INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

HSTAR SCOTLAND SCIO

ACCOUNTS UP TO 31/10/2025

For: Board of Trustees, HSTAR SCOTLAND SCIO

Introduction & Responsibilities

This report is provided pursuant to the requirements of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. As Independent Examiner, I was appointed to review the accounts for Stirling Aid for the year ended 30/10/2025. The charity's income is below the statutory audit threshold, qualifying it for independent examination in accordance with Scottish charity law and OSCR guidance.

The responsibility for preparing accounts and maintaining proper accounting records rests with the charity's trustees. My responsibility as independent examiner is to review the accounts and supporting documents to determine whether certain statutory requirements have been met.

Examiner's Review Process

- ✓ Reviewing all accounting records provided by EC on behalf of HSTAR SCOTLAND SCIO.
- ✓ Verifying financial entries against original bank statements, invoices, receipts, and other supporting documentation.
- ✓ Regular communication and consultation with trustees to clarify and resolve queries.
- ✓ Application of ethical and professional standards in my capacity as a certified bookkeeper and payroll consultant.

Reflection on Documentation and Evidence Status

I confirm all requested accounting records and supporting documentation were received from HSTAR SCOTLAND SCIO in a timely and complete manner. The information provided enabled a comprehensive review of the financial position and transactions for the year. All records have been thoroughly verified with no outstanding matters or unresolved queries at the conclusion of my examination.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

This independent examination was conducted in line with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and relevant guidance from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). The procedures undertaken are less detailed than those required for an audit and do not constitute an audit opinion. The examination involved review rather than full verification, and assurances are limited to the matters considered in the course of my review.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
    1. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
    2. 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.

This lease provides a solid opportunity for stable, flexible premises at a reasonable cost. The key protections - break clause, service charge cap, and legal review - are in place to manage long-term risk.

Name: Izabela Królikowska

Address: 41 Monteith Avenue, Stirling

Qualifications: HND in Accounting (ACCA)

Post Code: FK7 9BJ

Signature: Izabela Królikowska

Date: 08/02/2026

Independent Examiner's Detailed Review Outcome
HSTAR Scotland SCIO
Financial Year Ended: 31 October 2025
Independent Examiner: Izabela Królikowska

1. Scope of the Independent Examination
I have undertaken the Independent Examination of the financial statements of HSTAR Scotland SCIO for the financial year ended 31 October 2025.

The examination has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), and the applicable provisions of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

My review has included consideration of:
- The Profit and Loss / Statement of Financial Activities
- The Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2025
- Comparative prior-year figures
- Supporting ledgers and tracking summaries
- Fund allocation records
- Year-end accruals and liability recognition
- Governance narrative within the Trustees' Annual Report

2. Accounting framework and preparation standards
The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and align with the presentation and disclosure expectations set out within the Charities SORP framework.

I can confirm that the financial statements:
- Reflect appropriate recognition of income and expenditure within the correct reporting period
- Include year-end adjustments for payroll, statutory liabilities, and other accrued costs
- Demonstrate clear separation and tracking of charitable funds
- Present comparative figures consistent with the prior reporting year
- The structure and format of the accounts are consistent with regulatory expectations for a Scottish charity of this size and nature.

3. Review of financial records and bookkeeping integrity
As part of the examination, I reviewed underlying financial records and reconciliations supporting the year-end position.

I found that financial documentation was maintained to a high standard, with particular strengths noted in the following areas:
- Clear digital bookkeeping structure
- Consistent income categorisation aligned to funding streams
- Detailed grant tracking and allocation schedules
- Transparent audit trail from ledger to financial statements
- Timely bank reconciliations
- Accurate recording of payroll and statutory deductions

The level of recording demonstrates strong internal financial management and reflects careful stewardship of charitable funds.

4. Fund management and restricted income oversight
I reviewed the treatment of restricted and unrestricted funds, including allocation and utilisation.

Records indicate that:

- Restricted funding has been clearly identified and ring-fenced
- Expenditure aligns with funder intent and program delivery
- Tracking mechanisms are in place to support fund reporting
- No material misallocation or fund mixing concerns were identified

This reflects sound grant management practice and compliance with SORP fund accounting principles.

5. Year-end financial position – reasonableness review

The Balance Sheet position as at 31 October 2025 has been assessed for accuracy, completeness, and reasonableness.

Key observations:

- Net assets are fairly stated
- Cash balances reconcile to bank records
- Liabilities reflect routine operational accruals
- No material undisclosed obligations were identified
- Asset values are proportionate and appropriately depreciated where applicable
- The charity's year-end position presents a true and balanced reflection of its financial standing.

6. Comparative consistency with prior year

- Comparative figures from the previous financial year have been reviewed to ensure continuity and reporting consistency.
- No anomalies, restatements, or presentation inconsistencies were identified.
- Financial movements between years are transparently explained through operational activity, funding cycles, and expenditure patterns.

7. Governance and financial oversight environment

In addition to numerical accuracy, I considered the wider financial governance environment.

Evidence reviewed indicates:

- Active Trustee oversight of finances
- Structured financial reporting to the Board
- Budget monitoring practices
- Segregation of duties between governance and financial operations
- Professional financial consultancy support
- This governance structure strengthens financial accountability and reduces risk exposure.

8. Examiner's opinion

Based on the examination undertaken, I can confirm that:

- Proper accounting records have been kept
- The accounts are in agreement with those records
- The financial statements comply with the applicable regulations
- No material matters have come to my attention that would require disclosure or adjustment
- The accounts present a fair, accurate, and transparent view of the charity's financial affairs for the year ended 31 October 2025.

9. Professional acknowledgement

I would like to formally acknowledge the quality of financial preparation undertaken for this reporting period.

The accounts reflect:

- High attention to detail
- Strong recording discipline
- Clear audit trails

- Accurate period allocation
- SORP-aligned presentation

The financial management and grant tracking systems in place provide a robust foundation for both compliance and strategic oversight.

10. Final approval

Having completed the Independent Examination in full, I am satisfied that the financial statements meet the required standards and regulatory expectations.

I therefore approve the accounts for submission and inclusion within the charity's official annual reporting and OSCR filing.

Izabela Królikowska

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Independent Examiner

08/02/2026