



Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Reference and administration details

Charity name
Other names charity is known by
Registered charity number
Charity's principal address

The Samaritans of Inverness (SCIO)			
SC047836			
67a Tomnahurich Street			
Inverness			
Postcode IV3 5DT			

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person appoint trustee (if any)
1	Allison Wood		
2	Cathy Christie		
3	Keith Walker		
4	Jackie Steele	From 5/7/25	
5	Margo Howatson	From 5/7/25	
6	Hannah Yarr	From 8/12/25	
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Neil Stewart	Resigned 22/12/25
Nicola Carey	Resigned 24/10/25
Margaret Ryles	Resigned 5/7/25
Rachael Thomas	Resigned 8/9/25

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Trustee recruitment and appointment

This report covers the 12-month, period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. We have changed our constitutional structure and from October 2017 are now a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

All of the association's Trustees are appointed or reappointed by the members at our Annual General Meeting which is held in June each year or at an Extraordinary General Meeting if required.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

Our purposes as recorded in our constitution are to be available 24 hours a day to provide confidential, emotional support by telephone, email and face to face for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide.

This report covers the 12-month, period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. We have changed our constitutional structure and from October 2017 are now a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The Inverness branch of Samaritans is one of over 200 branches and locations across UK and Ireland. Over 22,000 volunteers collectively spent over one million hours providing emotional support to people who are going through difficult times, distress, or despair, responding to a call every 10 seconds.

In the past year, every month we averaged 28 Listening Volunteers, collectively answering more than 8,500 calls, over a total of 460 shifts. Before Covid restrictions the Inverness Branch saw the occasional face-to-face support offered, though the restriction on providing this service has been lifted, the management team have decided we will not be offering this in-person service; the conditions required to reinstate this support are onerous and for now, beyond our capacity.

We have increased the number of volunteers in the past year. And consequently, have been able to increase outreach activities and able to reach out to high-risk groups.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

Working in Partnership

As an active participant in the Highland Multi-Agency Suicide Prevention Group, we work with partners from a wide range of public sector and charity partners to raise awareness of suicide prevention and respond to issues associated with it. In particular, we are able to contribute the expertise of Samaritans in working with the media and responding to locations of concern. As co-chair of the Locations of Concern sub-group, we're leading on creation of terms of reference and the action plan for that work.

We supported public events to highlight the issues faced by people bereaved by suicide in Inverness and Fort William, whilst our neighbouring branch in Caithness supported a similar event in Wick.

External Training

We were invited to contribute to the UHI Inverness staff development day with workshops based on our active listening skills. Feedback from these was excellent and we will be joining the college for more workshops in the coming year. We have also continue our support of the Community Planning Partnership's Suicide Intervention and Prevention Programme, delivering courses alongside other partners.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves
Details of any deficit
Donated facilities and services (if any)

The trustees seek to maintain a reserve fund equivalent to at least 6 months trading activity.

Other optional information

Summary of the main activities
in relation to these objects continued

Outreach

We have had a very busy year attending new and old venues to spread awareness of our local branch and the work we do. We have continued to attend the University of the Highlands and Islands on many of their Wellbeing days. Winter stalls in December and January have been held once again in the Eastgate Centre. Monthly Community Coffee Mornings held in the Eastgate have also been a great way of raising awareness of our local branch. Regular monthly dates are now in our diary where we go along to Cafe 1668 and Inverness Foodstuff at Ness Bank Church.

Prison Support

We have maintained contact with HMP Inverness, although there have continued to be changes in prison contacts. Inverness Prison staff are aware of our willingness to provide support when needed. The construction of the new prison premises is underway and we have had an introduction to the new facility. There may be opportunities for the reintroduction of a Listener Service with the move to new premises and a different prison population. We continue to be invited to the Safe Custody meetings and we attend regional meetings on Prison Support.

Recruitment and Training

During 2025/26 Core Training has taken place every 6 months, there has been 8 new Samaritans who successfully completed training in the past year. There is another session planned to start in the autumn. Continuous training is mandatory for all Samaritans and takes place annually.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) & Reasonable Adjustments

The role of the EDI Lead is now fully imbedded in the branch and attends the regular Branch Leadership Team meetings, reporting back updates from the Central Office Branch, E.D.I. Leads network meetings and any other relevant information. Monthly reports are stored with DL meeting minutes.

Publicity

Although expensive, publicity is vital in keeping the public aware of our service. Adverts have been placed on information boards throughout the city centre and at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness Railway Station, and Tourist Information Office. We have sited roadside banners advertising the Samaritan service in various places where there is high footfall such as in industrial sites, as well as football stadiums and Shinty grounds. Samaritan leaflets and posters can be found in a variety of places, such as Multi-storey car park, supermarkets, libraries and sports centres. These are also available in "Food banks" locally and throughout the region.

Fundraising

In the past year fundraising activities raised the sum of £3,363. Some of our volunteers participated in the Great Wilderness Challenge, this raised £1,560. And some volunteers and friends raised the sum of £725 in a Dawn Walk. Coffee mornings were held, collections at supermarkets, railway station and outreach events raised funds. These events are also useful in raising awareness about Samaritans

Treasurer's report

The main items of expenditure relate to the promotion of the service, travel and training expenses and premises costs. The overall cost of the service is modest because of the contribution of our volunteers who put in over 10,000 hours of time at no cost. We have no paid staff. We are grateful for the number of donations received from individuals (including our volunteers), groups, and organisations and where possible these were supplemented by Gift Aid. Also the funds raised by our fundraising events are a welcome source of income. The branch received several grants during the past year totalling £8,500, these were for repair of windows, and for recruitment and training costs of new volunteers, also for outreach activity. The trustees seek to maintain a reserve fund of at least six months trading activity, which we have been able to sustain.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	Full name(s)	Position (e.g. Chair)	Date
	Alison Wood	Trustee	27-6-26
	Margaret Ryles	Treasurer	27-6-26

Section B Statement of balances

Categories		Details		B1 Cash funds			
Unrestricted funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	39,449		Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	Unknown difference	Cash and bank balances at end of year	
	to nearest £			(7,631)		31,818	
Restricted funds	to nearest £			2,924		2,924	
expendable endowment funds	to nearest £					-	
Permanent endowment	to nearest £					-	
Total current period	to nearest £	39,449		(4,707)		34,742	
Total last period	to nearest £						39,449

B2 Investments

[illegible]

B3 Other assets

[illegible]

B4 Liabilities

[illegible]

B5 Contingent liabilities

[illegible]

Signed by one or two trustees
on behalf of all the trustees

Approval	Print Name	Signature
Date of		
27-6-26	ALISON WOOD	M. Fyfe
27-6-26	Margaret Ryles	

Section C Notes to the Accounts

[illegible]

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	x
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If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	X
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Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)

Receipts and payments due accounts

Receipts and payments accounts		Period start date		Period end date	
Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
1	4	2025	31	03	2026
For the period from					

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

Unrestricted funds	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Restricted funds	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Capital expenditure funds	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Permanently endowment funds	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Total funds	current period	current period	current period	period
Total funds last period				

At Receipts -

Donations	4,711						
Grants							
Logistics							
Receipts from fundraising activities	5,959						
Gross trading receipts							
Income from investments other than land and buildings	280						
Priest income							
Gross receipts from other charitable activities							
A1 Sub total	10,950	8,500	-	-	19,450	21,017	

A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales

Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-	-	-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	10,950	8,500	-	19,450	21,017

A3 Payments -

[illegible]

AA Payments relating to asset and investment movements

Purchases of fixed assets							
Purchase of investments							
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	18,581	5,576	-	-	24,157	20,945	72
Net receipts / (payments)	(7,631)	2,924	-	-	(4,707)	-	72
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds					-	-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for year	(7,631)	2,924	-	-	(4,707)	-	72



Independent examiner's report on the accounts									
The Samaritans of Inverness (SCIO)									
Registered charity number									
SC047836									
Report to the trustees/members of									
On the accounts of the									
charity for the period									
Set out on pages									
6 to 8									
(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)									
Period start date									
Period end date									
Day Month Year									
to									
Day Month Year									
26 03 2004									
25 04 2005									
6 to 8									
Independent examiner's statement									
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 (the Act) and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of my examination as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.									
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 whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view'.									
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]									
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: proper accounting records are kept 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 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations									
have not been met, or									
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.									
Signed:									
Stuart McMartin									
B.Sc. FCA									
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body									
Address:									
Frame Kennedy Ltd									
Metropolitan House									
31-33 High Street									
Inverness									
IV1 1HT									

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose

