

scottishdetaineevisitors

**Annual Report
&
Review of 2013**

Chair's report

In 2013, our volunteers' invaluable work has made a difference to many people detained in Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre, who have often expressed their appreciation for our friendship and practical help.

We also reached out to the wider public through information events such as the public debate held during refugee week and talks by our committee members to organisations and faith groups. We are now active on social media, and Kate, our coordinator, does a great job of keeping our Facebook and Twitter pages updated, offering a wealth of information about immigration detention and the challenges faced by migrants in the UK and beyond.

We continue to be active within Detention Forum Scotland, which includes a number of other agencies and groups interested in working together to challenge immigration detention in Scotland. Within this space, the organisations involved compare information, discuss challenges, identify patterns of significance to detainees' wellbeing and, more generally, work towards raising awareness and questioning the legitimacy of immigration detention. Detention Forum Scotland is linked to the wider Detention Forum, which operates in England and with whom we regularly share observations and reflections.

In the spring of 2013, SDV's committee undertook a 3-day development course,

which aimed to improve governance skills and to ensure that the organisation is as effective and sustainable as possible. As a result of this course, we set out a strategy that would allow us to strengthen our current position and to set in motion plans to improve our work with detainees and our awareness-raising role.

Towards the end of 2013 two new members joined the committee. We were very fortunate to reach Katharine Jones and Blair Melville, who have the skills and knowledge we were looking for and who are now valuable members of our team. Sadly, Chris Gilligan had to leave the committee because of the increasing demands from his job. However, he remains a member of SDV and a keen supporter of our work.

As a result of our drive to strengthen and expand our organisation, we have set in motion the necessary steps to change from charity status to a SCIO status, and we have drafted a new and very exciting three-year organisational plan. Our aim is to allow our volunteers to carry on the great work they are already doing and to become even better at offering the support they need. We also aim to expand our partnership with other organisations in order to raise awareness about immigration detention and advocate for the rights of detainees in Scotland and in the rest of the UK.

Giovanna Fassetta
Chair, SDV

Coordinator's report

In 2013, Scottish Detainee Visitors continued our core work of supporting some of the most marginalised people in our society. We continued our twice weekly evening visits to Dungavel and also began our new monthly drop-in service. This was an exciting development for us and we discuss its first year later in this report.

Our volunteer visitors are the backbone of SDV and provide the bulk of the support we offer to detainees. During the year, we held three successful recruitment and induction days and welcomed a number of new visitors. They brought with them language skills and expertise from the fields of health, the law and the refugee and asylum sector.

During the year we held regular visitor update meetings. These provide an opportunity for visitors to share issues of concern about the experience of supporting detainees. We also use the meetings to update visitors' knowledge. In 2013 our guest speakers included representatives from the Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID), Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees and Scottish Refugee Council. In 2014, in addition to these meetings, visitors will also be offered a full day's training to develop their visiting skills.

Our refugee week event in 2013, organised jointly with Glasgow Refugee Asylum and Migration Network (GRAMNet), was a round

table discussion to debate the question of whether an independent Scotland would need immigration controls. A refugee speaker and a former detainee joined academics and policy makers to debate the issue before throwing it open to a lively audience discussion. Our event in June this year will focus specifically on detention and we are sure it will be equally successful.

As our treasurer notes later in this report 2013 was a challenging year for fundraising and in addition to our applications to trusts and foundations, we held a number of events. In May, a fundraising dinner at the Glad Café included delicious food, entertainment and an auction. In September, one of our visitors competed in the Great Scottish Run to raise money for us. And in November, our friends at STAR Glasgow held a pub quiz to support us. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Earlier this year we were shocked and saddened by the untimely death of Ally Malloy, one of SDV's first visitors. He and his wife, Clare, met through SDV and continued as our great friends and supporters even after family and other commitments meant they could no longer visit. I'd like to take this opportunity to remember Ally and everyone else who was involved in SDV's 2013: visitors, members, committee, funders and detainees.

Kate Alexander
Coordinator, SDV

SDV's activities in 2013

SDV provides practical, social and emotional support through two main services: twice-weekly evening visits and a monthly information drop-in.

Evening visits

In 2013, SDV made 99 visits to Dungavel. Because of the isolated location of the centre, we rely on members' own cars to travel to Dungavel in groups of up to five, twice a week.

Over the year, we visited a total of 171 detainees. The average number of detainees seen on each visit was six but the number varied from just two to 13.

As usual, the majority of the people we visited were men (87%) and just 13% were women. Women in Dungavel can be very isolated and their experience can be particularly distressing. In a film made by SDV one woman described her experience in Dungavel as being *"like a chicken surrounded by foxes"*. Our visitors are very aware of this and ensure that women detainees are able to speak in private to a female visitor to receive appropriate support.

In 2013, SDV visitors supported detainees from 38 different countries. As the table shows, the country producing the highest number of detainees we visited was Pakistan (29 detainees). India was next (28),

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followed by Nigeria and Bangladesh (20 each).

Country of origin of detainees 2013 (top 10 countries)

Country	No of detainees	% of detainees
Pakistan	29	17
India	28	16
Nigeria	20	12
Bangladesh	20	12
Gambia	11	6
Algeria	7	4
China	5	3
Zimbabwe	4	2
South Africa	3	2
Libya	3	2

Most of detainees we visit are seen just once or twice (43% and 18% respectively).

However, although campaigning on this issue continues, there remains no time limit on immigration detention in the UK. People entering detention in Dungavel or one of the other immigration removal centres in the UK have no idea how long they will be there. A small number of people remain are detained for many months or even years. SDV visitors form long-term supportive relationships with detainees in this position. In the last three years, between 5% and 10% of the detainees we have visited have been seen 21 times or more. In 2013, one detainee received his 118th visit and another received his 69th.

The support SDV provides at evening visits reflects the needs of detainees. People

detained in Dungavel suffer both physical and social isolation. Our visits help to reduce that isolation by providing contact with the outside world. We also offer practical support, such as 533 phone cards in 2013, to help maintain contact with their families, lawyers and other support networks.

Drop-in service

Our Annual Report and Review of 2012 noted that we had finally been given the go-ahead for our new drop-in service at Dungavel. The first session took place in March 2013 and subsequent sessions have run on the morning of the third Monday of each month.

The original aim of the service was to provide detainees with information about applying for a section 4 bail address and signposting to services to assist them to integrate into the community on release. In practice its focus has been broader and more general as summarised in the chart below. Section 4 bail address forms were filled in at every session but in addition, we provided information about legal representatives and other organisations (contained within our booklet for detainees), referred people to other organisations and made referrals for evening visits.

The total number of detainees attending the drop-in in its first year was 98, of whom ten attended more than one session. The drop-in has been successful in reaching detainees very soon after their arrival in Dungavel.

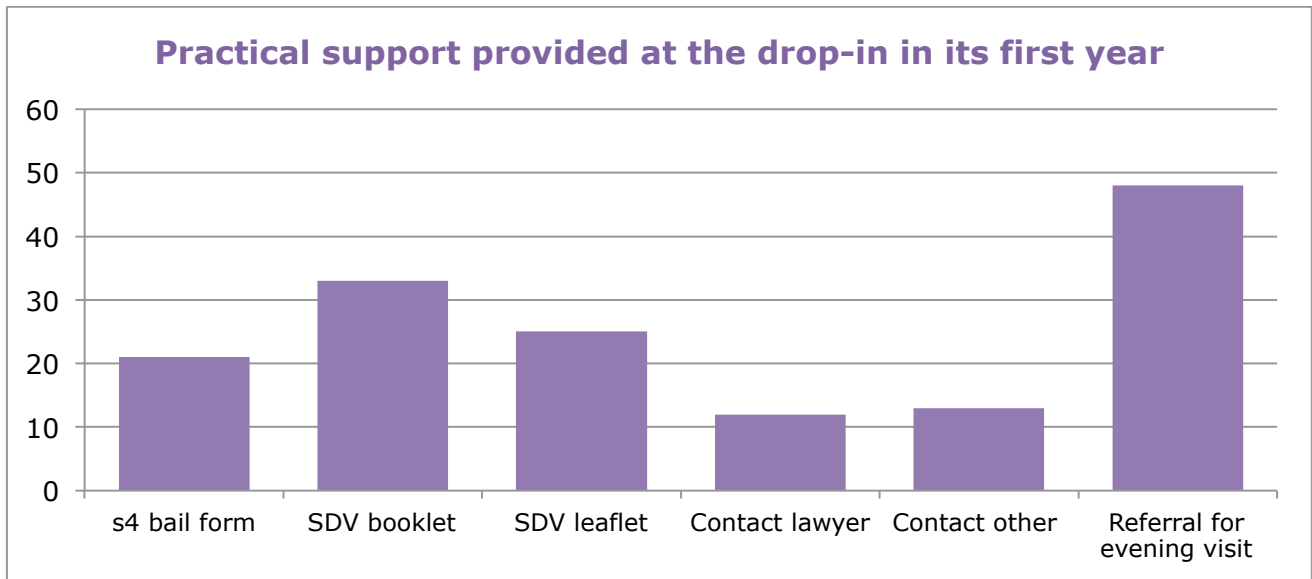
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Just under a quarter were seen a week or less after their arrival. Over half of the detainees attending the drop-in had been in the centre for a month or less. For some, this is their first experience of detention, while others may have been moved to Dungavel from detention in England. For all it is a bewildering and distressing experience and the drop-in provides the opportunity to seek impartial information and friendly support.

A key difference between the drop-in and evening visits is that detainees do not have to be referred to the drop-in. They can simply turn up to the visit room, where the drop-in takes place. This means that it provides us with an opportunity to reach detainees we would not reach through evening visits. Two thirds of the detainees we saw at the drop-in were new to us and many of them went on to receive continued support from us at evening visits.

The drop-in has been a very valuable addition to what we do. One visitor summed it up as follows:

"A couple of the drop-ins I volunteered at were attended by people who had only just been brought into detention. They seemed quite shell shocked and most didn't have a solicitor. It felt really important to provide them with information that would help them get legally represented. It was also good to let them know about SDV so they could ask for an evening visit if they wanted one."



Treasurer's report

Over half our income in 2013 (£8,300) was unrestricted and came from fundraising events, donations from individuals and organisations, and the new SDV membership. SDV approached several trade unions and was given very generous support - over £1,000. This has been an increase of over £2,000 in unrestricted income since last year. This money has enabled us to continue the work of supporting detainees in Dungavel, particularly providing them with basic items like phone cards and clothes- which have a huge impact on their wellbeing.

We received funding from the Quaker Peace and Social Witness which fully funded the first year of our new monthly drop-in service for detainees. The Jill Franklin Charitable Trust provided £500 towards expenses for detainees including phone cards, emergency money and practical items. In November SDV secured £9,000 over three years from

the Allen Lane foundation to go towards the costs of our coordinator. Scottish Refugee Council continued to support us through the provision of office space and supplies.

Our largest cost (60%) is our coordinator's salary. This is followed by spending on detainees (13%) and travel (10%).

This is the third year in which we have recorded a deficit and we are working to ensure that a sustainable plan for funding is in place. We are continuing to submit funding applications to trusts and foundations, as well as working to increase our membership and holding regular fundraising events. We have developed a clear action plan to secure long-term funding and greatly appreciate the support that we have received over the past year from supporters and institutions.

Marion Fairweather
Treasurer, SDV

Summary financial accounts

1 January–31 December 2013

RECEIPTS	2013	2012	PAYMENTS	2013	2012
	£	£		£	£
Restricted					
QPSW	3,320		Staff Costs	14,014	13,623
Allen Lane	3,000		Travel expenses	2,191	2,024
Jill Franklin	500		Detainee phone cards	2,650	2,546
Norda Trust		4,000	Items for detainees	115	245
AVID		500	Emergency payments	361	250
Total restricted	6,820	4,500	Training/meeting costs	734	1,084
			Memberships/subscriptions	283	332
Unrestricted			Insurance	266	266
Donations & fundraising	5,905	5,004	Fundraising Costs	275	364
Other income (including gift aid)	2,419	1202	Admin and website	27	242
Total unrestricted	8,324	6,206	Total payments	20,914	20,976
Total Receipts	15,144	10,706	Operating deficit	-5,796	-10,270

Thanks

SDV committee

Anna Beesley
Mary Child (Secretary)
Marion Fairweather (Treasurer)
Giovanna Fassetta (Chair)
Katharine Jones
Blair Melville
Nina Murray (Vice Chair)
Duncan Toms

SDV funders in 2013

Allen Lane Foundation
Quaker Peace and Social Witness
Jill Franklin Charitable Trust
Scottish Refugee Council

And

SDV visitors, members and everyone who donated, attended events and set up standing orders in 2013.