

scottishdetaineevisitors

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

January 2025 – December 2025



Scottish Detainee Visitors

Scottish Charity Number: SC033781

Address: c/o Refuweegee, 24 George Square, Glasgow, G2 1EG

Website: sdv.org.uk

Facebook: SDVisitors

Instagram: SDVisitors

Bluesky: [@sdvisitors.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/sdvisitors.bsky.social)

Charity trustees

1. Alice Cockburn (Chair from February 2025)
2. Mary Munro (Interim Chair from to February 2025)
3. Ronnie Tagwireyi (Vice-chair from February 2025)
4. Pauline Libosvar (Treasurer from June 2025)
5. Sarah Craig (Secretary)
6. Nahom Ghebrehiwet
7. Ruth Kirkby
8. Olivia Sykes (from June 2025)

Cover photo credit: Iman Tajik

Chair's report

At its core, SDV's work is focused on humanity. We recognise the value of coming together to build connections and support each other. At a time when immigration is becoming an ever more divisive topic, it is essential we continue this work. Visits by our staff and volunteers to people in Dungavel Immigration Detention Centre are integral to achieving this.

This report shares details and statistics about the support offered to people in Dungavel. It also shares some of the findings from our independent evaluation which gathered feedback and insights from a range of people who encounter SDV and helped us to refine our work. This shows the positive impact of solidarity and company.

The charity's work continues to be delivered by the dedicated team of Kate our Director, and Georgie our Volunteer Coordinator. Thanks to them both for their passion and focus, which are an inspiration.

This work wouldn't be possible without the volunteers who visit Dungavel year-round, come rain or snow. We offer our deepest thanks to them for sharing their time and energy.

To my colleagues on the Board of Trustees, who hold ultimate responsibility for running SDV, thank you for your expertise and commitment. Particular thanks are extended to Mary Munro, our Vice-Chair until February 2025, former Chair and long serving Trustee.

My final thanks go to our funders, individual and organisational. Every donation is so appreciated.

Alice Cockburn, 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.

Over the course of 2025, SDV employed two part time members of staff: director Kate Alexander and volunteer coordinator, Georgia Cottle.

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 also includes policy and advocacy work aimed at bringing about detention reform, and ultimately an end to immigration detention.

Director's report: our activities in 2025

Supporting People in Dungavel

2025 was a year in which immigration became the subject of heated and often toxic debate. An increase in far-right rhetoric and activism was met by an increasingly hardline approach to immigration matters by the UK Government.

This approach included a growing enthusiasm for detention with Campsfield House, which closed in 2018, reopening in December and Haslar (closed in 2015) set to reopen in 2026. At the same time, the number of people entering detention increased by 11 per cent compared to 2024 reaching nearly 23,000.

The number of people entering detention in Dungavel increased by 5 per cent (877 people), continuing the trend of a much busier centre than we had seen before 2024. This figure does not accurately reflect the number of people entering Dungavel as many people are transferred from other centres. The IMB report for 2024 (the latest available) shows that there were over 1,603 arrivals at the centre, with Home Office statistics showing that it was the first place of detention for just 832. This suggests that the numbers of people detained in Dungavel in 2025 may have been well over 1,600.

In 2025, SDV supported 222 people, a little fewer than in 2024 when we supported 231. A possible explanation for this slightly lower figure is that the centre was closed to visitors for three weeks because of an outbreak of measles. Despite this closure, SDV was still able to make 109 visits to Dungavel over the course of the year, providing a regular and unique service to some of the most marginalised and isolated people in the country.

Detention is an overwhelmingly male experience – just 10 per cent of people entering detention in 2025 were women (2,378). Dungavel, which has 12 bedspaces for women, is one of the few places across the UK in which women can be detained, so it is perhaps unsurprising that a higher proportion of people entering detention there were women (13 percent, 113 women).

The difficulties faced by women being detained in a predominantly male centre are well established and have been consistently raised in HMIP inspection reports of Dungavel. Those difficulties are further compounded by the fact that women are escorted by staff everywhere they go in the centre for their safety.

In recognition of these issues, SDV makes a particular effort to see women who are detained in Dungavel. Nevertheless, we saw fewer women in 2025 than in the previous year – 38 (17 per cent) compared to 47 (20 per cent). We will continue our efforts to visit

women, but we are aware that the escorting policy and the fact that the visit room can be very male-dominated makes it more difficult for women to seek our support.

We visited people from 43 countries. The largest groups were from Poland (17 per cent), Romania (11 per cent) and India (8 per cent).

As was the case in 2024, nearly three quarters of the people we visited were seen just once or twice. However, a lower proportion (just one per cent) received over 10 visits than in 2024 (six per cent). This may reflect a quicker turnover in occupancy in Dungavel than in previous years.

Nevertheless, we know long-term detention remains an issue at the centre. One man we visited in 2025 had more than seven months between his first and last visit, and nearly 20 per cent of the people we visited were in Dungavel for at least 28 days. Our visitors develop longer-term supportive relationships with people in these circumstances, and witness their increasing frustration and declining mental health as they cope with prolonged, indefinite detention.

We know, however, that our visits have a positive impact, reducing isolation, making people in detention better informed, and better able to deal with their situation. Here's what some of them have said about being visited by SDV.



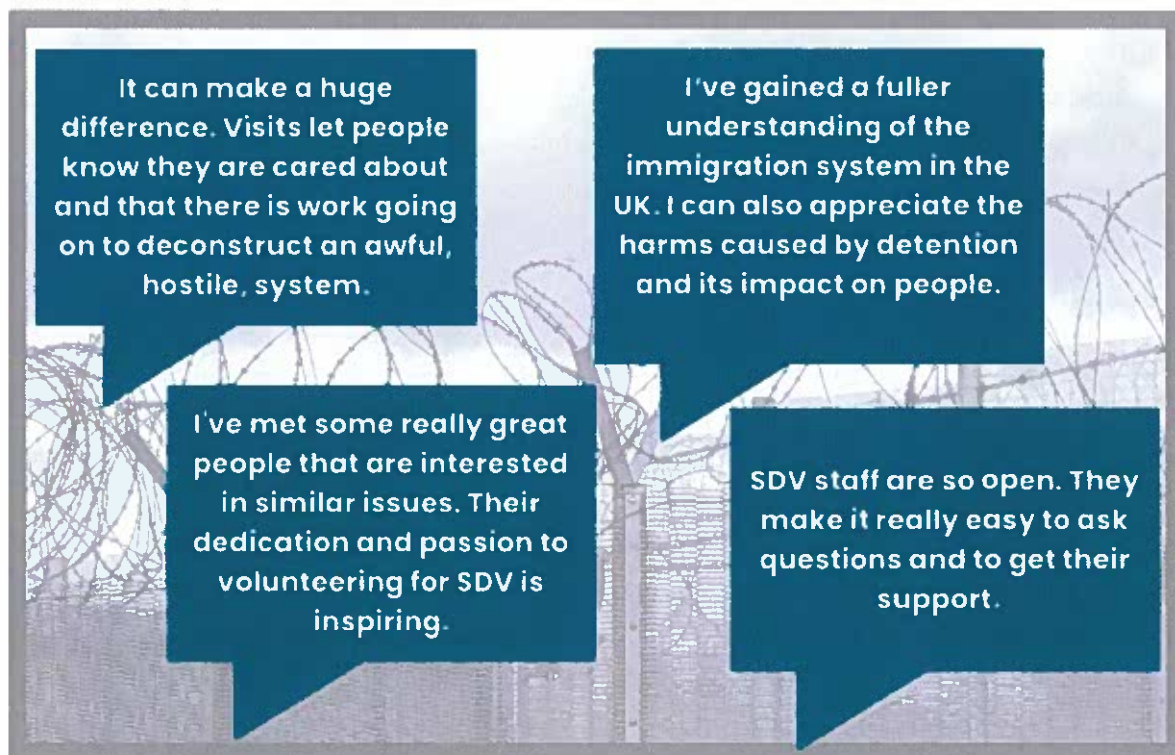
Responding to our independent evaluation

In 2025 we received the report of an independent evaluation of our work and in August SDV's Board and staff met for a facilitated day to consider the report and to review our strategic and operational plans in the light of its findings. The outcomes of the day were a revised strategic plan, which took account of the changing political environment in which we operate, and a reworked operational plan that addressed the recommendations of the report. It is this new operational plan that guides our staff's work and forms the basis of regular reporting to our Board.

Supporting our visitors

SDV could not operate without our brilliant volunteer visitors, who are ably supported in their work by our volunteer coordinator, Georgie. During 2025, we welcomed 13 new visitors, all of whom received initial training in their role and were supported in their first visits by more experienced visitors from our 40 strong team.

Visitors contributed their views to the independent evaluation and we were pleased that their experiences with SDV were largely positive. Their reflections have helped us to make adjustments to the support Georgie provides to them and we hope this results in an even more positive volunteering experience in the future.



Making the case for an end to detention

SDV's policy 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 of detention, and are aware that there are alternatives to it. The political environment remains far less

receptive to arguments about ending detention than it has been in recent years and along with our partners, we struggle to make the case for detention reform to members of parliament and the UK Government. And we know from polling that public attitudes to migration have harshened.

Nevertheless, there are some chinks of light. In October, in partnership with Justice & Peace Scotland and Glasgow Solidarity Stall, we held an event as part of the National Day of Solidarity to End Immigration Detention coordinated by Right to Remain and others. After short contributions from each of the organisations, attendees worked together to write messages of support and solidarity to people in detention, which SDV later distributed to people we were visiting.

All of the organisers were amazed at how many people attended and that we all gained supporters and volunteers from the event. It was a very cheering reminder that there are many people in our communities who want to resist the prevailing narratives about migration, and to end detention and the hostile environment. We continue to work with our partners across the UK to make that case.

Surviving a difficult year

2025 was a difficult year for SDV financially, as it was for other organisations in our sector. Like most small charities, we have to fundraise all the time to ensure our survival and refused funding applications are to be expected. However, by the third quarter of 2025, we were becoming concerned that so few of our applications had been successful and that we were close to having to spend our reserves.

As a consequence, I devoted much of my time in the later part of the year to fundraising, contacting former and current funders for advice and seeking the support of third sector infrastructure organisations. The support of our colleagues at AVID was invaluable during this period. By the end of the year, things were looking less bleak and have continued to improve into 2026.

However, the funding landscape is still difficult. We are aiming to reduce our reliance on charitable trusts and our board is working on our plans to address the risks we may face in the future.

Kate Alexander, Director.

Treasurer's report

Our independently examined accounts for 2025 are on the subsequent pages of this report and they show that we ended the year with a balance of £34,348 to carry forward to 2026. This was higher than expected as Robertson Trust paid us the third payment of

our three year grant at the end of 2025 rather than the beginning of 2026. Overall, 2025 was a challenging year for fundraising and at 2025 year end we had a deficit of £10,315 compared to an £8,959 surplus in 2024.

In 2025 we were fortunate to receive funding from the Robertson Trust with grants totalling £30,000. We received a further £5,000 award from Hillcote Trust, as well as a number of smaller grants from charitable foundations totalling £14,000. We are very grateful to the Trusts and Foundations for supporting SDV's work and mission.

Our expenditure rose slightly in 2025 compared to 2024 reflecting the increased cost of running the organisation, as well as costs incurred through regular visiting and supporting people in Dungavel. Additionally, at the beginning of the year, SDV moved to new premises and some costs were incurred in this transition process.

Whilst fundraising was challenging in 2025, we continue to closely monitor our income and expenditure and regularly submit funding applications. We also continue to receive generous donations from the public and are continuing to focus on this area of fundraising through events and appeals going forward

We thank all our funders and everyone who donated to us in 2025. Their support is very much appreciated.

Pauline Libosvar, Treasurer

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Scottish Detainee Visitors (SCIO)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 as set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent 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. 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 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
- 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 should be drawn, in order to reach a proper understanding of the accounts

Signed:



Michael Burns

Date:

11/06/2026

124 Camphill Avenue, Glasgow, G41 3DU

Scottish Detainee Visitors (SCIO)
Scottish Charity Number SC033781

Receipts and Payments Account
Year Ended 31st December 2025

	Year Ended 31 December 2025		Year Ended 31 December 2024	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<i>Restricted</i>				
Awards for All			20,000	
Conundrum Trust			5,000	
<i>Total restricted receipts</i>		<u>-</u>		<u>25,000</u>
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
Robertson Trust	30,000		16,500	
Hillcote Trust	5,000		5,000	
Awards of £4,000 and under	14,500		9,000	
Donations and fundraising	9,546		9,378	
Gift Aid and other income	5,023		2,958	
Hilden Charitable Fund			7,000	
Allen Lane Foundation			5,000	
<i>Total unrestricted receipts</i>		<u>64,069</u>		<u>54,836</u>
Total receipts		<u>64,069</u>		<u>79,836</u>

	Year Ended 31 December 2025		Year Ended 31 December 2024	
	£	£	£	£
Payments				
<i>Restricted</i>				
Salaries and pensions			(20,000)	
Volunteer travel expenses			(3,609)	
<i>Total restricted payments</i>		<u>-</u>		<u>(23,609)</u>
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
Salaries and pensions	(48,533)		(26,888)	
Support for people in detention	(6,923)		(7,963)	
Volunteer travel expenses	(3,447)			
Staff training and expenses	(731)		(982)	
Board training and expenses	(483)		(430)	
Membership subscriptions	(157)		(290)	
Fundraising, admin and office supplies	(1,908)		(1,571)	
Website and basecamp costs	(1,124)		(984)	
Office rent	(4,083)		(5,000)	
Zoom fees	(391)		(374)	
Professional services	(665)		(495)	
Insurance	(400)		(390)	
Volunteer meetings	(124)		(116)	
Evaluation	(5,415)		(1,785)	
<i>Total unrestricted payments</i>		<u>(74,384)</u>		<u>(47,268)</u>
Total payments		<u><u>(74,384)</u></u>		<u><u>(70,877)</u></u>
Surplus/ Deficit		<u><u>(10,315)</u></u>		<u><u>8,959</u></u>

Scottish Detainee Visitors (SCIO)
Scottish Charity Number SC033781

Statement of Balances as at 31st December 2025

	31/12/25	31/12/24
	£	£
Bank and cash in hand		
Opening balances	44,663	35,704
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(10,315)	8,959
Closing balances	34,348	44,663
Reserves		
General Funds	34,348	44,663
Closing balances	<u>34,348</u>	<u>44,663</u>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

+ Libosvar

Pauline Libosvar .

2 April 2026

