

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Party Officers

Registered officers under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendum Act 2000 ("PPERA")

Leader	John Swinney	(from 6 May 2024)
Treasurer	Stuart Campbell McDonald	(from 22 April 2023)
Nominating Officer & Campaigns Officer	Scott Martin	(from 26 March 2023)

Party Headquarters
Gordon Lamb House
3 Jackson's Entry
Edinburgh
EH8 8PJ

Auditor
AMS Accountants Corporate Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Floor 2
9 Portland Street
Manchester
M1 3BE

Bankers
The Royal Bank of Scotland



SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

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SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ABOUT THE SNP

The Scottish National Party, committed to restoring Scottish Independence, was founded in 1934.

It has led the Scottish Government since 2007.

The aims of the Party are independence for Scotland and the furtherance of all Scottish interests.

The Party is primarily funded from voluntary contributions, with the active support of a network of almost 65,000 members and supported by many others. It is hugely dependent on the activities of the members in nearly 300 local organisations.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023

These financial statements are for the central organisation of the Party ('SNP HQ') for 2023.

The accounts disclose a surplus of £661,568 during 2023, compared to a deficit of £804,278 in 2022. As a result the balance sheet has also changed significantly, instead of net liabilities of £219,829 at the end of 2022, the balance sheet at the end of 2023 shows net assets of £441,939.

While this improved position is welcome, there are important caveats attached to these positive figures.

During the year there were two branch levies implemented, totalling £670,000: one to fund the Rutherglen and Hamilton West by-election; another more significant levy to ensure the party was well-placed for the next UK general election campaign. This latter levy saw the amounts showing as due to branches significantly reduced.

In addition, the accounts reflect notification of legacies of £274,408. While this is far from unusual, it should also be borne in mind that while this income is recognised in the 2023 accounts, it has not actually yet been received. Indeed, there remain significant outstanding sums from legacies notified in previous years, making up the large majority of the £557,137 accrued income showing as current assets.

As reported last year, the opening months of 2023 brought significant changes, witnessing the resignation of Nicola Sturgeon as the longest serving First Minister and our party leader, and the election of Humza Yousaf in her place. In June the party held a successful independence convention, the first of a number of events considering the route to independence for Scotland, and which culminated in our annual conference in Aberdeen in October. 2023 also saw the return of National Council, another platform for members to make policy decisions and to hold office-bearers to account.

A leadership election and these additional events of course incur costs, reflected in these accounts. On the other hand, the party enjoyed a successful annual conference in Aberdeen which generated a surplus.

2024 is also proving to be a year of change for the party with John Swinney being announced as the successor to Humza Yousaf on 6th May 2024, and elected as First Minister by the Scottish Parliament a day later. At the time of writing, the 2024 general election is well underway.

The SNP remains a party whose most significant source of income is our members and supporters – and this is always reflected in our accounts. We are grateful for every member and supporter for their contributions without which the party could not make the case for Scottish Independence.

The number of members as of 1st June 2024 was 64,525.

Our membership has fallen from recent historic highs. In addition, our members continue to face the same cost of living pressures as everybody else. This impacts not only on membership income, but on donations and fundraising income too.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Party continues to seek to pre-empt cancellations by offering membership payment options such as skip, holiday or reduced giving. At all levels we need to redouble our efforts to recruit new members from the many supporters we identify every week.

Legacies continue to provide important funds – with 2016 being the last year the party received less than £100,000 from this source of funding. Again, we are grateful to our supporters for these incredibly generous legacies, which totalled £274,408 in 2023.

The remainder of this report details the party's current constitutional arrangement which remain in the process of reform, in consultation with members. The report cannot and does not comment on any matters subject to ongoing police investigation.

The SNP has 276 accounting units. The treasurer of these accounting units is separately responsible for maintaining accounting records and producing a statement of account. Accounting units of the party with a gross income or total expenditure exceeding £25,000 in any financial year separately submit their statements of account to the Electoral Commission.

Organisational Structures

The Scottish National Party adopted a revised constitution in October 2018 to reform structures to accommodate the needs of a much larger membership and to better reflect the diversity of the people of Scotland.

A Governance and Transparency Review Group was set up in April 2023 to review party governance, building on previous work. It reported in autumn of 2023, with steps to implement the recommendations being taken forward by an Implementation Group, under the auspices of the National Executive Committee, with the final decisions in the hands of members.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

The SNP organises at a local level around Scottish Parliament constituency boundaries.

Each constituency has either a Constituency Association and a network of Branches or is formed into a single Constituency Branch. Constituency Associations tend to exist in larger geographical areas where there is a need for more than one branch within the boundary.

Branches form the organisational building block of the Scottish National Party. Each branch has office bearers who are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Constituency Associations coordinate campaigning and other organisational tasks across the Scottish Parliament constituency. Branches elect delegates to the Constituency Association and may be levied to cover operational costs.

NATIONAL GOVERNANCE

National Office Bearers

The Leader sets the political direction of the Party, leads election and other campaigns, approves manifestos for parliamentary elections and articulates the argument for an Independent Scotland.

The Depute Leader is next in seniority to the Leader and is responsible for directing the Party's policy-making processes and for the preparation of manifestos for parliamentary elections.

Both the Leader and the Depute Leader are elected by all SNP members when a vacancy arises, or in the run-up to Annual National Conference.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Business Convener is nominated by the Leader, with the nomination being approved annually by the NEC. They are responsible for overseeing the operation of the Party as well as chairing the NEC, National Council and National Conference.

The National Office Bearers elected by delegates at National Conference are—

- **President**
An honorary position in the Party, elected in recognition of distinguished service to the Party.
- **National Treasurer**
Ensures the sound management of the Party's finances and reports to the NEC and National Conference. Provides guidance and directions to accounting unit treasurers. Has responsibilities as the registered treasurer of the Party under PPERA.
- **National Secretary**
Acts as guardian of the Constitution of the Party and is responsible for reporting cases of breaches of the Code of Conduct to the Member Conduct Committee.
- **Organisation Convener**
Improves the Party's organisational activity, develops training and ensures organisational preparedness for election campaigns.
- **Local Government Convener**
Supports the work of SNP Council Groups, coordinates the role of SNP delegates to COSLA and, with the National Secretary, deals with any disputes within Council Groups.
- **Policy Development Convener**
Co-convenes, with the Deputy Leader, the Policy Development Committee.
- **Member Support Convener**
Supports local office bearers and members in their work.
- **Women's Convener**
Responsible for bringing together the Women's Forum.
- **Equalities Convener**
Responsible for the Party's Equality Strategy and bringing together the National Equalities Forum.
- **BAME Convener**
Ensures the Party fully represents the BAME communities and BAME issues.
- **Disabled Members' Convener**
Advocates on issues which affect disabled people and ensures the Party makes adjustments to its processes for its disabled members.

National Executive Committee

The SNP's leadership is vested in the National Executive Committee (NEC).

The Membership of NEC consists of—

- the National Office Bearers,
- two ordinary members who are parliamentarians,
- sixteen regional members who are not parliamentarians,
- a member representing each of the Party's parliamentary groups,
- a member representing the Association of Nationalist Councillors; and
- a member representing each Affiliated Organisation.

There are two regional members elected from each of the eight Scottish Parliament regions to ensure gender balance.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The NEC meets monthly and is charged with devising the SNP's national political strategy to help to deliver the Party's aims. It oversees the organisation and administration of the Party.

NEC members report to National Conference and members other than Ordinary and Regional Members are open to question by delegates.

The Chief Executive, the Chief Operating Officer, the Corporate Governance and Compliance Manager and the Solicitor to the SNP attend meetings of the National Executive Committee but do not vote.

NATIONAL POLICY STRUCTURES

National Conference

This is the supreme governing and policymaking body of the SNP, which holds the NEC to account. It elects the Party's National Office Bearers and the NEC, Member Conduct Committee, Conduct Appeal Committee, Conferences Committee and Policy Development Committee.

National Conference is attended by around 5,000 delegates, observers, diplomats, and media. Conference is a delegate body, comprising representatives from Branches, Constituency Branches and Constituency Associations, MPs, MSPs, councillors and delegates from affiliated organisations.

Any member of the Party can attend National Conference, but only delegates can speak and vote.

National Council

This was re-established after a resolution was passed at Annual National Conference 2022 and met both in August 2023 and March 2024.

Parliamentarians, councillors and members of the NEC, Conferences Committee and the Policy Development Committee can attend and vote at National Council as of right. There are eight delegates from each Constituency Branch and two from each Constituency Association and branch. Affiliated organisations can send six delegates.

National Council has policy-making, governing and scrutiny responsibilities between meetings of National Conference.

Conference Committee

This committee sets the agenda for National Council and National Conference. It is convened by the National Secretary and comprises the Depute Leader, the Policy Development Convener, two members elected by NEC and ten members elected on a gender-balanced basis by Annual National Conference.

National Assembly

National Assembly is a forum for members of the Party to exchange ideas for attaining the aims of the Party and debate policy at an early formation stage. It agrees draft resolutions and policy statements for consideration by the Policy Development Committee. Any member of the Party is entitled to attend National Assembly. National Assembly also provides an opportunity for training.

Policy Development Committee

The Policy Development Committee has sixteen representatives elected by National Conference on a regional gender balanced basis and one representative elected by branches outwith Scotland.

It is tasked with promoting discussion on Party policy at all levels of the Party. It develops policy ideas from National Assembly with a view to having them debated by National Conference. It identified areas where Party policies could be updated.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

OTHER COMMITTEES AND PANELS

Election Committees

Assist national campaign directors, the Organisation Convener, and the Party Leadership in directing and organising election campaigns.

Westminster Campaign Committees

Supports the work of the election agent at Westminster elections.

Council Campaign Committees

Responsible for co-ordinating the Party's electoral activities at council elections and producing a manifesto.

Election Committees

Assist national campaign directors, the Organisation Convener, and the Party Leadership in directing and organising election campaigns.

Candidate Assessment Committee

Responsible for the approval of parliamentary and local government candidates.

Candidate Appeals Panel

Hears appeals from decisions of the Candidate Assessment Committee.

Finance and Audit Committee

Provides expert advice to the National Treasurer on the Party's finances and systems.

Member Conduct Committee

Considers complaints of breaches of the Member's Code of Conduct.

Conduct Appeals Committee

Hears appeals from decisions of the Member Conduct Committee.

Sexual Harassment Panel

Investigates complaints of sexual harassment against members.

Bullying and Harassment Panel

Investigates complaints of bullying and harassment against members.

Readmissions Committee

Interviews members seeking to rejoin the Party who previously publicly resigned.

Disputes Committee

Formed when necessary to make recommendations regarding internal difficulties.

STAFF

The average number of employees during 2023 was 27.

Our Chief Executive, Murray Foote, was appointed on 23/08/2023, commencing work on 28/08/2023 on a salary of £95,000.

Our team of employees play a critical role in supporting our members and volunteers and work across a range of disciplines, including campaigns, training, fundraising, events, social media, finance, legal, media, IT, research and human resources. As Treasurer, I am acutely aware of the hugely significant contribution they make to our party, and I am immensely grateful for it.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

PUBLICLY ELECTED MEMBERS

The Scottish National Party fields candidates in elections to Scottish local authorities, the Scottish Parliament, and the House of Commons.

The SNP holds 63 of the 129 seats in the Scottish Parliament and 43 out of the 59 Scottish seats in the UK Parliament.

Information on all our parliamentarians is available on the SNP website.

SNP Members of the Scottish Parliament and the UK Parliament meet as Parliamentary Groups. The UK Parliament Group is also an accounting unit of the Party.

The SNP is also the largest Party in Scottish local government, with 417 seats. For the first time in its history, the President of COSLA is also an SNP councillor.

Councillors who are SNP members meet as SNP Groups in each of the local authorities in Scotland where the SNP is represented.

Every SNP member who is a member of the SNP group of a Scottish local authority is also a member of the Association of SNP Councillors.

The Association of SNP Councillors acts as a forum for SNP councillors to exchange best practices across council groups. It puts forward a collective view on council issues to SNP national bodies and co-ordinates the work of SNP councillors in achieving the Party's aims.

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

These are autonomous groups representing sectoral interests. Each group has one representative on the National Executive Committee (NEC) and can send delegates to National Conference and National Council. Affiliate organisations have access to grant funding to help develop new projects, campaigns or events each year.

The affiliated organisations are as follows:

BAME Members Network

A network within the SNP for Black and Minority Ethnic members.

Disabled Members Group

A group to represent disabled members throughout the SNP.

Federation of Student Nationalists (FSN)

The student wing of the SNP, which is active in most colleges and universities throughout Scotland. The FSN is open to anyone in full-time or part-time education.

Out for Independence

The LGBTQ+ group within the SNP which promotes a fair and independent Scotland, where all rights are respected.

Scots Asians for Independence (SAFI)

A group of Scots Asians who promote the cause of an independent Scotland in the Scots Asian community and beyond.

The Trade Union Group (TUG)

The Trade Union Group has a dual role – to promote the role of trade unions within the SNP and to promote the aims and objectives of the SNP in the wider trade union movement.

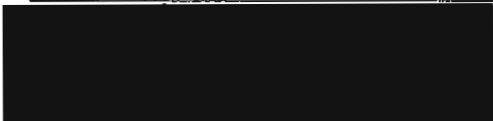
Young Scots for Independence (YSI)

The youth wing of the Scottish National Party. Membership is open to all between the ages of 14 years and 29 years and focuses its activity on issues affecting young people.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



Stuart Campbell McDonald
National Treasurer

Date: 30/06/2024

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

STATEMENT OF NATIONAL TREASURER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 requires the National Treasurer as the Registered Treasurer of the Party to prepare financial statements for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Party and of the surplus or deficit of that period. In preparing these financial statements, the treasurer is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed;
- provide details and explanations of any departures in the financial statements; and
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Party will continue in business.

Section 41 of the Act requires that the Registered Treasurer is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time the financial position of the Party at that time and to enable him to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Act.

Section 43 of the Act requires that the Registered Treasurer is responsible for the delivery of the statement of the account to the Electoral Commission by the required deadline.

The Registered Treasurer is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Party and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Registered Treasurer has taken all steps he ought to have taken to make himself aware of any information required by the auditor for the purpose of their audit and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information. The Registered Treasurer is not aware of any relevant information of which the auditor is unaware.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE NATIONAL TREASURER OF SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

Qualified opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Scottish National Party (the 'Party') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Income and Expenditure account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Scottish National Party as at 31 December 2023 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

Basis for qualified opinion

During the course of our audit we identified that original documentation in respect to some items of cash and cheques received, relating to membership, donations and raffle income were not kept by the Party prior to July 2023.

We have been unable to satisfy ourselves by alternative means regarding the completeness of income for the current and prior year in respect of the above limitation in scope. Consequently, we are unable to determine whether any adjustment to income is necessary in the current year or prior year and the potential impact on opening reserves accordingly.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Scottish National Party in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the National Treasurer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Party's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the National Treasurer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Key Audit Matter

Except for the matter described in the basis for qualified opinion section, we have determined that there are no key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE NATIONAL TREASURER OF SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the National Treasurer's report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The National Treasurer is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

As described in the basis for qualified opinion section of our report, we identified a limitation in scope to our audit work in relation to cash and cheque income for the current and prior year and the corresponding impact on opening reserves.

We have concluded that where the other information refers to income, opening reserves or related balance sheet items, it may be materially misstated for the same reason.

Responsibilities of National Treasurer

As explained more fully in the statement of National Treasurer's responsibilities statement set out on page 8, the national treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the national treasurer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the National Treasurer is responsible for assessing the Party's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the national treasurer either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

All engagement team members were briefed on relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks at the planning stage of the audit. Engagement team members were reminded to remain alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

We obtained an understanding of the legal regulatory framework that are applicable to the Party focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE NATIONAL TREASURER OF SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

The relevant frameworks we identified include :

- FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"
- Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000
- General Data Protection Regulation
- VAT Legislation

We gained an understanding of how the party is complying with these laws and regulations by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance. We corroborated these enquiries through our review of submitted returns and of National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting minutes.

We assessed the susceptibility of the party's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by meeting with management and those charged with governance to understand where it was considered there was susceptibility to fraud. This evaluation also considered how management and those charged with governance were remunerated and whether this provided an incentive for fraudulent activity. We considered the overall control environment and how management and those charged with governance oversee the implementation and operation of controls. In areas of the financial statements where the risks were considered to be higher, we performed procedures to address each identified risk. As a result of performing these procedures we have assessed the following areas as a heightened risk of fraud; related party transactions and manual journal entries.

The following procedures were performed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free of material fraud or error :

- Enquiring of management and reviewing NEC minutes for any references to breaches in laws or regulations or indications of any potential litigation or claims.
- Performing audit work procedures over the risk of management override of controls, include testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of related party transactions and significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing judgements made by management in their calculation of accounting estimates for potential management bias.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to the risk of material misstatements in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the National Treasurer of the Scottish National Party in accordance with the Party's rules and section 43 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the National Treasurer those matters we are required to state to him in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the National Treasurer for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.


for and on behalf of A&S Accountants Corporate Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

30/6/24
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Floor 2
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M1 3BE

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Income			
Membership	2	2,093,967	2,286,944
Donations	3	369,308	368,538
Fundraising income	4	316,828	384,984
Investment income	5	8,007	8,896
Conference income		549,692	515,951
Commercial income		-	6,723
Grant income	6	145,234	154,578
Miscellaneous	7	1,270,476	522,011
Total income		4,753,512	4,248,625
Expenditure			
Premises costs	8	(68,233)	(75,741)
Office costs	9	(508,770)	(582,897)
Staff costs	10	(1,335,205)	(1,349,503)
Transfers out	11	(522,788)	(575,389)
Campaigning costs		(243,512)	(760,134)
Fundraising costs	12	(241,450)	(247,850)
Conference costs	13	(459,670)	(569,853)
Financing/Interest charges	14	(69,526)	(73,413)
Depreciation/amortisation	19&20	(188,783)	(222,254)
Membership expenses	15	(11,456)	(10,328)
Irrecoverable VAT	16	(153,113)	(308,267)
Miscellaneous	17	(288,713)	(276,655)
Total expenditure		(4,091,219)	(5,052,284)
Surplus/(Deficit) before tax		662,293	(803,659)
Taxation	18	(725)	(619)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		661,568	(804,278)

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	19		101,090		150,355
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	20		207,642		298,849
Office & computer equipment	20		94,179		132,800
Motor vehicles	20		51,605		64,506
Investments	21		479		478
			<u>454,995</u>		<u>646,989</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	22	666,084		393,727	
Cash at bank and in hand		42,448		46,039	
			<u>708,532</u>		<u>439,766</u>
Current liabilities					
Creditors and accruals	23	(640,436)		(1,235,622)	
Loans outstanding	24	(81,152)		(70,762)	
Total current liabilities		<u>(721,588)</u>		<u>(1,306,384)</u>	
Net current liabilities			<u>(13,056)</u>		<u>(866,618)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>441,939</u>		<u>(219,629)</u>
Reserves					
Accumulated fund at start of year			(219,629)		584,649
Surplus/(Deficit)			661,568		(804,278)
Accumulated fund at end of year	25		<u>441,939</u>		<u>(219,629)</u>

The financial statements were approved by the National Executive Committee on 30th June 2024 and signed by the National Treasurer on 30th June 2024.

Stuart Campbell McDonald
National Treasurer

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash absorbed by operations	29		(411)		(92,710)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(10,568)		(12,895)	
Income taxes paid		(619)		(2,227)	
Investment income received		8,007		8,896	
Net cash used in investing activities			(3,180)		(6,226)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(3,591)		(98,936)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			46,039		144,975
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>42,448</u>		<u>46,039</u>

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

1.1 General information and basis of preparation

The Scottish National Party is not incorporated in law and thus not bound by the Companies Act 2006. The Party is a Political Party and is required to prepare financial statements in accordance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendum Act 2000 ("PPERA"). The address of the registered office of the Party is Gordon Lamb House, 3 Jackson's Entry, Edinburgh, EH8 8PJ.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standard including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102). The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are in accordance with the guidance issued by the Electoral Commission. The disclosure requirements of section 1A of FRS102 have been applied other than where additional disclosure is required by the guidance issued by the Electoral Commission or is required to show a true and fair view.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the Party and rounded to the nearest £.

As stated in the Annual Review, the Party has 276 registered accounting units. Details of these units are available from the Electoral Commission. These accounts are unconsolidated and present the accounts of the central Party only.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Going concern

The Party has reported net current liabilities at 31 December 2023, principally due to the level of accrued branch dividends at that date (£349,647). As illustrated by the movement in this balance disclosed at note 28(b), the level of cash outflow in this respect in a year is typically modest in comparison to the scale of the balance, and while under the Party's constitution, these amounts are on-demand liabilities, in practice branches will not draw on this accrual to any extent that may be to the detriment of the Party's ability to meet its obligations as they fall due.

The Party is also able under its constitution to suspend drawdowns on the branch dividends and levy additional funds from the branches to the Party and this would further support the cash flow position of the Party.

The National Treasurer has prepared detailed income and expenditure budgets and cash flow projections for the Party for the period to 31 December 2025 and is satisfied based on these projections that the Party will have sufficient funds for it to meet its financial obligations. On this basis, the National Treasurer is satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on the going concern basis.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.3 Income

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable net of VAT and trade discounts.

Income is recognised when all of the following conditions have been met:

- The Party is entitled to the income;
- It is probable that the income will be received; and
- The value of the income can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Applying these criteria to specific types of income results in the following treatment:

- Donations of monetary assets and liquid investments are recognised at market value in the income and expenditure account on receipt.
- Grants are recognised in the income and expenditure account when the conditions for receipt have been met.
- Membership and subscription fees are recognised in the income and expenditure account when received.
- Legacies from benefactors who died prior to the year end are only recognised if, prior to finalising the accounts, the personal representatives of the deceased have notified the party of the legacy, there are no significant matters outstanding and the amounts due have been confirmed.
- Interest receivable is recognised in the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.
- Dividend income is recognised as the Party's right to receive payment is established.

1.4 Intangible fixed assets other than goodwill

Intangible assets acquired separately from a business are recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Software licence fees are recognised as intangible assets when it is probable the software will be used to generate future economic benefits.

Amortisation is charged so as to allocate the cost of intangibles less their residual values over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method. The intangible assets are amortised over the following useful lives:

Software licence	8-9 years
Software development	4 years

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets at the following annual rates:

Fixtures and fittings	33.33% reducing balance
Computer equipment	33.33% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	20% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the profit and loss account.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at fair value as assessed by the Party's officer at the year end. Where assets have been donated or bequeathed to the Party, market value at the point of acquisition is taken as deemed cost at that time.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

The need for any fixed asset impairment write down is assessed by comparison of the carrying value of the asset against the higher of its realisable value and value in use.

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Leased assets

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible or intangible assets and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payments is charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis.

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.10 Basic financial assets

The Party has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial Instruments are recognised in the Party's balance sheet when the Party becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amounts presented in the financial instruments when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1.11 Taxation

Current tax represents the amount of tax payable or receivable in respect of the taxable profit (or loss) for the current or past reporting periods. It is measured at the amount expected to be paid or recovered using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

1.12 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Party has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

1.13 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Party is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.14 Pension costs

Contributions to the Party's defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the income and expenditure account in the year in which they become payable.

1.15 Value added tax (including irrecoverable VAT)

Conference income has been deemed a taxable supply, as opposed to the majority of the Party's other income streams. The Party's partial exempt status means that a portion of VAT on costs is not recoverable and therefore charged as an expense.

1.16 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the income and expenditure account.

1.17 Loans and borrowings

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value.

2 Membership subscriptions

	2023	2022
	£	£
Membership fees received directly by the Party	2,093,967	2,286,944
	<u>2,093,967</u>	<u>2,286,944</u>

Membership subscriptions from members are received by the central party and a proportion of these subscriptions are allocated to local branches (see note 11).

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3 Donations	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	369,308	368,538
Total	<u>369,308</u>	<u>368,538</u>

Donations to the Electoral Commission are recorded under different categories in the accounts due to the nature and circumstances in which they are received.

The total value of donations reports to the Electoral Commission during 2023 was £209,907 (2022 - £537,807).

The figures of £209,907 reported to the Electoral Commission differs from the donations figure above as it includes amounts reported as legacy income (with miscellaneous income) and grant income in the financial statements.

The donations figure of £369,308 include amounts below the reporting threshold of £7,500; and amount reported to the Electoral Commission are reported on a cash basis rather than the accruals basis for accounting.

4 Fundraising	2023	2022
	£	£
Independence Magazine	79,935	84,759
St Andrews Day Dinner	42,259	59,438
Raffles	184,634	240,787
Total	<u>316,828</u>	<u>384,984</u>

5 Investment income	2023	2022
	£	£
Investment income	8,007	8,896
Total	<u>8,007</u>	<u>8,896</u>

6 Grant income	2023	2022
	£	£
Policy Development Grant	145,234	154,578
Total	<u>145,234</u>	<u>154,578</u>

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

7	Miscellaneous	2023	2022
		£	£
	Legacies	274,408	193,256
	Parliamentary levy	322,900	327,000
	Branch levy	670,084	-
	Campaign Services	3,084	1,755
	Total	1,270,476	522,011

Legacies include amounts bequeathed to the Party during the year.

The parliamentary levy is an annual charge imposed on all SNP MSPs and MPs where all proceeds are ring-fenced for national campaign purposes.

During the year there were two levies on branch funds - one to help the Party meet the costs of the Hamilton City Council Rutherglen West by-election and one to support the Party's national campaigning towards the next general election.

8	Premises cost	2023	2022
		£	£
	Rent and rates	68,233	75,741
	Total	68,233	75,741

9	Office costs	2023	2022
		£	£
	Information technology	352,629	470,301
	Office costs	23,095	10,326
	Insurance	11,891	24,251
	Telephone	24,536	20,964
	Postage	96,819	57,055
	Total	508,770	582,897

Information technology costs are those incurred in operating the Party's computer systems; servers; IT support; programming and development; and website. The importance of defending IT systems from malicious attacks and protecting personal data from unauthorised access and misuse is fully recognised by the SNP. In response to the increasing risk in this area, significant investment is being made in a programme of work to upgrade SNP computer systems and extend the use by staff and volunteers of new and more powerful software primarily using the Salesforce CRM platform.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2023 Number	2022 Number
27	26

Employment costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	1,071,440	1,089,830
Social security costs	111,318	116,808
Other pension costs	111,925	120,108
Other staff costs	40,522	22,757
Total	1,335,205	1,349,503

11 Transfers out

	2023 £	2022 £
Membership income due to branches	521,663	571,727
Affiliate dividend	-	1,513
Equalities fund	1,125	2,149
Total	522,788	575,389

The Party head office collects membership fees from all Party members. The branch dividend credits 25% of these fees to the member's branch.

The Party makes available grant funding to help affiliated organisations develop new projects, campaigns or events during the year.

The equalities fund supports the Party's commitment to promoting equality in all its activities.

12 Cost of fundraising events

	2023 £	2022 £
Fundraising	157,618	162,448
Independence magazine	83,832	85,404
Total	241,450	247,850

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

13 Conference costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Venue hire	205,261	186,952
Audio visual	125,511	339,117
Printed materials	16,834	26,473
Other conference costs	10,368	10,825
Other national events	101,696	6,486
Total	<u>459,670</u>	<u>569,853</u>

Other national events represents the costs paid for other non-conference events.

14 Interest costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank charges	65,563	69,127
Bank and other interest	3,963	4,286
Total	<u>69,526</u>	<u>73,413</u>

15 Membership expenses	2023	2022
	£	£
Membership expenses	<u>11,456</u>	<u>10,328</u>

Membership expenses are those incurred to produce recruitment materials and provide information materials to Party members.

16 Irrecoverable VAT	2023	2022
	£	£
Irrecoverable VAT	<u>153,113</u>	<u>308,267</u>

An explanation of irrecoverable VAT is included within the value added tax section of note 1.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

17 Miscellaneous expenditure

	2023	2022
	£	£
Professional fees	8,629	9,637
Legal fees	167,505	178,789
Audit fee	70,000	56,175
Bad debt expense	13,069	-
Impairment loss	11,219	-
(Gain)/ Loss on disposal of fixed assets	2,560	-
Sundries	15,731	32,054
	<u>288,713</u>	<u>276,655</u>

18 Taxation

	2023	2022
	£	£
Corporation tax charge - current year	725	619
	<u>725</u>	<u>619</u>

19 Intangible fixed assets

	Software licence £	Software development £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023	438,077	346,293	784,370
Amortisation and impairment			
At 1 January 2023	287,722	346,293	634,015
Amortisation charged for the year	49,265	-	49,265
At 31 December 2023	336,987	346,293	683,280
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2023	<u>101,090</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,090</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>150,355</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>150,355</u>

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

20 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings	Computer equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	534,561	405,064	100,790	1,040,415
Additions	-	10,568	-	10,568
Disposals	(20,066)	(26,652)	-	(46,718)
At 31 December 2023	514,495	388,980	100,790	1,004,265
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 January 2023	235,712	272,264	36,284	544,260
Depreciation charged in the year	79,534	47,083	12,901	139,518
Impairment losses	11,219	-	-	11,219
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(19,612)	(24,546)	-	(44,158)
At 31 December 2023	306,853	294,801	49,185	650,839
Carrying amount				
At 31 December 2023	207,642	94,179	51,605	353,426
At 31 December 2022	298,849	132,800	64,506	496,155

An impairment loss of £11,219 was recognised in relation to conference equipment in the year ended 31 December 2023, included within miscellaneous expenses in the income and expenditure account. The loss arose as a result of the Party re-assessing the value in use of the assets.

In addition to the impairment, computer and office equipment which had been scrapped due to obsolescence were disposed of during the year.

21 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2023 & 31 December 2023	479
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	479
At 31 December 2022	479

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

22 Debtors		2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:		£	£
Trade debtors		87,691	42,983
Other debtors		21,256	55,077
Prepayments and accrued income		557,137	295,667
		<u>666,084</u>	<u>393,727</u>

23 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2023	2022
		£	£
Trade creditors		151,408	236,944
Accruals and deferred income		90,191	104,320
Other taxation and social security		33,188	38,830
Amounts owed to accounting units		349,647	837,600
Loans	24	81,152	70,762
Other creditors		16,002	17,928
		<u>721,588</u>	<u>1,306,384</u>

24 Loans and overdrafts		2023	2022
		£	£
Loans from accounting units and members		21,152	10,762
Loans from former executive management		60,000	60,000
Total		<u>81,152</u>	<u>70,762</u>

Loans outstanding are made up of loans from accounting units, individual members and loans from former executive management, used for working capital purposes. All loans are repayable on demand with no interest charged.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

25 Reserves

	Total
	£
At 1 January 2023	(219,629)
Surplus for the year	661,568
At 31 December 2023	441,939

26 Operating lease commitments

The Party's future minimum operating lease payments are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	43,604	43,604
Between two and five years	17,681	61,285
	<u>61,285</u>	<u>104,889</u>

27 Events after the reporting date

Operating lease renewal

Post year-end the Party has renewed its operating lease on its offices located at Gordon Lamb House, Edinburgh. The total commitment of the renewed 5 year lease is £267,755.

Legacy notification

Post year-end the Party has been notified that it is named as a beneficiary of a legacy. At the balance sheet date and at the signing date of the financial statements this amount is estimated to be approximately £250,000. This amount cannot be confirmed until Probate has been granted and as such this amount has not been recognised as income or a debtor in these financial statements.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

28 Related party transactions

The Party has entered into the following transactions with its (non-consolidated) accounting units and members:

a) Loans from accounting units

	£
Loans payable at 1 January 2023	10,762
Movements (net in year)	10,390
Loans payable at 31 December 2023	<u>21,152</u>

b) Branch dividend amounts due to branches

Due at 1 January 2023	837,600
Branch levy	(670,084)
Branch payments	182,131
Due at 31 December 2023	<u>349,647</u>

c) Loans from former executive management

Loans payable at 1 January 2023	60,000
Movements (net in year)	-
Loans payable at 31 December 2023	<u>60,000</u>

29 Cash generated from operations

	2023	2022
	£	£
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	661,568	(804,278)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(8,007)	(8,896)
Corporation tax charge	725	619
Depreciation, loss on disposal and impairment of tangible fixed assets	202,562	222,254
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(272,357)	209,288
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(584,902)	288,303
Cash absorbed by operations	<u>(411)</u>	<u>(92,710)</u>

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

30 Analysis of changes in net (debt)/funds

	At 1 January 2023	Cash flows	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	46,039	(3,591)	42,448
Loans falling due within one year	(60,000)	-	(60,000)
	<u>(13,961)</u>	<u>(3,591)</u>	<u>(17,552)</u>