Charity registration number SC023039 (Scotland)

Company registration number SC390449

BIGHEARTED SCOTLAND

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

BIGHEARTED SCOTLAND

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	David Dunsire	
	Deborah Roe	
	Linzi Donald	
	Gillian McCreadie	
	Caitlin Brown	
	Jason Rose	(Appointed 14 July 2025)
	Andrew Flynn	(Appointed 16 September 2025)
Charity number (Scotland)	SC023039	
Company number	SC390449	
Registered office	Caledonian Exchange 19A Canning Street Edinburgh EH3 8HE	
Independent examiner	Paul Hutchison ACA Azets Audit Services Chartered Accountants Quay 2 139 Fountainbridge Edinburgh EH3 9QG	
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	
Solicitors	Lindsays Caledonian Exchange 19A Canning Street Edinburgh EH3 8HE	

BIGHEARTED SCOTLAND

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 3
Independent examiner's report	4
Statement of financial activities	5
Balance sheet	6
Notes to the financial statements	7 - 11

BIGHEARTED SCOTLAND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, have the pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes, to the financial statements and comply with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)" and “The Financial Reporting Standard in the UK and Republic of Ireland” (“FRS 102”).

Chair’s Report
2025 has been an important year for Bighearted Scotland as we have continued to rebuild and strengthen the Payroll Giving Consortium following the significant challenges of recent years.

Following the PR and promotional campaign undertaken in 2025, our focus throughout 2025 has been on increasing awareness of Bighearted Scotland, attracting new regular payroll givers and gradually rebuilding our income base. Like many charities, our income was significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent Cost-of-Living Crisis, which resulted in a sharp decline in regular giving, especially from our supporters in the retail sector.

As a result, charity payouts during 2025 were necessarily limited as we concentrated on building the bank of regular income available to distribute in future years. However, we are now beginning to see encouraging signs that the work undertaken to relaunch and promote Bighearted Scotland is having an impact, with a number of new donors signing up to give monthly through payroll giving during the year. This provides a stronger foundation from which we can continue to grow income and increase future distributions to our member charities.

A significant development during 2025 was the addition of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland to the Bighearted Scotland Consortium.

Founded in 1780, the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland is Scotland’s oldest heritage charity and learned society. It works to ensure that Scotland’s past is researched, shared, enjoyed and protected by everyone, at home and abroad. Through research, publications, grants, national heritage projects, learning and public engagement, the Society helps people discover and understand Scotland’s history and archaeology, while working to ensure that communities and voices that have traditionally been underrepresented or excluded from Scotland’s heritage are heard, valued and empowered to participate in telling the country’s story.

The Society joins Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Scotland, Epilepsy Scotland, Erskine and OneKind, bringing the Consortium to five member charities and further broadening the range of causes supported through Bighearted Scotland.

Throughout the year, we have also continued to develop our relationship with Give All, providing employees with a straightforward and commission-free route to sign up to payroll giving. Ensuring Bighearted Scotland is well positioned with Payroll Giving Agencies and Organisations remains an important part of our longer-term strategy to increase donor recruitment and restore income towards pre-pandemic levels.

The financial environment remains challenging for charities across Scotland, with organisations continuing to experience increasing costs and growing demand for their work. Payroll giving offers an important opportunity to provide charities with a reliable and sustainable source of unrestricted regular income, and we remain committed to building Bighearted Scotland as a strong and effective vehicle through which employees across Scotland can support a diverse range of Scottish causes.

Finally, 2025 marked my final full year as Chair of Bighearted Scotland. Having served as Chair since 2019, I stepped down from the role, with Linzi Donald of Epilepsy Scotland taking over as Chair in early 2026.

It has been a privilege to Chair Bighearted Scotland and to work alongside colleagues from across our member charities. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Consortium during my time as Chair, and particularly those employees who choose to support our charities through regular payroll giving. Every contribution helps provide our member organisations with valuable, sustainable income and enables them to continue making a difference to people, communities, animals and Scotland's heritage.

Deborah Roe
Chair

Objectives and activities

The purpose of the charity is to provide public benefit in Scotland and elsewhere by enabling the member charities to fundraise together under one umbrella title.

Member charities

Epilepsy Scotland
Erskine
OneKind
Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Scotland
The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (added 25 August 2025)

The main activity of the charity is income generation from payroll giving.

Achievements and performance

A significant investment made in 2025 is now showing promising results, with a noticable increase in donor numbers. However, this growth has also resulted in an increase in outgoing invoice payments, which will take time to stabilise as the investment begins to deliver a sustained return. The result of the income generated in the year to December 2025 has allowed Bighearted to contribute £1,000 (2024 - £2,500) to each of its charity members and support each of the charity's aims.

Financial review

The net deficit for the year is £6,401 (2024 - £2,203). The charity holds reserves, all of which are unrestricted, totalling £3,833 (2024 - £10,234).

Reserves policy

As the charity has no long-term commitments, paid employees and very little day to day running costs, there is no requirement for excessive reserves to be held. The Trustees are of the opinion that a minimum of £5,000 should be held as a reserve, which would be sufficient to cover costs should there be a decision taken to wind down the charity. The Trustees are aware that reserves at the balance sheet date were below this minimum requirement. They are actively taking steps to increase funds and are confident that they will be meeting charity's minimum reserves requirements in due course.

Risk management

The Trustees consider the risks to which the charity is exposed and have taken steps to mitigate those risks. We have worked to minimise costs and currently pay no salaries. The primary objective of Bighearted Scotland is to raise funds for the member charities. If we do not return a profit on fundraising activities then the charities simply receive a smaller disbursal or none at all. At the time of disbursals the trustees are mindful to keep a reasonable sum of income as reserves to meet possible liabilities.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Bighearted Scotland is a company, limited by guarantee, and has obtained permission from the Registrar of Companies to omit the word "limited" from the company name. The company was incorporated on 16 December 2010. Bighearted Scotland has been granted charitable status by H. M. Revenue & Customs and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees who served during the year are as follows:

David Dunsire	
Robert Elliot	(Resigned 14 July 2025)
Deborah Roe	
Linzi Donald	
Gillian McCreadie	
Caitlin Brown	
Jason Rose	(Appointed 14 July 2025)
Andrew Flynn	(Appointed 16 September 2025)

Organisation
A Board of Trustees is solely responsible for the strategic and operational management of the charity. The minimum number of trustees is five and there is no maximum. Each of the member charities nominate a representative from their organisation to stand as a Trustee who has skills, knowledge and experience in the current and future activities of the charity. In addition to member charity representatives and in accordance with the Independent Trustee Appointment Policy, three further independent trustees can be nominated and elected by the board.

Appointment, induction and training of trustees
The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association. Each member is entitled to nominate a Trustee, being an employee or officer of the nominating member. Induction packs are given to the Trustees when appointed and training is provided as and when appropriate.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Deborah Roe

Deborah Roe
Trustee

30 September 2026

BIGHEARTED SCOTLAND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF BIGHEARTED SCOTLAND

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The charity's Trustees, who are also the directors of Bighearted Scotland for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investments (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The 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 financial statements 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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, 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 financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
   (ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations;

   have not been met or

(b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Paul Hutchison

Paul Hutchison ACA
Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants
Quay 2
139 Fountainbridge
Edinburgh
EH3 9QG

Dated: 30 September 2026

BIGHEARTED SCOTLAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	**3**	16,344	18,210
Investments	**4**	146	115
Total income		16,490	18,325
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	**5**	17,891	8,028
Charitable activities	**6**	5,000	12,500
Total expenditure		22,891	20,528
Net movement in funds		(6,401)	(2,203)
Fund balances at 1 January 2025		10,234	12,437
Fund balances at 31 December 2025		3,833	10,234

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

BIGHEARTED SCOTLAND

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		10,117		14,135	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**10**	(6,284)		(3,901)	
Net current assets			3,833		10,234
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds			3,833		10,234
			3,833		10,234

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 30 September 2026

Deborah Roe

Deborah Roe
Trustee

Company registration number SC390449 (Scotland)

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Bighearted Scotland is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland, registration number SC390449.

The address of the charity's registered office is Caledonian Exchange, 19A Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8HE.

The continuing activity of the charity is the provision of public benefit in Scotland and elsewhere by enabling the member charities to fundraise together under one umbrella title.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), FRS 102 "the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland " ("FRS 102"), the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to small companies and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Board of Trustees have taken advantage of the small charities' exemption which removes the requirement for the disclosure of a cash flow statement.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

The charity has reported a deficit for the year but continues to have a positive net current asset position. With the flexibility of the grant giving policy and the increasing post year end cash position Trustees are of the opinion that the charity can continue to meet its obligations as they fall due for the foreseeable future. As a consequence the trustees have prepared the accounts on the going concern basis.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

1.4 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, it is probable that income will be received, and the amount of income can be measured reliably.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacies are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company is entitled to the income, it is probable that income will be received, and the amount of income can be measured reliably.
- Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis when a legal or constructive obligation arises.

- Costs of raising funds include fees to payroll giving recruitment agencies and other administrative costs.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those disbursements made to its beneficiaries.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charitable company but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include professional fees and other governance costs, including those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity’s contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Trustees are of the opinion that there are no significant estimates or judgements that would have a material impact on these financial statements.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	16,284	18,144
Other	60	66
	16,344	18,210

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	146	115

5 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Payroll and other agency costs	1,745	698
Publicity and development	11,852	2,217
Support and governance costs (see note 7)	4,294	5,113
	17,891	8,028

6 Grants payable

	2025	2024
	£	£
Grants to institutions (5 grants):		
Erskine Veterans Charity	1,000	2,500
Epilepsy Scotland	1,000	2,500
OneKind Charity	1,000	2,500
Penumbra Mental Health	-	2,500
SBH Scotland	1,000	2,500
Society of Antiquaries of Scotland	1,000	-
	5,000	12,500

7 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2025	Support costs	Governance costs	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Professional fees	1,380	-	1,380	1,440	-	1,440
Bank charges	60	-	60	60	-	60
Independent examination fees	-	1,230	1,230	-	1,230	1,230
Legal and professional	-	394	394	-	373	373
Annual accounts preparation	-	1,230	1,230	-	2,010	2,010
	1,440	2,854	4,294	1,500	3,613	5,113
Analysed between						
Fundraising	1,440	2,854	4,294	1,500	3,613	5,113

8 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits during the year (2024 - £nil).

9 Employees

There were no employees during the current or prior year.

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,398	-
Accruals and deferred income	4,886	3,901
	6,284	3,901

11 Related party transactions

Contributions to charities totalling £5,000 (2024 - £12,500) in order to assist each of the Member Charity Trustees' own charitable activities were made (see note 6 for further details).