Playback Service for the Blind

Scottish Charity No SC001189

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2026

Trustees' Annual Report

For the Year ended 31 March 2026

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the financial statements, for the year 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Reference & Administrative information:

Charity name: Playback Service for the Blind

Charity number: SC001189

Address: 17 Gullane Street, Glasgow G11 6AH

Current Trustees:

Chair	M Cowie
Vice Chair	B West
Trustee	F Maguire

The late Peter Fraser MBE also served as a trustee for part of the year to 31/03/26. Alison Buist served as a trustee during the year.

Structure, Governance, and Management:

Constitution

The charity is an unincorporated organisation. It is governed by its constitution which was adopted on 01/01/1977 and last amended on 0702/2026.

Appointment of Trustees

The Committee, which normally meets at least four times a year, includes the charity's trustees. The Committee members, including the trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting which is normally held in May or June. The Constitution provides for up to 12 Committee members including office-bearers plus three co-opted members and an honorary president.

Management

The Committee, including the trustees, is responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the charity, while the trustees are responsible for its day-to-day management.

Objectives and Activities:

Charitable purpose

The charity's purpose is to relieve blind and partially sighted people, or those labouring under some temporary or permanent incapacity or disability which makes reading a strain, by the provision of audio format material.

Activities

The charity was set up in May 1976 as a way of providing information and news for blind and partially sighted people and for them to exchange news and advice. The charity continues to provide a monthly magazine and four weekly newspapers and magazines.

Achievement and Performance

Almost 1,300 people listen to the magazine, newspapers and magazines via the website. The premises at Bishopbriggs are now empty and the National Library is digitising audio recordings covering around fifty years. During the year the charity's website was overhauled to allow users to listen to recordings directly. All recordings are available through the Talking Newspaper Federation app.

Financial Review

The main sources of funds were a grant of £3,000 from Glasgow City Council's Blindcraft Trust and £1,051 bank interest. The main payments were £2,503 for equipment, £1,377 for equipment repairs and maintenance, and £2,590 for the rent of the Bishopbriggs premises. Total receipts were £4,719, and payments totalled £(9,516), so that the charity's funds decreased by £(4,797) in the year.

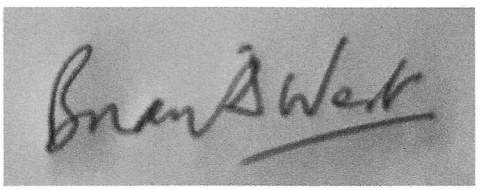
Reserves

The Committee's reserves policy is to maintain free reserves at a level that equates to around one year's unrestricted expenditure. i.e. around £10,000. Current free reserves exceed this figure, which should provide sufficient funds to cover all normal charitable and governance costs and meet any future professional fees for services currently provided by members, such as bookkeeping and accounts.

Plans for the future period

The trustees intend to continue current activities and to develop the service and to support other talking newspaper services.

Approved by the trustees on 28 October 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

Brian West, Vice-chair

Playback Service for the Blind

Receipts and Payments Account
Year ended 31 March 2026

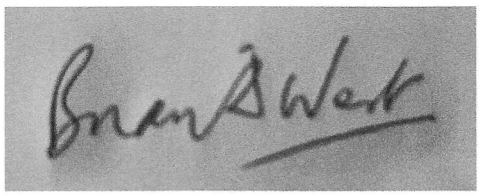
	General Fund	Restricted fund	Year to 31/03/26	Year to 31/03/25
Receipts				
Donations	448		448	2,088
Legacies & bequests	0		0	8,710
Glasgow CC Blindcraft Trust		3,000	3,000	3,000
Interest received	1,051		1,051	1,394
Sundry income	220		220	250
Total receipts	**1,719**	**3,000**	**4,719**	**15,442**
Payments				
Payments for charitable activities				
Subscriptions	494		494	77
Equipment repairs	1,377		1,377	963
Phone & IT	939		939	999
Library	25		25	12
Rent	2,590		2,590	2,500
Volunteers	487		487	248
Equipment additions & operating	0	2,503	2,503	876
Stationery & Postage	80		80	405
Miscellaneous	661		661	1,132
	6,653	**2,503**	**9,156**	**7,362**
Governance				
Independent examiner	**360**		**360**	**360**
Total payments	**7,013**	**2,503**	**9,516**	**7,572**
Deficit/Surplus for Year	**-5,294**	**497**	**-4797**	**7,870**
Transfers	-635	635	0	0
Fund balances at 1 April 2025	104,716	1,868	106,584	98,714
Fund balances at 31 March 2026	**98,787**	**3,000**	**101,787**	**106,584**

Playback Service for the Blind

Statement of Balances
Year ended 31 March 2026

	31 March 2026	31 March 2025
Bank and cash balances		
Cash in hand	100	100
Bank current account	330	78
Deposit account	101,357	106,406
	101,787	**106,584**
Represented by		
General Fund	98,787	104,716
Restricted fund	3,000	1,868
Total cash at bank and in hand	**101,787**	**106,584**
Other Assets (Unrestricted)		
Furniture & equipment	25,000	25,000
Liabilities (Unrestricted)		
Independent examiner	370	360

Approved by the Trustees on 28 October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Brian West, Vice-chair

Playback Service for the Blind
Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2026

1, Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention
The accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Nature and Purpose of Funds
Unrestricted funds are those which may be used at the discretion of the trustees for the furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund. Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes. At the year-end the charity received a grant of £3,000 from Glasgow City Council's Blindcraft Trust, principally for equipment.

Expenditure
The Society had governance costs relating to independent examination of accounts. All other expenditure has been treated as charitable.

2. Trustees

No remuneration was paid to trustees. The charity has no employees.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Playback Service for the Blind

I report on the Accounts of the charity, set out above, and on the Trustees' Report.

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) 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 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 view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination no matters have come to my attention:

1. which give 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 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.



A M Wardrope BAcc, C.A.
33 Third Avenue, Auchinloch, Glasgow G66 5EB

Date: 28th October 2026