Lothiansound

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2024

Scottish Charity Number SC002810

Contents *(page 1)*

Legal and Administrative Information ---------- **2**
Trustees' Annual Report ---------- **3**
Report of the Independent Examiner to the Lothiansound Trustees ---------- **5**
Independent Examiner's Statement ---------- **5**
Receipts and Payments Account---------- **6**
Statement of Balances ---------- **7**
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 ---------- **8**

Legal and Administrative Information

Constitution

Lothiansound was inaugurated under a Constitution dated and approved on 18 February 1988. Since then there have been several amendments and the present Constitution was adopted on 23 April 2022.

Lothiansound is registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). The Scottish Charity Number is SC002810.

Trustees

The members of the Executive Committee during the year were:

Peter Bell	Chair	Re-elected April 2024
Elspeth Brown	Listener Member	Re-elected April 2024
Prue McLaughlin	Vice-Chair	Re-elected April 2023
Andrew Melville	Treasurer	Re-elected April 2024
James Power	Member	Re-elected April 2023
Jim Sheach	Member *(prev.2018-2019)*	Elected April 2024
Eric Mulholland	*Secretary*	*Retired at AGM April 2024*

Under paragraph 6 of the Constitution, Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. One half of the Trustees retire at the Annual General Meeting. Each retiring Trustee is eligible for re-election. The Trustees have power to co-opt additional Trustees.

Trustees are recommended on the basis of their desire to assist visually impaired people, or their willingness to deploy their relevant expertise and abilities in support of Lothiansound activities.

Principal Address

Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh EH9 1BB
(mailing address: P.O.Box 28340 Edinburgh EH9 8BW)

Independent Examiner

Duncan Craig, FMAAT CA.

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland, 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2AD

Trustees' Annual Report

The Executive Committee present their Report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024. The legal and administrative information, as set out on page 2, forms part of this report.

Charity's Objects

Lothiansound is established for charitable purposes only and specifically to relieve the blind or partially sighted and those labouring under temporary or permanent incapacity or disability which makes reading a strain, through the provision of news and information.

At the present time, the service is made available primarily on Memory Stick but to a very limited extent on CD. The great majority of Listeners are resident in Edinburgh and the Lothians. Most new Listeners are referred via the Patient Support Service, now provided by Visibility Scotland and/or Sight Scotland (previously via ECLO services by RNIB), or by existing Listeners and Volunteers. Others respond to posters and leaflets circulated to libraries and eye hospitals. Some family members find Lothiansound on the internet or Facebook. There are occasional requests from social organisations for informal presentations on our work. The weekly edition is also uploaded to the British Wireless for the Blind Fund (BWBF) site for users of the smartphone apps developed by the BWBF and for Alexa users. It is also available via a link on the Lothiansound website.

Organisation

The charity is administered by an Executive Committee of Trustees. Elections for places on the Committee and the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are held at the AGM. The Executive Committee currently meets six times a year.

Review of Activities

January 2024 brought us to first anniversary of using the recording studios at Red Dot Radio (hospital radio at Western General Hospital). This has continued harmoniously due to the smooth liaison and constant monitoring by Jim Sheach, and an aim for respectful use by Lothiansound teams each week, at no cost to our charity. An operational hitch with a piece of equipment in one of Red Dot's two studios, during the year, was solved by Lothiansound making a one-off purchase – an opportunity to make a gesture of gratitude to our hosts. Introduction, in September 2024, of regular inclusion of TNF Soundings tracks within each edition of Lothiansound.

Administration, Copying and general office matters at the Gillis Centre in Strathearn Road continue in a generally smooth way, and in good relationship with landlords. Listener numbers remain fairly static (60-80); an incoming new listener regularly off-set by death of another. Some serious problems with Royal Mail services became apparent towards end of 2024 – wallets going missing by unknown causes (widespread around all UK's TNs) and under investigation by TNF.

Donations and Fundraising
Donations showed a fall compared to last year despite some very generous donations being received during the year. There was also a fall in corporate donations.

Transcription work continued in the now-small way, with one client's modest commissions.

Financial Results The deficit increased from £1,909 to £1,995

The Statement of Balances shows that Lothiansound has unrestricted reserves of £23,785 and remains in a sound financial position with its assets held on deposit with banks.

Investment Policy
The Trustees' policy is to invest surplus liquid funds in short-term deposits which can be accessed quickly.

Risk Management
The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the assets and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that internal controls are in place to mitigate our exposure to major risks.

Reserves Policy
The Trustees annually monitor the level of reserves and consider the current level of reserves is not excessive. The unrestricted reserves at the year-end were £23,785 A relatively high level of reserves is required. As can be seen from the results of the last few years none of the charity's income is guaranteed and can fluctuate from year to year. We use equipment any of which may require to be replaced at short notice.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities
The members of the Executive Committee must prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of Lothiansound during the financial year. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which reflect the financial position of Lothiansound. This must be done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of Lothiansound and must take reasonable steps to prevent and/or detect fraud or other irregularities.

……. Peter Bell, Chair

Date: 25 Feb 2025

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Lothiansound Trustees

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

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's 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 for an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on 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, and
   - 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.

……. Independent Examiner

Duncan Craig FMAAT CA

Date: 25 Feb 2025

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Receipts			
Donations	3	1,955	2,972
Work Done for other bodies	4	303	469
Bank Interest	5	373	336
Other Income	6	22	-
Total Receipts		2,653	3,777
Payments			
Accommodation costs	7	3,324	3,447
Utilities – Telephone, Internet	8	129	202
Insurance		334	319
Stationery, postage and office expenses		330	347
Cleaning		-	45
Repairs to equipment		37	36
Subscriptions		42	42
PAT Testing		-	125
Other expenditure		54	43
Costs of move		-	917
Leaflets		149	-
Total cost of charitable activities		4,399	5,523
Purchase of equipment		249	163
Purchase of Memory Stick Players	11	0	0
Total Payments		4,648	5,686
(Deficit) for the year		(1,995)	(1,909)
Cash funds at start of the year		25,780	27,689
Cash funds at end of the year	12	23,785	25,780

The Notes to the Accounts on pages 8 and 9 form an integral part of these accounts.

All funds are unrestricted.

Statement of Balances
as at 31 December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank Balances	23,785	25,780

All funds are unrestricted.

The Notes to the Accounts on pages 8 and 9 form an integral part of these accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on 25 February. 2025 and signed on their behalf by

……

Peter Bell, Chair

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in line with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2 NATURE AND PURPOSE OF FUNDS

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity. The Trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the charity.

3 DONATIONS

These were received from private individuals and from other bodies. The breakdown by source is:

	2024	**2023**
	£	£
Individual (including tax recovered)	1,914	2,375
Corporate	41	597
	1,955	**2,972**

4 WORK DONE FOR OTHER BODIES

	2024	**2023**
	£	£
Capital Theatres Trust	303	469
	303	**469**

5 BANK INTEREST

	2024	**2023**
	£	£
Royal Bank of Scotland	34	23
Skipton Building Society	251	218
Shawbrook Bank (CAF 60 day account)	49	49
Virgin Money	39	46
	373	**336**

6 OTHER INCOME

	2024	**2023**
	£	£
Sale of equipment	22	-

7 ACCOMMODATION COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Rent	**3,324**	**3,447**

8 INTERNET, TELEPHONE COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Telephone & Internet	**129**	**202**

9 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

Neither the Trustees nor any persons connected with them have received any remuneration during the year (2023-£nil)

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

The net estimated realisable value of tangible fixed assets at 31 December 2024, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, is minimal so no value has been attributed to tangible fixed assets in the Statement of balances on page seven.

11 PURCHASE OF MEMORY STICK PLAYERS

Memory Stick Players are donated to Lothiansound Listeners, so are not capitalised. There was no need to purchase memory stick players during 2019-2024.

12 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS: MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS

	2024	2023
	£	£
At 1st January	25,780	27,689
Receipts for the year	2,653	3,777
Payments for the year	-4,648	-5,686
At 31st December	23,785	25,780