

Registration QR code
26th Oct 9:00 GMT+1



**iDEC Festival
2024**

Awards Ceremony Lectures

Registration QR code
27th Oct 15:00-17:40 GMT



Achievement & Performance cont'd

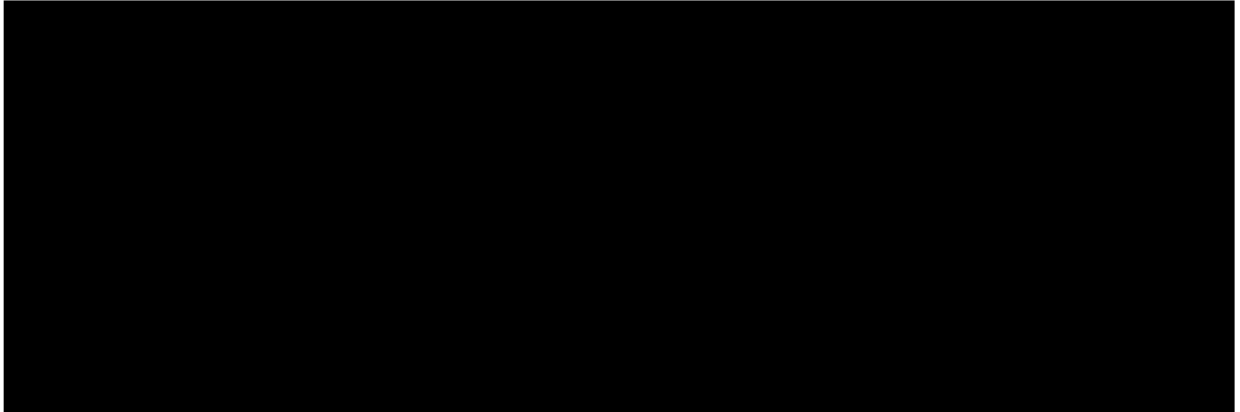
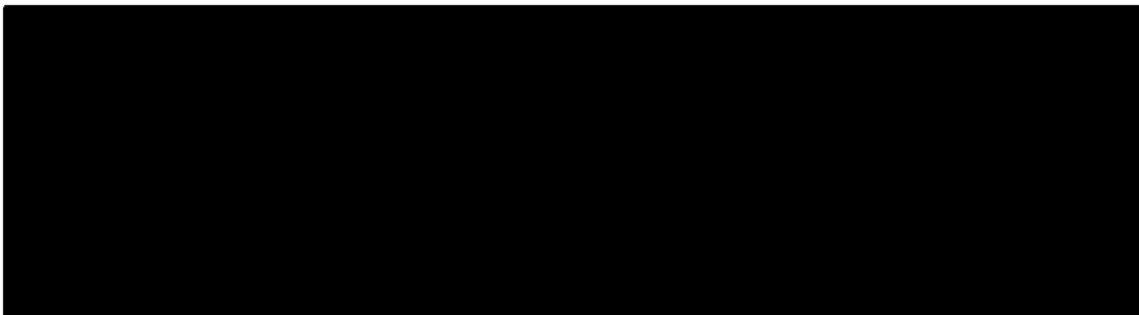


Figure 4. We held the iDEC Festival 2024 at the Homerton College, Cambridge University

Again, we believe it is difficult to point out that one of these aspects is the most successful, and we believe that iDEC participants benefit from the overall success of iDEC from different perspectives.

iDEC 2024 has a huge volunteer team from all over the world and is extremely diverse. They did an excellent job:

iDEC 2024 Organizers:



Future plans

iDEC will continue to be held in 2025. The 2025 event will continue to be held at the University of Cambridge, and an important goal is to restore iDEC to break-even.

Financial Review

In 2024, we set registration fees as £500 / team (early bird) and £1000 / team, which increase 20%. This still make it very accessible for international teams to participate. 14 teams paid their registration fees for iDEC 2024.

Since iDEC Festival was held on-site, teams participating in iDEC on-site need to pay the iDEC Festival registration fee based on the number of participants. 9 teams paid this fee.

There were also two independent registrants who registered for the event from eventbrite.

iDEC has a total revenue of £20873.95 in 2024, of which £18815.71 comes from the registration fee of participating teams (90%), and £ 1000 comes from sponsor NEW ENGLAND BIO LABS. Our sponsor did not limit the use of sponsorship funds. iDEC spent £20580.46 in 2024, which is mainly used to pay for the 2024 event (£19241.81).

We spent £1099.69 on the server rental, ordering and mailing of 2022 competition prizes, the Crossref service fee and third-party account review.

Statement of Reserves Policy:

iDEC has no formal policy regarding financial reserves. However, in principle, we aim to ensure that participant registration fees are entirely dedicated to supporting the entrants, while sponsorship funds are appropriately set aside to sustain iDEC's operations for at least one year in the event of a temporary suspension.

Due to overspending during the first on-site event in 2023, iDEC experienced financial strain in 2024, with nearly all funds in its account depleted. To restore financial balance, iDEC will need to continue adjusting event costs in 2025.

Details of any deficit:

There was no financial deficit this year, the Trustees will continue to monitor the balance.

Details of Donated Facilities & Services:

The Charity benefits from the time given by all the Trustees to the running of the Charity.

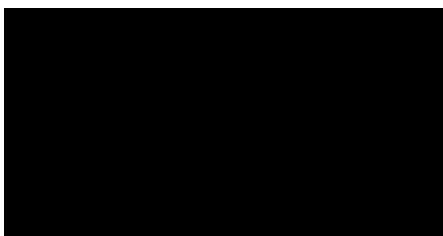
Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The members of the Charity must prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the Charity during the financial year. The members of the Charity are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which, on request, must reflect the financial position of the Charity at that time. This must be done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and must take reasonable steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee



Dated: 27/10/25

Receipts & Payments Account Year Ended 1st February 2025

| | Notes | Un Restricted | Restricted Funds | Total 2025 | Total 2024 |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Receipts | | | | | |
| Donations | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Receipts from Fund Raising Activities | 1 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Other Charitable Activities | 2 | 19,873.95 | 0.00 | 19,873.95 | 21,345.72 |
| Total Receipts | | 20,873.95 | 0.00 | 20,873.95 | 21,345.72 |
| Payments | | | | | |
| Expenses from Fund Raising Activities | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Expenses from Charitable Activities | 3 | 20,330.46 | 0.00 | 20,330.46 | 24,484.82 |
| Independent Examination | | 250.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| Total Payments | | 20,580.46 | 0.00 | 20,580.46 | 24,734.82 |
| Net Receipts/(Payments) | | 293.49 | 0.00 | 293.49 | (3,389.10) |
| Transfer between Funds | | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for Year | | 293.45 | 0.00 | 293.45 | (3,389.10) |

Statement of Balances as at 1st February 2025

| | Un Restricted | Restricted Funds | Total 2025 | Total 2024 |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Balances at Start of Year | 2,165.06 | 0.00 | 2,165.06 | 5,554.16 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for Year | 293.49 | 0.00 | 293.49 | (3,389.10) |
| Balances at End of Year | 2,458.55 | 0.00 | 2,458.55 | 2,165.06 |

Other Assets (See note 4)

No Other Assets Held

Liabilities

No Outstanding Liabilities

Financial Statements approved by the Charity and signed on its behalf by:

Signed.....

Trustee

Dated.....27/10/25.....

Notes to the Accounts

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Income from Fundraising Activities | | |
| New England Biolabs - Sponsorship | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| | £1,000.00 | £0.00 |
| 2. Other Charitable Activities | | |
| Registration Fees | 19,873.95 | 21,345.72 |
| | £19,873.95 | £21,345.72 |
| 3. Expenses from Charitable Activity | | |
| Promotional Materials | 2,928.59 | 5,606.75 |
| Trophies & Medals | 4,350.99 | 2,351.12 |
| IT & Web Costs | 849.69 | 170.05 |
| Printing & Other Costs | 0.00 | 306.66 |
| Festival/Events | 12,201.19 | 16,050.24 |
| | £20,330.46 | £24,484.82 |

4. Assets of International Directed Evolution Competition SCIO as at 1st February 2025

The SCIO hold no assets at this time

5. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

The Trustees did not receive any remuneration or expenses during the year.

6. Nature & Purpose of Funds

The statements of account for the year show the financial figures for the Charity. All funds are un-restricted and for the sole use of the Charity and its running costs.

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the trustees of International Directed Evolution Competition SCIO
Registered charity number SC050826
On the accounts of the charity for the period to 1st February 2025
Set out on Pages 11 to 12

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. 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 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 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: 28.10.25

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: