

Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration information in compliance with the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (the Act) came into force on 1 October 2010. Sections 31 to 32 of Part 3 place duties on public bodies to provide and publish information on certain expenditure and exercise of functions. The Act names the Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA) along with other public bodies to publish information on:

- Expenditure in relation to:
 - Public relations
 - Overseas travel
 - Hospitality and entertainment
 - External consultancy
- Payments with a value in excess of £25,000.
- Members or employees who received remuneration in excess of £150,000.
- Sustainable growth.
- Efficiency, economy and effectiveness.

Expenditure in relation to public relations

SCRA does not engage the services of external public relations consultants and does not have a dedicated public relations team, but a communications team who manage both internal and external communications for the Administration. A review of the costs of communications in the year to 31st March 2023 indicates expenditure of £7,767.

Expenditure in relation to overseas travel

In the financial year ended 31st March 2023 SCRA incurred no expenditure on overseas travel.

Expenditure in relation to hospitality and entertainment

SCRA is committed to spending the public money it receives properly, efficiently and effectively. Expenditure by SCRA in relation to hospitality and entertainment is very small and is primarily incurred in the provision of refreshments for staff and Children’s Hearing Panel Members. In the financial year ended 31st March 2023 SCRA incurred expenditure of £3,385 in the provision of hospitality and entertainment.

In addition to hospitality and entertainment, SCRA makes provision annually to support its staff’s health and wellbeing and team development. Spend in the financial year ended 31st March 2023 in this regard was £45,773.

Expenditure in relation to external consultancy

SCRA incurred expenditure of £94,478 on consultancy in the financial year ended 31st March 2023.

Payments which have a value in excess of £25,000

In the financial year ended 31st March 2023 SCRA made the following payments in excess of £25,000.

Supplier	Expense	Date	£
HMRC	Tax	30-APR-22	439,102
HMRC	Tax	14-JUN-22	434,642
HMRC	Tax	12-JUL-22	425,532
HMRC	Tax	11-OCT-22	423,707
HMRC	Tax	12-APR-22	411,080
HMRC	Tax	13-SEP-22	409,846
HMRC	Tax	09-AUG-22	404,568
HMRC	Tax	15-NOV-22	401,296

Supplier	Expense	Date	£
HMRC	Tax	10-JAN-23	388,447
HMRC	Tax	13-DEC-22	385,267
HMRC	Tax	14-FEB-23	377,340
HMRC	Tax	14-MAR-23	374,096
Falkirk Council	Pensions	30-APR-22	364,121
Falkirk Council	Pensions	14-JUN-22	350,737
Falkirk Council	Pensions	12-JUL-22	350,401
Falkirk Council	Pensions	13-SEP-22	349,250
Falkirk Council	Pensions	09-AUG-22	348,459
Falkirk Council	Pensions	11-OCT-22	348,260
Falkirk Council	Pensions	14-FEB-23	346,897
Falkirk Council	Pensions	13-DEC-22	345,515
Falkirk Council	Pensions	10-JAN-23	344,893
Falkirk Council	Pensions	15-NOV-22	344,613
Falkirk Council	Pensions	14-MAR-23	341,516
Softcat	ICT support, maintenance and development	15-NOV-22	252,283
Scottish Government	ICT network	19-JUL-22	200,921
Scottish Government	ICT network	15-NOV-22	199,493
Scottish Government	ICT network	10-JAN-23	188,045
Scottish Government	ICT network	31-MAR-23	187,167
Leidos	ICT support, maintenance and development	07-JUN-22	134,555
Leidos	ICT support, maintenance and development	12-JUL-22	125,335
FES FM Ltd	Facilities Management	08-NOV-22	108,981
FES FM Ltd	Facilities Management	30-APR-22	108,889
Glasgow City Council	Non-domestic rates	26-APR-22	96,737
Gresham Office Furniture	Furniture	14-MAR-23	95,672
BNP Paribas	Rent	19-JUL-22	95,302
BNP Paribas	Rent	26-APR-22	95,302
Softcat	ICT support, maintenance and development	19-JUL-22	95,068
Softcat	ICT support, maintenance and development	27-SEP-22	92,390
FES FM Ltd	Facilities Management	28-MAR-23	91,297
Leidos	ICT support, maintenance and development	09-AUG-22	90,870
BNP Paribas	Rent	15-NOV-22	90,151
FES FM Ltd	Facilities Management	04-OCT-22	87,868
FES FM Ltd	Facilities Management	30-APR-22	86,432
Interact Interiors	Property/estates works	10-JAN-23	81,054
Ross & Laidlaw & Sons	Property/estates works	14-MAR-23	80,868
Leidos	ICT support, maintenance and development	10-JAN-23	79,855
Leidos	ICT support, maintenance and development	31-OCT-22	79,855
HP Inc UK Ltd	ICT hardware	07-FEB-23	74,454
Leidos	ICT support, maintenance and development	28-FEB-23	73,944
Insight Direct (UK)	ICT software/licences	28-JUN-22	70,281
Insight Direct (UK)	ICT software/licences	21-FEB-23	69,548
Knight Frank LLP	Rent	02-AUG-22	66,866
Knight Frank LLP	Rent	30-APR-22	66,866
FES FM Ltd	Facilities Management	31-MAR-23	65,289

Supplier	Expense	Date	£
Knight Frank LLP	Rent	06-DEC-22	63,599
Flexiform Business Furniture	Furniture	31-MAR-23	63,122
Interact Interiors	Property/estates works	29-NOV-22	62,652
FES FM Ltd	Facilities Management	31-DEC-22	61,692
South Lanarkshire Council	Non-domestic rates	26-APR-22	60,554
FES FM Ltd	Facilities Management	07-JUN-22	57,012
FES FM Ltd	Facilities Management	14-FEB-23	56,986
Casey Construction	Property/estates works	12-APR-22	56,900
Falkirk Council	Pensions	10-JAN-23	55,109
FES FM Ltd	Facilities Management	12-JUL-22	55,005
Leidos	ICT support, maintenance and development	24-JAN-23	53,081
Ross & Laidlaw & Sons	Property/estates works	07-FEB-23	52,896
Workman and Partners	Rent	14-FEB-23	51,717
Workman and Partners	Rent	12-JUL-22	49,695
Leidos	ICT support, maintenance and development	24-MAY-22	49,428
Workman and Partners	Rent	22-NOV-22	48,614
Workman and Partners	Rent	06-SEP-22	48,458
FES FM Ltd	Facilities Management	17-JAN-23	48,390
City of Edinburgh Council	Non-domestic rates	12-APR-22	46,450
Leidos	ICT support, maintenance and development	30-APR-22	43,475
Ryden LLP	Rent	07-FEB-23	43,061
North Offshore Ltd	Property/estates works	30-APR-22	41,721
Aberdeen City Council	Non-domestic rates	05-JUL-22	41,136
Interact Interiors	Property/estates works	07-FEB-23	40,044
Leidos	ICT support, maintenance and development	31-DEC-22	39,360
Ryden LLP	Rent	30-APR-22	39,134
Ryden LLP	Rent	31-OCT-22	38,543
Ryden LLP	Rent	16-AUG-22	38,543
Ross & Laidlaw & Sons	Property/estates works	12-APR-22	37,502
Ross & Laidlaw & Sons	Property/estates works	07-MAR-23	37,471
Eats Ayrshire Council	Non-domestic rates	21-JUN-22	36,279
MDE (Scotland) Ltd	Property/estates works	21-JUN-22	36,048
Dundee City Council	Non-domestic rates	26-APR-22	35,004
Stirling Council	Non-domestic rates	26-APR-22	33,432
Falkirk Council	Actuary fees and pensions	28-JUN-22	32,791
Ross & Laidlaw & Sons	Property/estates works	31-MAR-23	32,500
Claremont Office Furniture	Furniture	12-APR-22	31,284
The Highland Council	Non-domestic rates	26-APR-22	30,084
Anderson Strathern LLP	Legal	15-NOV-22	28,980
Aberdeen City Council	Non-domestic rates	26-APR-22	28,361
Fife Council	Non-domestic rates	26-APR-22	28,087
Claremont Office Furniture	Furniture	07-MAR-23	27,770
Falkirk Council	Pensions	07-MAR-23	27,554
Falkirk Council	Pensions	27-SEP-22	27,554
Anderson Strathern LLP	Legal	20-SEP-22	27,365

Remuneration in excess of £150,000

No member of staff of SCRA received remuneration in excess of £150,000 in the financial year ended 31st March 2023.

Sustainable Growth

The main activities carried out during the year were the fulfilment of the Principal Reporter/Chief Executive's statutory functions in respect of children referred to the Reporter. Statistical information on children referred and the statutory functions in respect of them are contained within SCRA's [Annual Report for 2022-23](#).

All SCRA's activity works towards achieving SCRA's vision (that "children and young people will be listened to, protected and supported to have a positive future where they are safe, valued and respected"), and the Scottish Government's National Outcomes. SCRA's [2020-23 Corporate Plan](#) explains our vision, mission and the following three strategic aims over the period:

CARE: Delivering a service that feels right for each child, young person and family that experiences it.

CONNECT: Working together to receive the right referrals, for the right children, at the right time.

PROTECT: Making high-quality and timely decisions for children and young people using the right information that is relevant, clear and secure.

In working to these aims, SCRA has six supporting strategies: Practice and Policy, Finance, People, Communications and Engagement, Operational and Digital. In 2022-23, in fulfilment of these strategies, SCRA has, among other activities:

- continually exploring ways to maximise use of digital services and introducing more – while ensuring these are affordable and an improvement on existing services
- undertaken a new procurement for the Microsoft licencing and subscriptions required to support the core platform. Because of key, and on occasion, difficult technical choices made previously, this led to a nearly £100k saving on licensing and subscriptions with the new procurement
- engaged in many policy agendas – review of the Age of Criminal Responsibility Act, further development of the advocacy service for Children's Hearings, Youth Justice Strategy, and Child Protection agendas.
- comprehensively engaged with work on the Promise and in particular involvement in the Hearing System Working Group (HSWG); the Children's Care and Justice Bill, which seeks to raise the age of referral to the Reporter; and development of the Bairnshoose in Scotland
- embedded equality, diversity and inclusion in our corporate planning process, ensuring that equality, diversity and inclusion is reflected across all areas of the business and at all levels – strategic and operational, national and local
- piloted initiatives such as child-friendly scheduling of hearings

More details on all of the above can be found in our [2022-23 Annual Accounts](#).

Efficiency, economy and effectiveness

The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, section 32(1)(b) requires listed public bodies to publish a statement in relation to efficiency, effectiveness and economy as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

SCRA's efficiency target for 2022-23 was £0.15m, being 0.6% of budget of £25.16m. This target was principally met through staff vacancies within SCRA's Head Office functions. Additionally:

- SCRA has a Budget Efficiencies Group of budget leads, where efficiencies identified in local teams can be shared.
- SCRA's Protect Programme is also about driving operational efficiencies, maximising the use of digital technologies to reduce processing activities to redirect staff efforts towards better service delivery.
- SCRA continues to improve the use of its digital casework management system ("CSAS") and develop a Standard Operating Model to improve workload processing efficiencies within operational teams.
- SCRA is working to equip its estate with guest wi-fi access, creating a much more digitally friendly and flexible working space for external visitors (including all stakeholders such as panel members) to hearing facilities.
- SCRA continues to provide shared services to CHS, including the provision of financial statutory and Scottish Government reporting services, an Accounts Payable function and payroll services.
- SCRA uses Scottish Government procurement frameworks whenever available in order to minimise costs, e.g. gas/electric provision and banking services.
- SCRA continues to mature its digital Hearings capability both in hearing room Audio Visual technologies and its Virtual Hearings Platform ('VHP'), while principally focused on the benefits to stakeholders, increases flexibility in remote attendance and reduced travel.