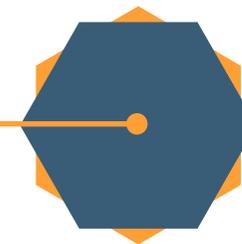




**Charities you can trust and that provide public benefit**

# OUR IMPACT



We have had another busy and productive year supporting and monitoring the country's **23,700** charities. Our volume of work remains high and has seen increasing complexity in some areas. We have nevertheless met our performance targets and maintained our service levels.

Charities continue to respond to current challenges by making use of our mechanisms allowing them to modernise, amalgamate or change their legal forms. We have worked with local authorities to update the charities they administer and release millions of pounds to public benefit, and seen a steady increase in the number of applications for Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIOs). These now account for a third of all new applications for charity status.

We have considered some high profile cases, such as our reviews of **over 40** fee-charging schools and St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society; and produced guidance for charities and the independence referendum. We embarked on a programme of engagement events, designed to encourage and support charity trustees in meeting legal requirements. And we have actively promoted our online services, resulting in a **74% take-up** among Scottish Charities. We made further recommendations to Scottish Ministers and commissioned work on a completely new website.

In common with earlier years, all our activity is aimed ultimately at underpinning public confidence in charities and their work. This is evidenced in our most recent surveys of charities and the public, and will continue to drive our priorities and ambition for the sector.

You can read our full Annual Report and Accounts 2013-14 [here](#).



The Very Reverend  
Dr Graham Forbes CBE  
Chair



David Robb  
Chief Executive

“Our volume of work remains high and has seen increasing complexity in some areas.”

# OSCR BOARD MEMBERS

Our Board Members are appointed by Scottish Ministers and serve a fixed term of four years.

During the year, Board Members Lindsay Montgomery (Deputy Chair) and Annie Gunner Logan retired. We wish them well and thank them for their contribution to the sector.

You can read more about OSCR's Board Members at [www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk)

The Very Reverend  
Dr Graham Forbes CBE  
Chair



Professor David Harrison  
Deputy Chair

Fiona Ballantyne OBE



Kaliani Lyle



David Hughes Hallett

Shona Ulrichsen



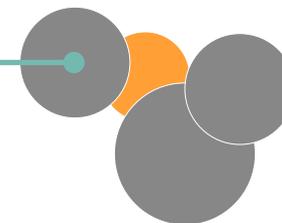
Stuart Cross



Pat Armstrong



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT



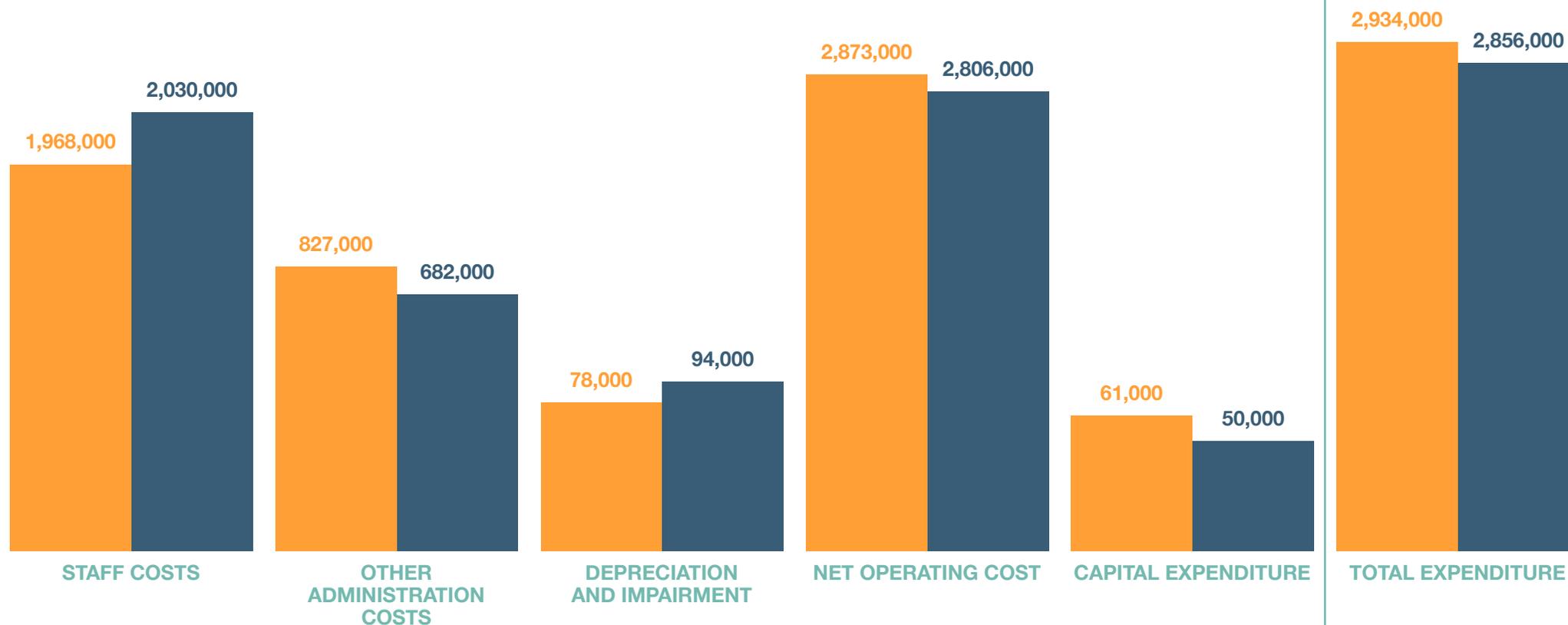
Income and Expenditure for the year to 31 March 2014

For our full Annual Report and Accounts 2013-14 visit [www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk)

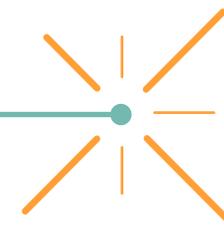
All figures in £

ANNUAL BUDGET 2013-14 £2,950,000 / 2012-13 £2,950,000

## BREAKDOWN OF ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR



We announced our decisions on the charitable status of six fee-charging schools. Five met **the charity test** with one – SC005052 Wellington School (Ayr) Limited – issued with a Direction.



We issued guidance for charities on the **referendum on Scottish independence**, making clear that charities may participate in the debate providing that this is in pursuit of their charitable purposes. We consulted widely, involving a wide range of charities and sector representatives to ensure that our final publication was robust and clear. We supported our guidance with webcasts featuring several charities setting out how they – including cross-border charities – had addressed the possible impact of the referendum.



Following publication of our inquiry report into the Rangers Charity Foundation, we issued guidance to **football connected charities**, encouraging them to review their constitutions and ensure that their relationship with the football clubs is clear.



Along with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, we launched a sector-wide consultation on the new **Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)**, the accounting standard applicable to charities preparing accrued accounts. We ran and participated in 18 events with key umbrella and professional bodies and overall achieved 179 written responses. This was **the biggest response ever** achieved and ensures that the new modular FRSSE SORP and FRS102 SORP – applicable for accounting year ends from 1 January 2015 – meet the needs of the sector.



We announced our decisions on the charitable status of nine schools. Eight met the charity test and one – SC013978 Loretto School Ltd – failed and was issued with a Direction.

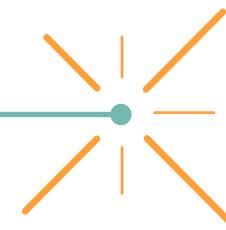
We launched a consultation on our new Corporate Plan, subsequently published in July 2014.

We launched a new **blog site**, featuring contributions from Cabinet Secretary John Swinney, charity trustees and OSCR staff.



We took part in **Trustees' Week**, celebrating the work of charity trustees and encouraging members of the public to take on this responsible and rewarding role. We staged an **event in Dundee** and our website featured webcasts and blogs from charity trustees explaining the role and its benefits.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR



**NOV  
2013**

We issued a Direction to SC042656 Fife Animal Trust not to sell the charity's assets. Our intervention, along with Fife Council and Police Scotland, ultimately saw the charity's animals rehomed due to welfare concerns. Our subsequent Inquiry Report sets out the action we took, and key lessons for the wider sector.

We announced our decisions on three fee-charging schools. Fettes College and St George's School for Girls met the terms of the Directions we issued and the International School of Aberdeen **met the charity test**.



**JAN  
2014**

We completed the bulk of our reviews into the charitable status of fee-charging schools, having assessed **36 out of 40** of the schools we identified for review in September 2012. Our work in this area saw a significant number among this priority group widening access to the benefit they provide in order to remain on the Register.



**FEB  
2014**

We announced our stakeholder surveys, gauging the views of the public on charities and regulation; and the sector's views on current issues and future developments. These were our first stakeholder surveys since 2011.



**MAR  
2014**

**New OSCR Board Members** – Pat Armstrong, Stuart Cross and Shona Ulrichsen – were confirmed by Scottish Ministers. We thank departing Members Annie Gunner Logan and Lindsay Montgomery.

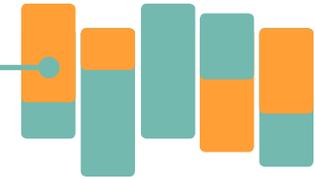
We announced our decision not to appeal the ruling from the **Scottish Charities Appeal Panel (SCAP)** in the case of St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society. We had determined that the charity had not met the charity test and had issued a Direction. Following our decision not to appeal, we published a summary of our reasons and key points for charities to consider in regard to equality. We will publish **full Equality Strategy** later in 2014.



**APR  
2014**

We confirmed Scotland's **1,000th** Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, SC044684 The Bright Stars Under Fives Playgroup in Galashiels.

# THE YEAR IN FIGURES



871

THE NUMBER THAT  
ARE CROSS-BORDER

34%

OF NEW APPLICATIONS  
FOR CHARITABLE  
STATUS ARE SCIOs

99

%

OF REORGANISATION  
APPLICATIONS AND

96

%

OF CONSENTS  
APPLICATIONS  
DECIDED WITHIN  
DEADLINE (97% & 99%)

60%



OUR STAFF  
ENGAGEMENT SCORE  
IN THE UK CIVIL  
SERVICE PEOPLE  
SURVEY (66%)

1,220

APPLICATIONS  
FOR CHARITABLE  
STATUS (1,225)



23,827

TOTAL NUMBER OF  
CHARITIES REGULATED  
BY OSCR (23,637)

OSCR

Scottish Charity Regulator

96

%

OF CONSENTS  
APPLICATIONS  
DECIDED WITHIN  
DEADLINE (97% & 99%)

99%

OF ANNUAL RETURN AND  
MONITORING RETURN  
FORMS VALIDATED  
WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF  
SUBMISSION (97%)



92%

OF CHARITIES TRUST US TO  
TREAT THEM FAIRLY (88%)



265

EXTERNAL COMPLAINTS  
ABOUT CHARITIES (326)

52

FULL-TIME STAFF,  
BASED IN DUNDEE

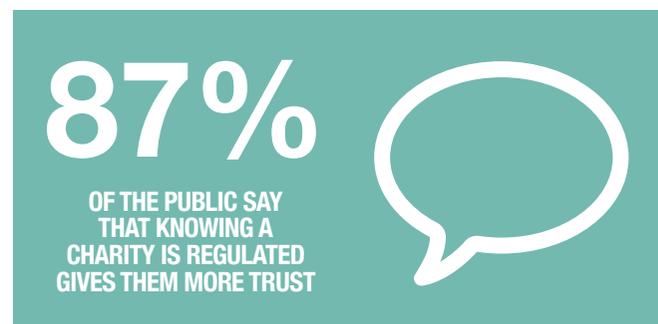
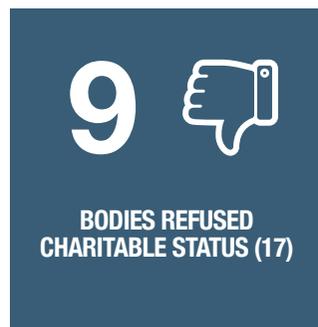
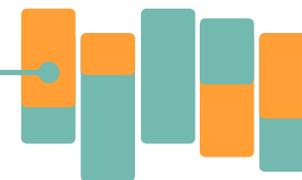


92%

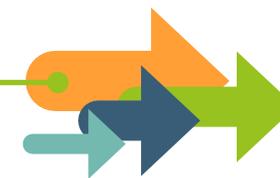
CHARITIES FILE  
ACCOUNTS AND  
RETURNS WITHIN  
12 MONTHS OF THEIR  
ACCOUNTING YEAR  
END DATES (90%)

(last year's figures)

# THE YEAR IN FIGURES



# THE YEAR AHEAD



Our new website will be launched in the Autumn of 2014 and feature simpler content, easier navigation and e-learning support for charities.



We will actively promote our online services and aim to achieve a 100% take-up by charities.



We will publish updated guidance on Meeting the Charity Test and new guidance for charities on Equality.



We will continue our programme of Targeted Regulation, which will see us publish charity accounts and a register of charity trustees to encourage further transparency.

# FIVE KEY POINTS



From our experience, charity trustees should consider the following points for good governance.

# 1

Sign up to **OSCR Online** – our online services are free, flexible and secure – making it easier to report to us!

# 2

Tell us if your **Principal Contact** changes – to make sure that your **Register entry** is up to date.

# 3

Make sure you submit your **Annual Return** and accounts within nine months of your accounting year end.

# 4

It's other people's money! The public is entitled to see your constitution and latest set of accounts on request.

# 5

Make sure that all of your charity's trustees have read and fully understood your constitution and their role.

# OSCR

Scottish Charity Regulator

Charities you can trust and that provide public benefit