

scottishdetaineevisitors

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

January 2019 – December 2019



Scottish Detainee Visitors

Scottish Charity Number: SC033781

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Facebook: [SDVisitors](https://www.facebook.com/SDVisitors)

Instagram: [SDVisitors](https://www.instagram.com/SDVisitors)

Charity Trustees

1. Anna Beasley (chair)
2. Martha Harding (vice-chair)
3. Robert Whittet (treasurer from June 2019)
4. Mary Munro (secretary)
5. Neil Cowan (from June 2019)
6. Sophie Locke (from June 2019)
7. Anne Meikle
8. Sarah Anderson (treasurer to June 2019)
9. Giovanna Fassetta (to June 2019)

Cover photo credit: Iman Tajik

Chair's report

In 2019, SDV continued its vital work of visiting people detained in Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre, supporting people who have been released from detention and advocating for detention reform. Uniquely in Europe, the UK continues to detain people indefinitely for immigration purposes.

At the end of 2019, 1,637 people were in immigration detention in the UK. They should not be there but it is important to remember that in 2013, over 4,000 were detained and the government was planning to add 5,000 more bed spaces to the detention estate. Since then, sustained campaigning by civil society, including people with experience of detention, has transformed the detention landscape. That work continued in 2019 and included many successes.

The year saw two UK parliamentary reports on detention calling for a time limit, a report commissioned by Liberty on the economic impacts of detention and the start of a Home Office funded alternative to detention pilot for vulnerable women. At the 2019 General Election, all major parties, apart from the Conservatives, again made manifesto commitments to a time limit on detention and some made specific references to alternatives. Sadly, the general election meant that the Immigration Bill, which provided a real opportunity to introduce a time limit, fell and the post-election parliamentary arithmetic is less favourable, but committed parliamentarians continue to make the case as the new bill progresses.

At the end of 2019, we learned that capacity at Dungavel had been reduced from 249 to 125. On 31 December, just 42 people were detained there, less than half its reduced capacity. At the beginning of 2020, the Scottish Government's paper on migration called for Dungavel's closure and an increased use of community based solutions, as part of a programme of reform to ensure people in Scotland would not simply be moved to England to be detained. It is an aspiration we share.

The Covid 19 crisis has led to a further reduction in detention and there are still very few people detained in Dungavel. The restrictions have had a major impact on our work and our ability to support those left in Dungavel. But along with our partners, we see the opportunity for change and will continue to urge the Home Office not to return to business as usual.

Finally, I'd like to thank our staff, volunteers and Board for their continued commitment and hard work, especially during the challenges of Covid 19.

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.

In the interests of good governance, in 2019 we began the process of reviewing and updating our organisational policies, supporting our staff, trustees and volunteers, and the principles of our constitution.

Throughout 2019, SDV employed three part-time staff 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 2019

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 2019 we:

- Visited Dungavel 108 times
- Supported 203 people in detention, 172 men and 31 women
- Saw an average of seven people at each visit

The people we visited came from 44 countries. The most common countries of origin were:

- Vietnam 13%
- India 12%
- China 10%
- Romania 7%
- Pakistan 6%
- Poland 5%

As usual, most of the people we saw were seen once (33%) or twice (28%) but some people were seen for much longer. We visited five 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. 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. We also refer people to other agencies such as Medical Justice and to the visitor groups at other detention centres, if they are moved. We assist people by topping up their mobile phones and with other small items, such as books and CDs 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.

It's important. They're people from outside and we're really cut off from outside world. They can tell you what's happening outside that you don't know. We're totally cut off in here

When I hear my name called – to receive a visitor – it's a cause for celebration!

To someone like me who has no one to visit me, seeing you on visiting days is amazing

My family can't come to see me, so it's good to get a visit. We talk about things, about our family, about how we are. They listen and it helps

I really like when they come to visit me. I feel much better in myself

It's good to talk to the visitors, especially when I am so far from my family I can't remember the last time I was happy like that. This organisation is amazing

It is good because it makes us happy and helps us to forget some problems we have

I feel better. They come and they ask me how everything is in here. If I am in court, then they wish me luck and I feel better

Life After Detention

Throughout 2019, our Life after Detention (LAD) group continued to meet weekly, for peer support, casework and creative projects. The group consists of people who have been detained in Dungavel and released to Glasgow. All of them remain at risk of detention. Since it began in 2016, the group has worked with 43 people from 18 nationalities and throughout 2018 there were 10 regular members, four of them women. The group was run by SDV's coordinator, supported by two regular volunteers.

People learn about the group through information we provide when they are in Dungavel and through referrals from other agencies, including other visitors groups. Before joining, they meet SDV's coordinator who ensures they are linked in to sources of support, advice and assistance in Glasgow.

LAD is a place to share the specific experiences of having been detained, living with insecure immigration status and at risk of further detention. The group accompany one another to appointments, to foodbanks and to the Glasgow Night Shelter.

Their creative work continued in 2019, including their ongoing collaboration on Detention Dialogues with Ice and Fire theatre company. They also produced the Christmas cards SDV sold in 2019 and worked on music projects with one of SDVs volunteers.

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. Our work in 2019 has been focused, in partnership with colleagues in Detention Forum, on making the case for a 28 day time limit on detention and a move to community based alternatives.

In 2019 we:

- Worked with MSPs on a parliamentary motion calling for the use of community based alternatives to detention. The motion was widely supported by members from across the political spectrum.

- Drafted parliamentary questions for MSPs, which revealed that the Scottish Government had urged the Home Office to work with them on alternatives to detention, but had received no response.
- Produced blogs on topics such as the quarterly Home Office Detention Statistics, interviews with people in detention and the general election. These have been published on our website and sent to MSPs on our database.
- Participated in the Refugee Voices Scotland podcast, discussing detention policy, campaigns and our work.
- Provided comment to broadcast, print and online media outlets on detention matters.
- 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
- Continued to expand and improve our online presence, adding Instagram to our output, with the help of a team of social media volunteers.

Working on our evaluation

At the beginning of 2019, a positive independent evaluation report of our work suggested two areas for improvement. As a result, we made some changes to the way in which visits are organised and supported. We also conducted a review of our Life After Detention project, which, though very much valued by participants, the evaluators suggested would benefit from a clearer articulation of its scope and purpose. We took the decision to appoint a part time community worker to work with the group on its future direction. Unfortunately, recruitment to that post was interrupted by Covid 19, and as the group is still not able to meet in person, remains on hold.

2020 and beyond

Having begun 2020 with work on our next three year strategic and operational plans underway and with plans for a new staffing structure, in common with many organisations, the Covid 19 crisis has meant that we have had to adjust to 'the new normal'. We continue to support people in detention remotely and our work in 2020 is focused on developing new systems to enable models of work that respond to the restrictions that are likely to last for some time. We are also

exploring how we might develop and extend our work with people who have been released from detention. Despite the much more challenging environment, we remain committed to supporting people in and after detention and to advocating for immigration detention reform.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Anna Beesley

Print Name:

Anna Beesley

Date:

28 September 2020

Charity Number SC033781
Scottish Charitable
Incorporated Organisation

Scottish Detainee Visitors

Annual Accounts and Report

Financial Report

Statement of Trustees responsibilities

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the year-end and of its incoming resources and resources expended during that year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its activities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The following pages give a fair view of the financial position of the organisation during the year to 31st December 2019.

Like most Charitable Organisations we are dependent on the help of donors from both interested parties and from grant organisations. We are grateful to both Esmee Fairbairn and Awards for All for their generous giving during this financial year.

It must also be said that without the help of so many volunteers who generously give of their time a lot of the work would not be possible.

Robert W Whittet Treasurer.



Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Scottish Detainee Visitors

I report on the accounts of the above-mentioned charity for the period to 31st December 2019 as set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustee 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) Act 2005 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 Examiners Report

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 view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiners 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 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

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



Signed

Date 22nd September 2020

C A I Morton CA.

Scottish Detainee Visitors SCIO

Charity Number: SC033781

Receipts and Payments Accounts for Period to 31st December 2019

Receipts	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds Current	Total Funds Previous
	£	£	£	£
Donations	14,913		14,913	5,041
Legacies			-	
Grants	-	30,000	30,000	45,000
Receipts from Fundraising			-	
Gross Trading Receipts			-	
Income from Investments (Bank)			-	
Rents Received	-		-	
Gross Receipts Legacy	-		-	46,181
Total	14,913	30,000	44,913	96,222
Payments				
Expenses for Fundraising				
Gross Trading Payments				
Investment Management Costs				
Payments Direct to Charitable Activities	25,557	51,513	77,070	65,815
Grants and Donations				
Governance Costs				
Audit/Independent Exam.				
Preparation of Accounts				
Legal Costs				
Other	-		-	
Total	25,557	51,513	77,070	65,815
Net Receipts	- 10,644	- 21,513	- 32,157	30,407
Transfers to/From Funds	-	-	-	-
Surplus/Deficit for Year	- 10,644	- 21,513	- 32,157	30,407

Scottish Detainee Visitors SCIO

Statement of Balances

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds Current	Total Funds Previous
	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds				
Cash and Bank at Start of Year	83,790		83,790	53,383
Surplus/Deficit per R and P Accounts	- 32,157		- 32,157	30,407
Cash and Bank at End of Year	51,633		51,633	83,790
Investments	-			
B3 Other Assets	-			
Liabilities	-			
Contingent Liabilities	-			

Signed on behalf of the Trustees of
Scottish Detainee Visitors

Name:

Date: 22nd September 2020

Scottish Detainee Visitors SCIO

Registered Number SC033781

Notes to the Accounts

Nature and Purpose of Funds	Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Restricted funds may only be used for the purposes which the donor specifies.							
Notes	<table> <tr> <td colspan="2"><u>Grants Received in Year</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Awards for All</td> <td>£10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Esmee Fairbairn</td> <td>£20,000</td> </tr> </table>		<u>Grants Received in Year</u>		Awards for All	£10,000	Esmee Fairbairn	£20,000
<u>Grants Received in Year</u>								
Awards for All	£10,000							
Esmee Fairbairn	£20,000							
Trustee Transactions	No trustee received any remuneration or expenses or had any transactions with any connected person or body.							

Bank Balance at 31st December 2019.

Current Account	£51,633.00
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Cost of Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019	Total 2018
Salaries and Pensions		46,750	46,750	39,542
Office Expenses	3,584	2,500	6,084	3,325
Volunteer Costs	6,670		6,670	7,061
LAD Expenses	8,262	2,263	10,525	9,108
Evaluation	4,694		4,694	4,770
Other Expenses	2,347		2,347	2,009
Total	25,557	51,513	77,070	65,815