

scottishdetaineevisitors

Annual Report & Review of 2015

Chair's report

2015 was an important year for SDV. Thanks to the funding we secured, we have been able to grow as an organisation by appointing to two new positions: a director with the remit to lead our public engagement, policy, finance and funding work; and a volunteer coordinator to improve the support we provide to our volunteers and increase our volunteering roles. We also completed the process started the previous year, which has seen us change from a Scottish Charity to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). The committee have been busy working to ensure that all the necessary documentation reflects the changes in our staff team, and our new staff handbook is almost complete.

The terrible humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean and along the land routes of Europe has raised interest in migration and asylum and, as a consequence, also in the work of organisations like SDV. This provides us with an opportunity to raise awareness about the mental and physical damage caused by indefinite detention, and to question the practice of detaining people for administrative purposes. On the other hand, the so-called migration 'crisis' has lent itself to populist narratives that have been exploited to create division and animosity towards migrants, making our support for those detained in Dungavel even more important.

In March 2015, the *Report of the Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom* was published. It stated very clearly that the current system of immigration detention is 'expensive, ineffective and unjust', and called for a radical shift in thinking. However, despite the publicly recognised need for radical reform, little has changed, and the last general election brought

to power the Conservatives, the only party who had not endorsed the call for a fundamental rethinking of the system.

However, Scottish MPs are very much engaged in detention reform work, and are open to the information and insights that an organisation such as SDV can provide. Moreover, the Shaw Review, published in January 2016, echoed many of the findings of the detention inquiry and confirms the importance of the policy and advocacy work we do, alongside the much needed practical and emotional support we provide to people in Dungavel.

As we ended 2015 the new Immigration Bill (now the Immigration Act 2016) was published. In the later stages of its passage through parliament, some small detention reforms were won. However, what the Act as a whole will mean for people at risk of immigration detention is not yet completely clear. What is clear is that the work SDV volunteers and staff do is as important and as valuable as ever.

SDV would not exist without the dedication of those who make the long journey to Dungavel every week. To all of you go my heartfelt thanks, and the thanks of everyone on the management committee.

Giovanna Fassetta
Chair, SDV

Director's report

As Giovanna has noted in her report, 2015 was a big year for SDV. In March, we were awarded a grant from Voluntary Action Fund. This allowed us to move forward with the change in organisational structure our management committee had proposed to allow us to work on the priority areas they had identified in their strategic review of 2013.

As part of this process, in May I was delighted to be promoted from my previous coordinator position to become SDV's first director. My role is now to lead the organisation, to develop our finance and fundraising systems to ensure our sustainability, and to build our policy and awareness raising work.

The following month we appointed Shirley Gillan as our first dedicated volunteer coordinator. Her role is to recruit, support and supervise our volunteers, and to develop new volunteering opportunities. Shirley had been a volunteer visitor with SDV for a number of years before her appointment. She therefore knew the organisation well and was able to hit the ground running on her appointment.

Both positions are part time, so SDV remains a small organisation, but these changes doubled our staffing and the rest of this report shows the extent to which our work has developed and expanded as a result.

Giovanna also noted that detention remained high on the political and news agenda in 2015, as it had been in 2014. The detention inquiry report, the announcement of the Shaw Review, new revelations about abuse at Yarl's Wood, two deaths in detention, a hunger strike in Dungavel, large scale demonstrations at

detention centres across the UK, and a parliamentary debate all helped to keep detention firmly in the public eye.

In July Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons published its report of the latest inspection of Dungavel. The extremely prolonged detention of some people in Dungavel at the time of the inspection, and the detention of survivors of torture and people with serious health issues were the inspectors' main concerns. But they noted that these issues were outwith the control of GEO, who run the centre under contract to the Home Office.

The inspectors' comments added to the growing pressure on a system that causes so much misery to the people it detains, their families, friends and communities. In 2016 and beyond, SDV will continue to challenge detention both through solidarity with people who are affected by it and through our awareness raising and policy work.

I'd like to thank our management committee, Shirley and all our volunteers for their hard work in 2015. It's been a pleasure to work with you all.

Kate Alexander
Director, SDV

SDV's activities in 2015

Supporting people in Dungavel

SDV supports people in Dungavel through our twice weekly visits and our monthly drop-in service. In 2015, we saw a total of 203 people.

Evening visits take place every Monday and Thursday and their regularity is one of their key strengths. People detained in Dungavel know we will be there twice a week, without fail. Visits are organised on a rota system and, because of the location of Dungavel, visitors drive there in groups of up to five.

Each visit lasts for between an hour and an hour and a half and we see an average of seven people at each visit. This number can vary widely so our visitors need to be prepared for anything. Sometimes visits can be lively, boisterous affairs with all of us sitting together in a group, laughing and joking about sport, television and current affairs. Other visits can be quiet, with people receiving individual support because they are distressed or angry, missing their family and friends, or concerned about their legal case.

Country of origin of people visited (top 11 countries)

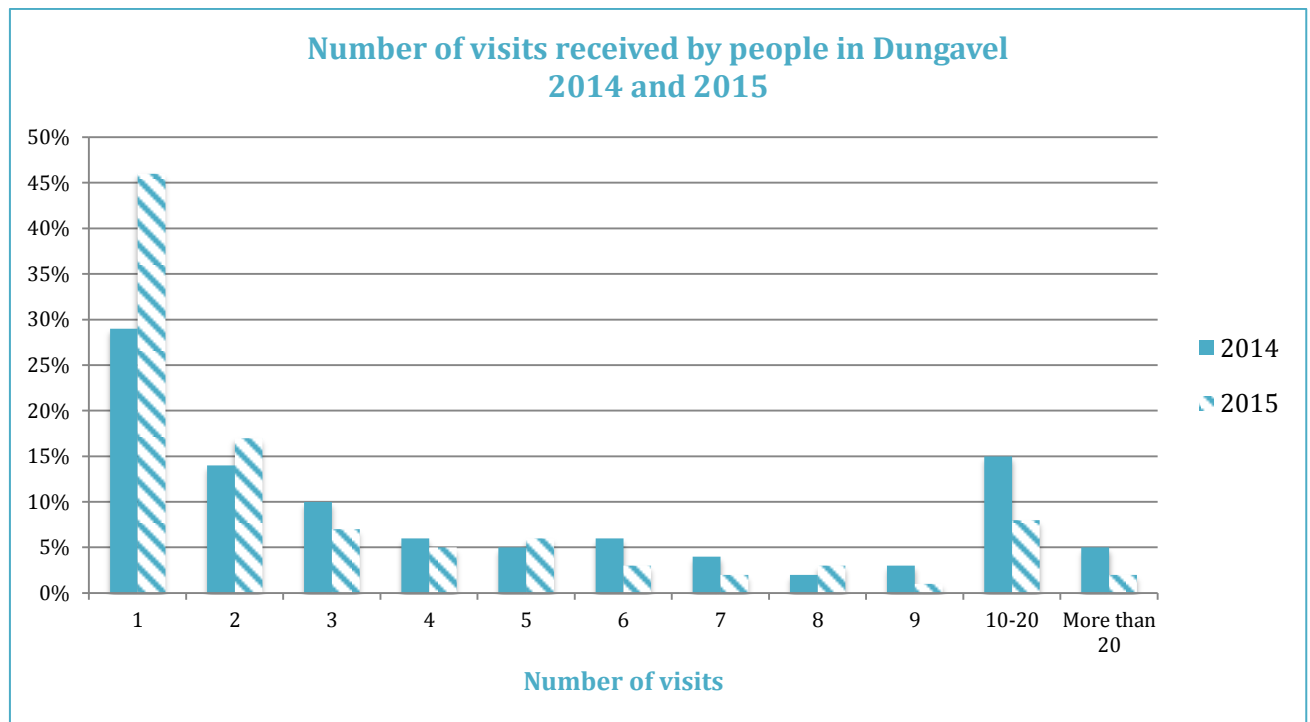
	No	%
Pakistan	44	25%
Bangladesh	17	10%
Nigeria	17	10%
Afghanistan	13	8%
India	10	6%
China	5	3%
Albania	4	2%
Gambia	4	2%
Iran	4	2%
Zambia	4	2%
Zimbabwe	4	2%

In 2015, we visited people from 40 different countries. The people we saw came from across the globe, from the USA to China, from Latvia to Zimbabwe, but as in most years, the largest numbers of people came from Pakistan, Nigeria and Bangladesh.

We offer a range of practical support at visits including phone cards, emergency money for people we know are being moved from Dungavel and our information booklet. We also liaise with lawyers and other organisations on behalf of the people we visit. But equally important is the friendship and solidarity our visits offer. This email from someone we visited demonstrates vividly how important a visit can be:

"I just want to say thanks for your visit yesterday to Dungavel. Yesterday evening was a special day to me because I have been detained here for the past 10 weeks and I have never seen new people since then. I see and talk to the same people every day every night. I was so frustrated and depressed but your visiting Monday evening means a lot and happy. We chat and laughed. It is changing of situation. Please I want you to thank all the members of the group for this practice on my behalf. I wish one day when I am out to support your organisation morally, physically and financially."

In 2015, 63 per cent of the people we saw at evening visits in Dungavel were seen just once or twice, compared to 43 per cent in 2014. By contrast, 10 per cent of the people we saw were visited 10 or more times, compared to 15 per cent in 2014. This reflects national figures suggesting that very long term detention may be on the decline.



Our drop-in service takes place on the third Monday of every month and has become a key part of what we do. It is run by staff, supported by one or two volunteers and provides an opportunity for us to meet people who have not been referred to us for visits. People can just drop in to the visits room and speak to us. The drop-in is successful in introducing us to people very soon after they have been detained. This allows us to ensure that they have a legal representative and provides an opportunity for us to refer people for evening visits. In 2015, the drop-in introduced us to 46 people who we would not have seen otherwise, and 16 of them went on to receive ongoing support at evening visits.

Working with people after detention

According to the Home Office, the purpose of detention is to facilitate removal from the UK. Despite this, around three quarters of the people leaving detention in Dungavel are released back into the community. Over the last few years we have become increasingly aware of people being released into destitution in Glasgow. In 2015, SDV

partnered with Bridget Holtom, a student at Glasgow University, on 'Life After Detention', a collaborative research project to identify the issues faced by people in this position and to make recommendations to address them. Outputs from the project included a film, "Detention Without Walls", and a report, prepared by Bridget and participant researchers with experience of detention. Much of the work for the project was completed at weekly sessions convened by Bridget and attended by people who had been released from Dungavel.

"Detention Without Walls" was screened at the Centre for Contemporary Arts in Glasgow as part of the GRAMNet film series and some of the people involved in making it attended conferences and seminars to talk about their work, the experience of being detained and attempting to build a life after detention.

In December, with funding from BEMIS as part of their Year of Food and Drink, SDV hosted a dinner for people who had been released from detention, their friends,

supporters and visitors. It was another opportunity to screen the film. But more importantly it was a chance for people who had met in Dungavel to get together to share food, far from the shadow of barbed wire.

In response to a key recommendation of the report, SDV has continued to support the Life After Detention group to meet to provide peer support and work on creative projects. Life After Detention is a growing part of our work in 2016.

Recruiting and supporting volunteers

The move to our new structure and the appointment of Shirley as our dedicated volunteer coordinator has greatly improved our ability to recruit, support and retain volunteers. Over the year we held three visitor recruitment and induction days, bringing over 20 new visitors into the organisation.

Throughout the year we also expanded the volunteering roles we offer. By the end of 2015, in addition to visitors, we had recruited the following volunteers:

- Country researchers create reports on the countries of origin of people in detention to provide information for our team of visitors.
- Our fundraising appeals volunteer researches trusts and foundations, drafts funding applications and organises appeals to individual donors and organisations such as trade unions.
- Two people with experience of detention and of being visited by SDV volunteer in ‘ambassador’ roles. They support Shirley in recruiting people from BME

communities as visitors, contribute to the training of new visitors, and assist in awareness raising events by speaking about their experience of detention.

A key aim for SDV in 2015 was to improve our capacity to recruit, support and retain volunteers from BME communities. By the end of the year we had recruited seven new BME volunteers. Most of them are recent refugees, just getting to grips with the challenges of making a life in Glasgow. Volunteering with SDV supports them in this and Shirley offers them enhanced support to enable them to participate fully in our work. Some were previously detained themselves, and bring this insight and empathy to their roles.

Increased staff capacity has enabled us to support all our volunteers better. Shirley meets with all new visitors and offers regular supervision through visitor update meetings.

We offered our volunteers one full day and two half-day training sessions in 2015. The full day training, delivered by Scottish Refugee Council, provided a refresher course on the asylum system and covered listening skills and self-care. AVID delivered one half-day session on trafficking awareness and the other, delivered by Right to Remain, trained visitors in how they could support people campaigning against their detention and deportation. All courses were well attended and positively evaluated by participants.

Raising awareness of detention in Scotland

Over the year SDV expanded its awareness raising and policy influencing work. As immigration is a reserved matter, detention

remains the responsibility of the Westminster Government. However, the Scottish Government, Scottish political parties and civil society organisations in Scotland have expressed concerns about the use of detention and it is very much a current issue in Scottish political discourse. In addition, detention in Scotland operates within a separate Scottish legal system and this, coupled with the fact that Dungavel is isolated from the rest of the UK detention estate, means that people detained in Scotland face particular issues. We articulated these issues in our parliamentary briefing for Scottish MPs in advance of September 2015's parliamentary debate on the Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention in the UK. The briefing was well received by MPs and was quoted several times during the debate.

Over the year we have increasingly used our website and social media to raise awareness

of detention. Particular activity was focused on the #Unlocked15 Twitter tour of detention, which visited Dungavel in December 2015.

We have also sought to use our unique position, as the only organisation in Scotland to visit people in detention twice a week, to make people aware of the effects of detention. We analyse our visit reports quarterly and tweet anonymised extracts from them to give an insight into what it is like to be detained.

We aim to be the authoritative Scottish voice on detention and as the only civil society organisation visiting Dungavel every week we are in an ideal position to fulfil this role. Kate and the management committee are working on a policy plan for the organisation that will guide this work in 2016 and beyond.

Treasurer's report

2015 was a year of growth for Scottish Detainee Visitors. Along with the second tranche of our three-year grant from the Tudor Trust (£25,000), SDV was awarded £10,000 by Voluntary Action Fund. This enabled us to increase our staffing as described elsewhere in this report. As a result staff costs were higher in 2015 than in 2014.

In addition, SDV has moved into a dedicated office within Scottish Refugee Council's premises. Before this, Scottish Refugee Council had provided us with one free desk space. The new arrangement suits our new staffing and has given us a valuable space to meet volunteers, other professionals and people who have been released from detention. We also have access to rooms for training and events. However it means that for the first time we are paying for office space.

The costs of providing support to people in Dungavel remained constant in 2015. The rest of this report gives information on those activities.

Earlier in this report we gave information on the training we provided for volunteers in 2015. This, combined with the additional support volunteers receive from Shirley, means that volunteer costs were higher in 2015 than in 2014.

In 2015, SDV received substantial donations from trade unions of over £2,000. This, on top of our regular donations from friends and supporters of SDV, has enabled us to cover small, but important expenses like phone cards and personal items for people in detention.

We ended 2015 with the additional good news of a £5,000 donation from an anonymous source in recognition of the valuable work that we do. This meant our income from donations was considerably higher than in 2014.

We ended 2015 in a strong financial position, but our increased activities mean that we will need to continue to fundraise in order to continue our work into 2016 and beyond.

Summary financial accounts

SDV became a Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation (SCIO) on 2 November 2015. In line with OSCR requirements, our accounts have been prepared to cover the period up until all assets and liabilities of the former Scottish Charity were transferred to the new SCIO. In our case, this took place on 30 June 2016. In order to give a clearer comparison with 2014, we also present summary accounts for 2015.

Receipts and payments account 1 January 2015 –30 June 2016

	2015-16		2014	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<i>Restricted</i>				
VAF	10,000		-	
AB Charitable Trust	5,000		-	
Awards for All	-		7,200	
Tudor Trust	45,000		10,000	
Awards under £5,000	11,210		4,650	
<i>Total restricted receipts</i>		71,210		21,850
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
Trust funding awards under £5,000	-		6,500	
Donations, gift aid & other income	16,161		7,145	
<i>Total unrestricted receipts</i>		16,161		13,645
Total receipts		87,371		35,495
Payments				
<i>Restricted</i>				
BEMIS event & Life after Detention	(725)		-	
Support for people in detention	(1,026)		(1,650)	
Volunteer travel, training and support	-		(3,773)	
Website costs	-		(1,000)	
Staff costs	(45,528)		(12,978)	
<i>Total restricted payments</i>		(47,279)		(19,401)
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
Support for people in detention	(3,609)		(1,778)	
Staff and committee training and expenses	(2,088)		(245)	
Volunteer travel, meetings and training	(10,062)		-	
Membership subscriptions	(525)		(85)	
Fundraising, admin, website & insurance costs	(1,756)		(518)	
Office rent	(3,663)		-	
<i>Total unrestricted payments</i>		(21,703)		(2,626)
Total payments		(68,982)		(22,027)
Surplus/ Deficit		18,389		13,468

Receipts and payments account 1 January 2015 –31 December 2015

	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<i>Restricted</i>				
VAF	10,000		-	
Bemis Year of Food and Drink	510		-	
Allen Lane	3,000		3,000	
Awards for All	-		7,200	
QPSW	-		1,650	
Tudor Trust	25,000		10,000	
<i>Total restricted receipts</i>		38,510		21,850
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
Trust funding awards under £5000	-		6,500	
Donations, gift aid & other income	12,035		7,145	
<i>Total unrestricted receipts</i>		12,035		13,645
Total receipts		50,545		35,495
Payments				
<i>Restricted</i>				
BEMIS event	(403)		-	
Support for people in detention	-		(1,650)	
Volunteer travel, training & support	-		(3,773)	
Website costs	-		(1,000)	
Staff costs	(27,733)		(12,978)	
<i>Total restricted payments</i>		(28,136)		(19,401)
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
Support for people in detention	(3,340)		(1,778)	
Other staff costs	(380)		(245)	
Committee expenses	(722)		-	
Volunteer travel, meetings and training	(7,076)		-	
Membership subscriptions	(350)		(85)	
Fundraising, admin, website & insurance costs	(1,506)		(518)	
Office rent	(1,400)			
<i>Total unrestricted payments</i>		(14,774)		(2,626)
Total payments		(42,910)		(22,027)
Surplus/ Deficit for year		7,635		13,468

Thanks

Committee

Anna Beesley (Vice Chair)

Mary Child (Secretary)

Marion Fairweather (Treasurer)

Giovanna Fassetta (Chair)

Katharine Jones

David Johnstone

Nina Murray

Anna Pielin

Staff

Kate Alexander (Director)

Shirley Gillan (Volunteer Coordinator)

Funders in 2015

Tudor Trust

Voluntary Action Fund

Allen Lane Foundation

BEMIS

And ...

SDV volunteers (visitors, fundraisers,
country researchers, ambassadors)

SDV members

SDV donors

People in detention

People building a life after detention