

# scottishdetaineevisitors

Trustees' Annual Report

January 2018 – December 2018



Scottish Detainee Visitors

Scottish Charity Number: SC033781

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Facebook: SDVisitors

### **Charity Trustees**

1. Anna Beasley (chair)
2. Martha Harding (vice-chair)
3. Sarah Anderson (treasurer)
4. Mary Munro (secretary)
5. Giovanna Fassetta
6. Anne Meikle
7. Kathy McNeill (to September 2018)
8. Blair Melville (to July 2018)

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## Chair's report

In 2018, the appalling treatment of the Windrush generation brought into the public consciousness the UK's hostile and unfair immigration system. It's a system that, uniquely in Europe, detains people for immigration purposes without time limit, causing immense distress to the people affected. This is something SDV visitors see twice a week when volunteers journey to Dungavel to provide support to those detained there.

As chair, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the board, Kate, Director, Shirley, Coordinator, and all of SDV's volunteers whose persistent hard work, which at times can be emotionally challenging, is essential to carrying out SDV's core aims to provide support to those affected by immigration detention in Scotland.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome Firdaus Ahmed our new administrator, we are really grateful that our financial situation has allowed us to have her on board and hope she enjoys working with SDV.

For the board of trustees, 2018 was a year mostly spent reviewing and re-evaluating many of the organisation's policies and procedures from staff handbooks to volunteer health and safety. This took a huge amount of work from both board members and staff. Alongside these reviews, SDV commissioned an independent evaluation of the organisation in order to gain a detailed understanding from those involved in SDV as to where we can improve our service. Reviewing and evaluating all aspects of SDV will leave us with a thoughtful and robust organisation that follows best practice in our work.

As 24,748 people entered detention in 2018, there is still much work to be done in order for those subject to immigration powers to be treated fairly and with humanity. Thank you again to SDV volunteers and staff for their commitment to this work, keep it up.

*Anna Beesley, 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.

SDV currently (January 2019) employs three part-time staff who are based in a shared space in the offices of the Scottish Refugee Council. They are Kate Alexander, Director; Shirley Gillan, Coordinator; Firdaus Ahmed, Administrator.

**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 now includes work to support people who have been released from detention and policy and advocacy work aimed at bringing about detention reform.

## **Our activities in 2018**

### ***Visiting people in Dungavel***

Our 25 strong team of volunteer visitors travel to Dungavel twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays to offer practical, emotional and social support to the people detained there. Our staff, supported by volunteers, also visit twice a month on Wednesday mornings to run a drop in service. In 2018 we:

- Visited Dungavel 114 times
- Supported 224 people in detention, 191 men and 33 women
- Saw an average of seven people at each visit

The people we visited came from 52 countries and quarter of all the people we saw were from the European Union. The most common countries of origin were:

- China 15%
- Bangladesh 8%
- Poland 7%
- India 6%
- Vietnam 5%

As usual, most of the people we saw were seen once (42%) or twice (23%) but some people were seen for much longer. We visited three people who were detained for over six months, one of whom was detained for over a year. People in these circumstances are visited frequently, and they each received more than 20 visits over the course of the year.

### ***What difference does SDV make to people in detention?***

Our visitors provide a variety of practical assistance to people in detention. In particular, we provide information about other sources of support, ensure people are aware that they are entitled to a Legal Aid solicitor and encourage them to contact one, and we assist people in topping up their mobile phones and with other small items that can make their lives in detention more manageable. But as the testimony from people we have visited shows, perhaps most important is the emotional support, solidarity and friendship that visits provide.

## scottish detainee visitors

*They come to see us. My family don't come to see me. So it is good to get a visit. We're talking about things, about our family, about how we are. They listen and they explain everything to us.*

*It's unbelievable, thank you very much. Without you I'd be on my knees*

*SDV make it bearable, they make it liveable, yes.*

*It's a good thing that they're there. If they weren't there we'd be forgotten. We'd be forgotten by everybody."*

### **Life After Detention**

Throughout 2018, our Life after Detention (LAD) group continued to meet weekly, for peer support, casework, creativity and fun. The group consists of people who have been detained in Dungavel and released to Glasgow. All of them remain at risk of detention. In 2018, 15 people were part of the group, six of them women. They came from eight countries: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Pakistan, Iraqi Kurdistan, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Iran. The group is run by our coordinator, supported by two regular volunteers.

LAD members continued their ongoing work with Detention Dialogues, SDV's collaboration with Ice and Fire Theatre Company, creating performances based on verbatim testimony from group members, but also got involved in other creative projects. They wrote poems illuminating the experience of life after detention, which have been published on SDV's website, and they produced art work, which has been used to make cards for sale to bring a small income for SDV.

But LAD is also a place to share the specific experience of having been detained and living at risk of further detention. The group shared their fears of attending interviews, attending the Immigration Appeals Tribunal and of being sent back to

face torture or death. And they accompanied each other to provide support at court or at interviews.

The group shared many happy experiences in 2018 including trips out to get to know life in Glasgow and beyond, members being granted leave to remain and the birth of a group member's baby.

*I know people here have suffered the same things as me – they can feel my pain and I can feel theirs. The past is the same, the future is together and we can support each other*

*I take a good feeling from everyone. I get to hang out with nice people and chat to friends*

*This is my group and I miss it if I don't come. We are like a small family*

*Many places we for trips, then maybe that will help me, I understand the way, I understand the places, I understand the buses, this place go this way, this way... that is very helpful.*

### ***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 and impact of detention, and are aware that there are alternatives to it. Much of our work in 2018 has been focused, in partnership with colleagues in Detention Forum, on making the case for a 28 day time limit on detention. Indefinite detention is the cruellest aspect of a cruel system and ending it is a vital first step to ending detention altogether.

In 2018 we:

- Met with MSPs and their staff and civil servants to discuss detention and the possibilities for alternatives in Scotland.

- Produced blogs on topics such as the quarterly Home Office Detention Statistics, the 2018 HMIP inspection of Dungavel and the 2018 Shaw Review. These have been published on our website and sent to MSPs on our database.
- Provided comment to broadcast, print and online media outlets on detention matters.
- Provided evidence to the Home Affairs Committee Detention Inquiry.
- Led a delegation of Scottish organisations to meet Stuart MacDonald MSP to present him with a Detention Forum Detention Champion award in recognition of his work in the UK parliament.
- Responded to Engender Scotland's call for evidence on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- Held performances of the Detention Dialogues at events and festivals throughout Scotland.
- Played an active role in Unlocking Detention, Detention Forum's annual social media tour of the UK's detention estate.
- Spoke at conferences and events
- Significantly expanded our online presence, with the help of a team of social media volunteers.

### **Future plans**

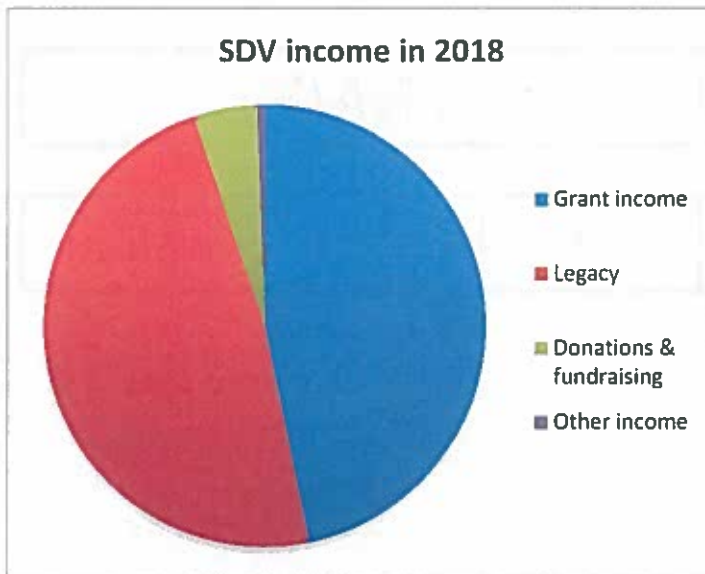
In 2018, we commissioned the first external evaluation of our work. The evaluators reported in early 2019 and we were delighted that the evaluation was very positive about our work. They did however outline some areas for development and we will be working on them in 2019.

Our current strategic and operational plans run until 2020, so in 2019 we will be beginning the work of formulating our next three year plan. We will also be continuing our work of supporting people in detention in Scotland and on their release. This work will continue for as long as people are affected by immigration detention in Scotland.



## Financial review

In 2018, SDV was fortunate enough to receive a substantial legacy of just over £46,000. This in conjunction with grant income of £45,000 from Tudor Trust and Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, and donations and fundraising brought us an income of over £96,000, considerably more than in 2017. We ended the year with a substantial surplus of £30,700 and a closing balance of £83,790. This is well in excess of the three months running costs stipulated by our reserves policy, to cover wind up costs.



Our expenditure in 2018 was £65,815, more than half of which was accounted for by staff costs. Support for people in detention, Life After Detention and our external evaluation were also significant items of expenditure. Our full accounts and independent examiner's report are available on the following pages.

We entered 2019 in a strong financial position, with healthy reserves and the final instalment of our three-year Esmee Fairbairn grant secured. In 2019, we will be focussing on seeking new grant funding to enable us to continue our work into 2020 and beyond.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

MARTHA HARDING

Designation

VICE - CHAIR

Date

12th June 2019

# scottish detainee visitors

**Financial accounts for the period  
1 January 2018– 31 December 2018**



**Scottish Detainee Visitors**  
**Scottish Charity Number SC033781**

**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**Year Ended 31st December 2018**

	Year Ended 31 December 2018		Year Ended 31 December 2017	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
<i>Restricted</i>				
Tudor Trust	25,000		25,000	
Awards for All			5,900	
Esmee Fairbairn	20,000		10,000	
VAF			10,000	
Awards under £3,000			-	
<b>Total restricted receipts</b>		<b>45,000</b>	<b>50,900</b>	
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
Legacy	46,181			
Donations and fundraising	4,467		12,731	
Other income	<u>574</u>		<u>840</u>	
<b>Total unrestricted receipts</b>		<b>51,222</b>	<b>13,571</b>	
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b><u>96,222</u></b>	<b><u>64,471</u></b>	

	Year Ended 31 December 2018		Year Ended 31 December 2017	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Payments</b>				
<i>Restricted</i>				
Support for people in detention			-	
Life After Detention equipment			(3,469)	
Volunteer training & support costs			(3,156)	
Salaries and pensions		<u>(39,542)</u>	<u>(37,187)</u>	
<b>Total restricted payments</b>		<b>(39,542)</b>	<b>(43,812)</b>	
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
Support for people in detention	(4,690)		(4,274)	
Life after detention costs	(4,418)			
Staff training and other costs	(1,284)		(278)	
Committee training and expenses	(1,115)		(460)	
Volunteer visit travel	(3,707)		-	
Volunteer meetings, induction and training	(955)		(720)	
Membership subscriptions	(205)		(205)	
Fundraising and admin costs	(1,075)		(1,038)	
Website costs	(682)		(15)	
Policy project costs	(442)			
Office rent	(2,250)		(3,853)	
AGM costs	(383)			
Evaluation	(4,770)			
Insurance	<u>(297)</u>		<u>(281)</u>	
<b>Total unrestricted payments</b>		<b><u>(26,273)</u></b>	<b><u>(11,124)</u></b>	
<b>Total payments</b>		<b><u>(65,815)</u></b>	<b><u>(54,936)</u></b>	
<b>Surplus/ Deficit</b>		<b><u>30,407</u></b>	<b><u>9,535</u></b>	



## **Independent examiner's report on the accounts**

I report on the accounts of Scottish Detainee Visitors (SDV) for the period 1 January to 31 December 2018 .

### **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:

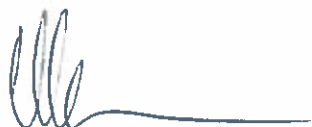
Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

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 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or

To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**



**Date:**

10/06/2019 .

**Michael Burns**

**124 Camphill Avenue, Glasgow, G41 3DU**





