APPENDIX 1

OSCR
Scottish Charity Regulator

Office of the Scottish **Charity Regulator**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	04	2025	To	31	03	26

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Borders Talking Newspapers
Other names charity is known by	BTN
Registered charity number	**SC020192**
Charity's principal address	3 Golden Square
	Duns
	Postcode TD11 3AW

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Alasdair Hutton	Convener		
2	Matilda Hall	Vice Convener		
3	Fiona Grieve	Treasurer	24/8/25-31/3/26	
4	Deborah Stokes	Secretary		
5	Clova Reid			
6	Stephen Smith		1/4 - 17/9/25	
7	John Payne			
8	Birthe Dennys	Listeners' Rep	1/4/25 – 31/12/25	
9	Margaret Aitken	Treasurer	1/4/25 – 23/8/25	
10	Paul Starkey		18/6/25 – 31/3/26	
11	James Neville Dundas		17/9/25-31/3/26	
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Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Borders Talking Newspaper (BTN) is a SCIO constituted charity since November 2014

Trustee recruitment and appointment

BTN is managed by a Board of Trustees who appoint a Convener, Secretary and Treasurer. There is a maximum of 12 Trustees including the office bearers, a representative of any branch and at least one listener's representative. The Board may also make temporary appointments from its members (all listeners and volunteers) as office bearers to serve on sub committees or to give advice. These members are entitled to contribute to meetings but are not trustees and do not have voting rights.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The object of the BTN is to relieve the blind and/or partially sighted or those under some temporary or permanent incapacity or disability which makes reading a strain by providing audio recorded material and to do all other things, whether alone or in conjunction with other charitable organisations or institutions, to promote or further these objects.
BTN operates principally in the Scottish Borders region

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

BTN continues to produce weekly recordings of local news which are sent to our listeners free of charge. Included in these recordings are notices of importance from such as RNIB and Social Care Alliance Scotland.

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Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

The charity has continued to provide the weekly readings of five local newspapers for visually impaired listeners. We also regularly add a wide variety of magazine-style items ranging from extracts from archived material from past editions of BTN to quizzes and up to date information on developments in the services for visually impaired people.
After much research, we sourced a new supplier for our players and so far the feedback has been good.
We are maintaining an average of about 200 individuals on our database who use our players and memory sticks. Listeners can also access our material through our website or by App using mobile phones, iPads and smart speakers although at this point there is no data that we can access showing the numbers using these methods.
We are constantly looking to the future and are mindful that the way news is conveyed is going through a period of great change and that we must keep ahead of the game on behalf of our listeners.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

General reserves – the Trustees agreed that it was important to keep sufficient reserves to ensure services can be provided where income receipts can be compromised over a period of time, as has been clearly demonstrated by our recent experience with Covid 19. At 31 March 2025 the charity held unrestricted funds of £18,846 (2025 - £13,536) representing about 8 months' of running costs (2025 – 7 months) plus £18,000 designated for use should the charity need to be wound up. We had previously reserved a further £4,000 in case we had to move premises however our lease has been confirmed with new owners therefore it has been moved back to unrestricted funds (2024 - £22,000).
This year we managed to make a small surplus of £535 following a deficit of £3,007 in 2025. We were able to increase donations and grants leading to an increase in income of 31%. Costs increased by just over 13% mainly due to normal inflation costs and the purchase of new players.

Donated facilities and services (if any)

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Other optional information

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) *OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures*		FKGrieve
Full name(s)	Alasdair Hutton	Fiona Grieve
Position (e.g. Chair)	Convener	Trustee
Date	02.06.26	02.06.26