

scottishdetaineevisitors

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts January 2022 – December 2022



Scottish Detainee Visitors

Scottish Charity Number: SC033781

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Charity Trustees

1. Mary Munro (chair)
2. Martha Harding (vice-chair)
3. Alice Cockburn (treasurer)
4. Nahom Ghebrehiwet (from June 2022)
5. Sophie Lock (Secretary)
6. Ruth Kirkby (from June 2022)
7. Hanan El-Atrash (until June 2022)
8. Anissa Thabet (until June 2022)
9. Elahe Ziai

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Chair's report

As Kate Alexander details in her Director's report, 2022 was the year in which we were eventually able to get back to twice weekly volunteer evening visits and regular staff daytime drop-ins at Dungavel.

In order to do so we had pretty much to start from scratch in terms of recruiting a new team of volunteers and supporting them in their work. The appointment of Georgie Cottle as our volunteer coordinator in January was key to this.

Thank you to both Kate and Georgie, our amazing staff team for all you achieved across the year. Thank you also to our very supportive colleagues on the Board who have 'pivoted' back to routine in person meetings with relief. Thank you to our funders.

Perhaps most of all, thank you to the new volunteers making the long and winding journey to Dungavel in all seasons and weathers, knowing that they will be meeting people in distress, who are losing hope, who have no idea what their future holds and when they may be released from immigration detention. It's not an easy call and requires a special kind of dedication.

It is good that the charity has emerged from the Covid years and is working as effectively as it can in the circumstances. If anything, the political context of our work has become more extreme and to some extent we are entering uncharted territory as recent legislation is implemented. As I said in last year's report "The core of our work remains the same: there is no respite, the need to do what we do is as great if not greater than ever."

Mary Munro, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Structure, governance and management of SDV

Trustees are appointed in compliance with the constitution. We advertise opportunities to join the board on our website, and use social media as well as personal contacts.

Over the course of 2022, SDV employed three part time members of staff: director Kate Alexander, volunteer coordinator, Georgie Cottle, who joined us in January and community development worker, Stevie Ritchie, whose contract ended in March.

Objectives and activities

Our constitution defines our objectives as follows:

- To relieve the conditions of stress and isolation of asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland who are or have been in immigration detention (4.1);
- To improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland who are or have been in immigration detention (4.2);
- To raise awareness around the issues of detention and advocate for change in order to further our other charitable objectives (4.3)

Scottish Detainee Visitors began as a project managed by Scottish Refugee Council in 2001, in response to Dungavel opening as a detention centre, but in 2002 SDV was constituted as a separate charity and then, in 2015 a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO SC033781).

The core of our work has always been regular visiting of people detained in Dungavel, but also includes work to support people who have been released from detention and policy and advocacy work aimed at bringing about detention reform.

Director's report: our activities in 2022

Supporting People in Dungavel

2022 saw the return of SDV's regular visiting service after the years of the pandemic. In January, our new volunteer coordinator, Georgie Cottle, joined the organisation in anticipation of the quick resumption of regular volunteer visits. In the event, some Covid restrictions remained in place until May and the centre was subject to several local lockdowns, making it impossible even for staff to visit regularly in the first few months of the year.

Nevertheless, whenever possible, Georgie visited the centre to run our morning drop in, becoming familiar with procedures there, making herself known both to staff and people in detention. At the same time, she worked to revamp our volunteer training and induction programme and our volunteer handbook in readiness for the recruitment of new visitors.

We were able to resume weekly volunteer-led visits in May. These were conducted by the trusty core of volunteers who had stayed with us throughout the pandemic. They were supplemented by a weekly staff-led drop-in, until we had recruited enough new visitors to return to our regular service. By September, we were back to providing regular twice-weekly volunteer-led visits on Monday and Thursday evenings, with our twice-monthly drop-in on Wednesday mornings.

Our new recruitment procedure consists of an online training session for new visitors, which explores the detention estate and the policy environment relevant to detention. It also considers SDV's policies and procedures and allows new volunteers to consider scenarios they might encounter at visits and how to respond to them. In addition, new recruits take part in several shadow visits, where they are accompanied by experienced visitors. After their shadow visits, they receive a further training session to prepare them for leading visits and completing the reports that are compiled after each visit.

In 2022, we supported 136 people in Dungavel. This is fewer than the 200 per year we supported before the pandemic but considerably more than the 45 people we supported in 2021. This reflects both our return to regular visiting and the fact that numbers detained in Dungavel rose over the year from the very low numbers we saw through the pandemic. Most of the people we supported were visited in person, but earlier in the year we were still conducting much our support by phone.

The majority of the people we supported (88 per cent) were men. But we saw a higher proportion of women than are detained overall, as we prioritise women for support because they can be particularly vulnerable and isolated in Dungavel, which is predominantly a male centre. We supported people from 40 different

countries, with the largest groups coming from Albania (15 per cent), Poland (13 per cent), Romania (10 per cent) and Lithuania (7 per cent).

Most of the people we supported were seen once or twice (67 per cent), but 8 per cent were seen 10 times or more, reflecting the fact that long term detention remains very much part of the system. We supported 10 people for more than six months, seeing them regularly and helping them to manage the frustrations of prolonged indefinite detention.

Visitors and staff complete reports of our interactions with people in detention. These reports allow us to monitor trends and to share information within SDV about the people we are supporting. The following extracts from these reports give a flavour of the issues we encountered in 2022.

Good news for L who finally has a bail address after having been granted bail in principle months ago. He's excited at the prospect of finally leaving Dungavel. He hopes it will be in the next couple of days.

We spoke to L on his own for an hour. He was clearly down, stressed and angry about his treatment by the Home Office. He's got a bail hearing this week and was trying not to get his hopes up too high.

B was less agitated than last week. He has a new job in Dungavel that means he's outside a lot. He had a list of activities for the day, so he is clearly trying to give life in indefinite detention some structure.

H has lived in Scotland since he was eight and was detained after a prison sentence. He had no idea this could happen. He was horrified he might be deported somewhere he left as a child.

W was in pretty good spirits. After a period of lockdown in Dungavel because of a Covid outbreak, things had eased up, so he had access to the gym again. Exercise really helps to pass the time in detention and improves his mood, he says

Only saw K briefly as he was heading to a doctor's appointment. He said life is OK in Dungavel but he's worried about his family outside, especially his partner, who has some health issues

Life After Detention

In early 2022, partly because of the disruption Covid caused, our Life After Detention group members took the decision not to continue with the group for the time being. A number of them had been granted leave to remain in the country, and the others are able to continue their lives in Glasgow, bolstered by the friendships and skills fostered by the group. Our door remains open should they wish to resume the group in future.

Policy and advocacy work

SDV's policy and advocacy work aims to ensure that people in Scotland, and decision makers in Scotland and the rest of the UK have a better understanding of the inhumanity of detention, and are aware that there are alternatives to it.

In 2022 we continued to produce blogs on topics such as the quarterly Home Office Detention Statistics. These have been published on our website and sent to MSPs on our database. We also provided comment to broadcast, print and online media outlets on detention matters and continued to build our online presence with the help of a team of social media volunteers.

The latest inspection report of Dungavel in 2021 noted with that women detained there were being escorted around the centre at all times for their safety because some men with convictions for violence against women were being detained there. During 2022, we learned that this practice, which had been explained as a temporary response to the difficulties of Covid, had been continued. Along with colleagues at Women For Refugee Women, we held a meeting with HMIP to discuss our concerns about the continued detention of women in Dungavel. This is an issue we continue to monitor.

During the year we joined the newly formed Scottish Parliament Cross Party Parliamentary Group on Migration. The group includes MSPs and civil society groups and we attend regularly to highlight policy issues related to detention and specific issues we encounter at Dungavel.

We remain active members of Detention Forum and Avid and along with our partners there, we will continue to advocate for detention reform, for an immigration system based on engagement not enforcement, and for the use of a range of community-based alternatives to detention, despite the increasingly hostile political environment.

Marking our 20-year anniversary

November 2022 was the anniversary of SDV constituting as a separate charity and in December, we marked the occasion with a gathering of friends and partners old and new. Brief speeches from our chair and director were followed by drinks, food and a fabulous fundraising raffle.

We were delighted to be joined by SDV's first coordinator as a separate charity, David Polfreman, by some of its first management committee, by volunteers from 20 years of visiting and by some of the people we visited over those 20 years. We were also joined by colleagues from other visitor groups, by politicians Alison Thewliss MP and Paul Sweeney MSP, and by representatives from other organisations supporting people affected by the UK's asylum and immigration system.

The tone of the evening was celebratory, but it was tempered by sadness that after 20 years, the work SDV does remains necessary. Just a few years before, the prospect of the closure of Dungavel and a move towards an immigration system that relied less on detention seemed within our grasp. With the passage of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022, the opening of the new detention centre at Derwentside, the announcement that two previously closed detention centres, will reopen in 2023, and the introduction in the early part of 2023 of the Illegal Migration Bill, it is clear that SDV will be needed more than ever in the years to come.

Kate Alexander, Director.

Finance report

Our independently examined accounts for 2022 are on the subsequent pages of this report and they show that we ended the year in a healthy position with a balance of over £34,000 to carry forward to 2023.

In 2022 we were fortunate to be awarded £15,000 by the People's Postcode lottery towards staff salaries. Additionally, we received the second tranche of our three-year award from Robertson Trust, and an extra unrestricted grant from them to assist us in dealing with the impact of the cost of living crisis. We also received a number of smaller grants from charitable foundations, totalling £12,000.

Our expenditure rose in 2022 compared to 2021, reflecting our increased staffing and our return to regular visiting. We are aware that we will be fundraising to continue our work in an increasingly difficult environment. We continue to receive


generous donations from the public and will increase our focus on this area of fundraising through events and appeals going forward. We have also recently recruited a fundraising volunteer to help us expand our activities in this area.

We thank all our funders and everyone who donated to us in 2022. Their support is very much appreciated.

Alice Cockburn, Treasurer

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print Name:

Mary Munro

Date:

9 June 2023

Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Scottish Detainee Visitors (SCIO)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) 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 charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 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 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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 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
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or to which in my opinion should be drawn, in order to reach a proper understanding of the accounts.



Kevin J Craik, FCCA, 12 Craigleith Hill Green, Edinburgh, EH4 2ND

31 May 2023

Scottish Detainee Visitors (SCIO)
Scottish Charity Number SC033781

Receipts and Payments Account
Year Ended 31st December 2022

	Year Ended 31 December 2022		Year Ended 31 December 2021	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<i>Restricted</i>				
Robertson Trust	15,000		15,000	
People's Postcode Trust	15,000			
Foundation Scotland			5,000	
Allen Lane Foundation			5,000	
Job Retention Scheme			573	
Awards for All			9,400	
Total restricted receipts		30,000		34,973
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
Robertson Trust	2,250			
Awards under £3,000	12,000			
Donations and fundraising	5,904		7,494	
Gift Aid and other income	1,213		1,162	
Total unrestricted receipts		21,367		8,656
Total receipts		51,367		43,629

	Year Ended 31 December 2022		Year Ended 31 December 2021	
	£	£	£	£
Payments				
<i>Restricted</i>				
Salaries and pensions	(30,000)		(21,573)	
Volunteer phones			(332)	
Working with interpreters training			(750)	
Tablets and data			(441)	
Total restricted payments		<u>(30,000)</u>		<u>(23,097)</u>
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
Salaries and pensions	(7,857)		(9,793)	
Support for people in detention	(5,438)		(3,629)	
Life after detention costs	(205)		(1,853)	
Staff training and other costs	(212)		(25)	
Board training and expenses	(469)		(73)	
Volunteer visit travel	(1,764)		(425)	
Membership subscriptions	(228)		(130)	
Fundraising, admin and office supplies	(364)		(389)	
Website and basecamp costs	(914)		(894)	
Office rent	(5,000)		(5,000)	
Zoom fees	(345)		(272)	
Professional services	(152)		(20)	
Insurance	(349)		(322)	
20th anniversary event	(496)		-	
Computer equipment	-		(412)	
Total unrestricted payments		<u>(23,793)</u>		<u>(23,236)</u>
Total payments		<u><u>(53,793)</u></u>		<u><u>(46,333)</u></u>
Surplus/ Deficit		<u><u>(2,426)</u></u>		<u><u>(2,704)</u></u>

Scottish Detainee Visitors (SCIO)
Scottish Charity Number SC033781

Statement of Balances as at 31st December 2022

	31/12/22	31/12/21
	£	£
Bank and cash in hand		
Opening balances	36,742	39,446
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(2,426)	(2,704)
Closing balances	34,316	36,742
 Reserves		
General Funds	<u>34,316</u>	<u>36,742</u>
Closing balances	<u>34,316</u>	<u>36,742</u>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf:



9 June 2023