Crown Connects SCIO

Scottish Charity No SC050700

TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

31st March 2026



Crown Connects SCIO

Scottish Charity No SC050700

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026

Trustees:

Rebecca Robertson – Chair

Marion McDonald – Treasurer

Emily Williams

Julia Dall

Laura Barnfield

Contact Address:

c/o SHIMCA, I Ardconnel Terrace, Inverness IV2 3AE

Governing Document

Crown Connects is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated organisation (SCIO) and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in our constitution.

Charitable purposes

Our objectives, as recorded in our constitution are:

(a) The development of environmental, social and economic sustainability initiatives in our community, in and around the Hill and Crown areas of Inverness

(b) The relief of those in need by way of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage; and

(c) Any other purpose that may reasonably be regarded as analogous to any of the preceding purposes.

Activities and Achievements

Introduction

Crown Connects celebrated five years of activity in the summer of 2025, having been established as a COVID support group back in 2020, and registering as a charity in 2021. A volunteer lunch and gathering was held in September to bring our volunteers together, to reflect on all we have achieved to date and to look forward to the years ahead.

Community Cupboard and Fridge

The Crown Community Cupboard and fridge had another successful year – open daily to all to provide free food to the community, which is mostly donated by local businesses. Our team of volunteers collect donations from various supermarkets almost every evening of the year. Other volunteers, including young people from Millburn Academy (three Duke of Edinburgh scheme participants in 2025/26), ensure the cupboard is kept clean and tidy. Donations which can be safely frozen are distributed by SHIMCA to many local families in need. SHIMCA continue to be a key and critical partner in making the Cupboard a continued success – providing the premises for the cupboard, additional storage space and utilities.

Playstreets

Crown Connects continued to support community-led activity throughout the year. Four Play Streets (partial road closure in Charles Street for a few hours on occasional Sunday mornings) were held during the year and continue to be very popular with children and families, bringing neighbours together and strengthening community connections. The associated group chat has also developed into a wider community space where residents regularly share information and support one another.

Local Place Plan

Work on the Local Place Plan continued, with the community survey developed from the extensive face-to-face engagement undertaken the previous year and redesigned several times to reflect the changing local context, particularly around short-term lets. Work is ongoing and we hope to submit a completed plan in the coming year.

Gritting Gang

The Gritting Gang operated successfully again, with thankfully only one significant spell of poor weather; although refilling grit bins remains challenging, communication and response from the Council improved.

Conclusion

Thanks to the team of volunteers who contribute to all of the above projects and to our key project partner, SHIMCA, for hosting the community cupboard in particular. Thanks also to our funders – particularly the core costs provided by Baillie Gifford via Foundation Scotland which have allowed us to deliver our core activities for the past two and a half years, with six months core funding remaining. This has covered ongoing costs such as insurance and website hosting, and also allowed us to offer travel expenses to volunteers who are regularly picking up food donations, and has made a huge difference to the sustainability of our operations.

Trustee remuneration and expenses

The trustees did not receive any remuneration or expenses during the year. Some trustees have had costs reimbursed for transactions made on behalf of Crown Connects.

Reserves

Our core running costs amount to around £2,000 per year (volunteer expenses, insurance, website etc) and our aim would be to have at least one year of running costs in reserve in order to sustain our activity, especially running the community cupboard.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf



Marion McDonald Treasurer

Crown Connects SCIO

Scottish Charity No SC050700

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31st March 2026

	2026	2025
Opening Balance	**£ 5,284.24**	**£ 3,834.42**
Receipts		
Grants - Baillie Gifford*	£ 2,205.00	£ 2,851.28
Total	**£ 2,205.00**	**£ 2,851.28**
Payments		
Charitable Activities	£ 555.83	£ 200.00
Core Costs (website, insurance etc)	£ 727.88	£ 700.66
Volunteer Expenses	£ 915.57	£ 500.80
Total	**£ 2,199.28**	**£ 1,401.46**
Surplus/deficit	£ 5.72	£ 1,449.82

*The grant funding in 2026 was provided by Foundation Scotland and was the final year of a three-year award from Baillie Gifford towards core running costs and community events

Crown Connects SCIO

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Statement of Balances as at 31st March 2026

Statement of Balances

Opening balance	£ 5,284.24
Surplus/deficit	£ 5.72
Closing balance	£ 5,289.96

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf



M McDonald

Treasurer

Crown Connects SCIO

Scottish Charity No SC050700

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Crown Connects SCIO, Scottish Charity No SC050700, Year Ended 31st March 2026

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2026 which are set out above.

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 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 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 2006 Accounts 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

1. 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

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Adam Dewar

Suite Ra01 195-197 Wood Street, London, England, E17 3NU

07/10/2026