



# YEAR IN REVIEW 23/24

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The Control Tower, Perth Airport, Scone, PH2 6PL  
Registered Company SC384396 (Scotland)  
Registered Charity Number SC041845

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# TRUSTEE REPORT

It has been a great pleasure to continue to serve as the Interim Chair of SCAA. I am delighted to present my report of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2024.

**Just over £7.5m was raised during a period of high inflation and rising costs of living for so many people. The Board agreed a budget of £7.1m to maintain our life-saving service and once again the people of Scotland continued to support SCAA and ensure our amazing operational crew are ready to respond whenever needed.**

It requires a team of experienced and skilled people to run the charity day-to-day, supported by over 200 volunteers, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish to thank you all for your support.

SCAA is an incredibly valuable resource, working closely with the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS), complementing and adding resilience to emergency pre-hospital care in Scotland.

**Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are a beacon of light to those in need on their darkest days.**

Libby (page 6) pays tribute to those who helped her and highlights the importance of operating two aircraft and two rapid response vehicles. It is thanks to this service and the expertise of the clinicians on board that Libby received the critical care treatment at the scene of her incident.

**The last 12-18 months have been especially about preparing for the future.** In October 2023, following a review of the skills and experience required to serve as a Trustee, three roles were identified by the Board to strengthen our governance – a new permanent Chair along with two Trustees with specialisms in Investment Management and Aviation/Operations.

Following an external recruitment process, Robbie Brown, Sean Cox and Mike Stewart were co-opted onto the Board in March 2024 and, subject to Board approval, will formally join SCAA as Trustees at the AGM in September 2024, with Robbie assuming the Chair. Sadly, as new Trustees join, others retire. Due to work commitments, Jock Carruthers stepped down from the Board to take up a senior role based in London. Jock's significant experience in the technology sector was of great value during his brief term in office. Andrew Richmond joined us as a SAS representative

initially and later as a Trustee in his own right as his financial and investment experience were recognised and welcomed. Alan Bell also retires. Alan has a special place in the history of SCAA. As long ago as 2007, Alan brought the original concept to the three other founders. Ever since, his aviation knowledge, skill and experience, added to his business acumen and plain common sense have made him an invaluable member of the Board. We are indebted to them both.

In March 2024, the Board and charity team gathered to strategically review our progress, safe in the knowledge that despite being a very buoyant decade with great success stories, we believe that we can do even better. **Consequently, by the end of 2024, the charity will launch a refreshed 'Purpose and Ambition' which will steer SCAA over the next decade.**

In that time, we believe that to fulfil our charitable purpose we need to invest in our operation and people and continue to make the best use of our resources and the generous donations that are gifted to us.

**Our commitment to the people of Scotland is unconditional. Wherever you are, we will be there for you – now and always. Funded by the people of Scotland for the people of Scotland. Thank you.**



**Mike Beale**  
Interim Chair

# CEO REPORT

**The past year has been a continued period of growth and development for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. The charity team has worked immensely hard and the fundraising and operational activity highlighted in this report shows how much has been accomplished.**

It is humbling to see the ongoing support provided to SCAA. The results in this report illustrate the public benefit delivered by our charity and is testament to the resilience of our dedicated workforce, volunteers, and loyal supporters, who have collectively worked hard to raise vital funds to make our missions possible.

The operational crew not only experienced their busiest year ever but responded to the most incidents (12) in a single day. At the time of writing, the crews of Helimed 76 and Helimed 79 put in a marathon shift when they spent 11 hours in the skies above Scotland taking emergency care to our most remote island communities.

**Our highly skilled and experienced frontline colleagues are exceptional and face unknown challenges daily. From the pilots who experience harsh Scottish weather, safely navigating the helicopter to and from the scene, to the paramedics who are completely patient-focused. They are a credit to their profession.**

With no government funding, £7.5m was raised last year, mostly through public donations. We are also pragmatic and understand that communities and businesses across Scotland will unfortunately continue to feel cost-of-living pressures. Therefore, we continue to remain cautiously optimistic about this financial year.

In March 2024, a special Scottish Parliamentary Reception at Holyrood was held to celebrate SCAA's first decade of life-saving service. Hosted by John Swinney MSP, the reception brought together major funders, supporters, Trustees, charity staff, helicopter crew, volunteers and former patients who have all played a part in helping SCAA raise over £50m and respond to more than 5,000 call outs in its first 10 years.



Looking ahead to the next 10 years, as highlighted in our Interim Chair's report, we will soon publish a refreshed 'Purpose and Ambition' which we hope will further position SCAA in the hearts and minds of the people of Scotland.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge a few of my colleagues who have recently retired. Captain Russell Myles, who was also awarded 'Pilot of the Year' at the Air Ambulance UK Awards, ended the SCAA chapter in his life that has seen him fly 11 years of life-saving missions with the charity.

Fiona Dennis, our longest serving employee, who has fulfilled many roles, retired after 10 years' service and Doug Cross, Director of Finance, has called time overseeing the growth of the charity's finances. Thank you all for your outstanding service and dedication to SCAA.



**Sincere thanks to everyone who has supported SCAA.**

**David Craig**  
Chief Executive

# SCAA'S RESPONSE PROVES LIFE-CHANGING

As her motorbike crashed down on her leg, Libby knew something had gone seriously wrong.

Amateur trials rider Libby (51) was making her way between live stages at the competition circuit near Laurencekirk when – after cresting a riverbank – she was forced to put her foot down to avoid hitting a stile.

“It was just an unfortunate freakish accident,” she said. “I had been riding motorbikes since I was 18-years-old without mishap and then without warning – you’re in all sorts of trouble and pain.”

**Libby’s foot had caught on a tree stump and the momentum pulled the bike over on top of her trapped leg. “I just lay there with the bike on top of me,” she said. “I couldn’t move and the pain in my lower leg was excruciating.”**

There were plenty of other riders around and they lifted the motorcycle off Libby.

**“I couldn’t feel my foot,” she explained. “It was then I saw that my leg looked twisted. I grabbed my thigh and pulled it towards me, straightening the lower leg. It was agony and I started hyperventilating.”**

As colleagues wrapped Libby in coats and put a jacket under her head, emergency help was on its way to the remote and fairly inaccessible location.



Fellow members of the trials club set out to guide the road ambulance in and then Libby was told that an air ambulance was just minutes away.

**“I heard the helicopter coming in overhead and everyone sheltered me from the downwash as they landed nearby,” she said. “SCAA’s paramedics gave me pain relief and calmed me down. Somehow, just having the air ambulance there reassures you that everything will be alright.”**

Crew and bystanders had to lift Libby on a stretcher over a barbed wire fence to get her to the waiting helicopter.

“I was so emotional – just shock, probably, and the morphine. I kept remembering how the last words my husband said to me that morning were: ‘take care – we need you back in one piece’.

“I just burst into tears at that point,” said the mother of three. “It was such a relief – everything was going to be OK. The two guys from SCAA were just wonderful. So calm and reassuring.”

Libby was aware of SCAA’s work through the motorcycling community but never for a second thought she would need the charity’s amazing service.

“You hear about them on the news and read about them in the papers, but you never fully understand what a truly amazing charity this is,” she said. “I am



**“SCAA made all the difference. The kindness, professionalism and care of the paramedics, the comfort and speed of the helicopter and the constant reassurance that everything would be fine – oh, and the dose of advanced pain relief. I can’t begin to say how grateful I am to them. They’re the best.”**

in awe of all the emergency workers involved that day. The level of care was amazing and getting me off that circuit and safely to hospital was absolutely seamless.”

Libby was flown within minutes to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary where she spent three days before she was transferred to Ninewells Hospital in Dundee for a five-hour operation to insert plates, screws and artificial bone in her damaged leg.

“The consultant said I had turned my tibial plateau (knee) into crazy paving,” she said. “It was in so many pieces.”

**“SCAA’s involvement was life-changing,” added Libby. “If SCAA hadn’t been there I don’t know how they would have got me down the rough track to a road ambulance or how bumpy the onward journey would have been without advanced pain relief.”**

# OPERATIONS REPORT

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) took to the air a record number of times in 2023/24 as demand on the life-saving service continued to grow.

In our busiest ever year, the charity's two helicopter air ambulances – based at Perth and Aberdeen – took to the air 738 times in response to serious illness and injury throughout Scotland, marking a 5.5% increase on the previous year.

In addition to providing vital air support, SCAA deployed paramedics a further 263 times using their Rapid Response Vehicles to attend incidents close to our bases.

**Exceeding 1,000 call outs for the first year ever, SCAA's Perth and Aberdeen-based crews continued to take life-saving care in the fastest possible time to those most seriously ill or injured in every corner of Scotland.**

Having completed our 11th year, SCAA continues to evolve and develop as a valued integral part of Scotland's emergency response network, playing a vital role in getting paramedics and specialist teams quickly to the emergency scene, providing life-saving care in the air and transferring patients onwards to appropriate hospitals.

Throughout the past year, SCAA crews were quickly on-scene at crises throughout the whole of Scotland and its many islands, tending to the seriously sick and injured and flying or escorting a total of 400 patients to definitive hospital care.

The speed of SCAA's helicopters was also used on 142 occasions to airlift advanced critical care teams to



the scene, effectively bringing the skills of a hospital's Accident and Emergency unit to the incident.

And in addition to airlifting patients to hospital, SCAA's paramedics were at hand to treat and assist in a further 370 cases ranging from major multi-casualty trauma incidents to single patient illnesses.



**Medical emergencies dominated the workload, accounting for more than half of all responses and representing an increase of 14% on the previous year. These emergencies ranged from heart attacks and strokes to breathing difficulties, convulsions and sepsis.**

Trauma emergencies featured in a third of the charity's taskings. Of these, the majority were to road traffic collisions, falls, industrial and equestrian accidents, taking SCAA's life-saving speed and expertise to a wide variety of challenging locations including farms, forests, castle grounds, mountainsides, beaches and riverbanks.

Two in every three of our airlifted patients were flown to one of the country's four major Trauma Centres showing the high-acuity trauma our crews are dealing with.

A total of 122 missions involved air transfers from remote and island communities to advanced mainland hospital care where hours were saved on journey times for vulnerable patients.



**Having completed our 11th year, SCAA continues to evolve and develop as a valued integral part of Scotland's emergency response network.**

SCAA is now instantly recognised as a lifeline by all on the islands and their dependency on air support is reflected in plans to establish permanent helipads at several more locations, offering hard-standing, well lit, permanent and safe patient transfer areas.

**SCAA's busiest ever year also saw our two helicopter air ambulances fly more hours than ever before – just over 739 hours compared to 695 the previous year. The total distance flown also increased – from just over 91,000 miles to nearly 97,000 miles, taking SCAA's total flight distance since launch to over half a million miles.**

In addition to airlifting patients to the country's four major Trauma Centres at Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow, SCAA also flew those with specialist needs to dedicated units at hospitals such as Crosshouse and Royal Alexandra. Other patients were taken from remote locations to more local hospitals such as Balfour on Orkney and Lorn and Islands at Oban.

SCAA's commitment to patient experience and patient outcomes is at the heart of everything we do and the charity is continually enhancing and upgrading equipment and training.

During the past year, these enhancements have included the purchase of three new mechanical CPR units which sees this life-saving kit now permanently in place on both SCAA's aircraft and Rapid Response Vehicles.

Satellite phones have also been added to the aircraft's inventories by Babcock, ensuring crews are never out of communication even in the most mountainous and remote parts of Scotland where radio and phone links fail.

Baby and paediatric mannequins donated by BASICS Scotland are now a feature of the clinical skills training unit at Perth allowing ad hoc training relating to these categories of precious patients.

And new equipment storage bags for both aircraft have allowed a more streamlined access to separate units for clinical and aircraft needs.

**Throughout the year, crews at both bases played an increasing role in charity events as operations allowed. As the public face of SCAA, they continue to prove a welcome and popular inclusion at fundraising, awareness-raising and corporate and charity occasions.**



# ANNUAL MISSION STATS



**1001**  
Call outs

4% increase on previous year

738 Helicopter

263 Rapid response vehicle (RRV)



**337** Airlifted patients



**166** Road traffic collisions (RTCs)



**412** Medical cases

**84,261:12** Nautical miles flown

**321** Trauma cases

**62** Stroke cases

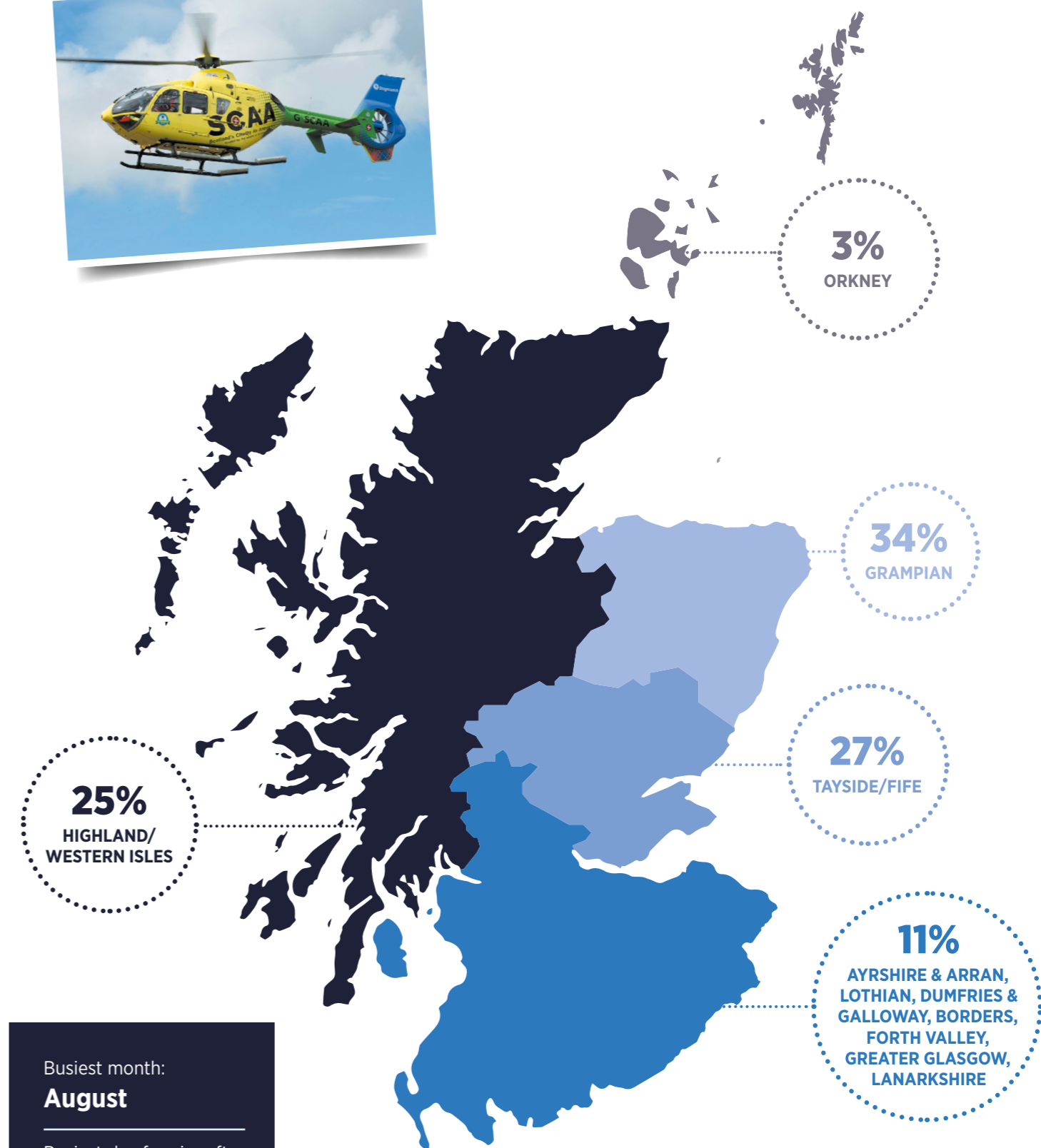
**206** Cardiac-related cases

**739:08** Flying hours

**142** Emergency Medical Retrieval Service joint responses (EMRS)

# ANNUAL TASKING MAP

(inclusive of aircraft and RRV taskings)



Busiest month:  
**August**

Busiest day for aircraft:  
**Saturday**

# LIFE-SAVING TEAMWORK

The co-location of SCAA's Helimed 79 with the Scottish Ambulance Service's ScotSTAR North Team at Aberdeen Airport has resulted in a life-saving partnership that has seen advanced critical care delivered to the scene of countless accidents and medical emergencies.

Since the launch of SCAA's second helicopter in 2020, the Emergency Medical Retrieval Service (EMRS) has been able to utilise the airborne platform, and its highly experienced crew members to deliver doctor-led specialisms across the North of Scotland.

SCAA's Helimed 76 helicopter, based at Perth, along with the Scottish Ambulance Service's helicopters and aeroplanes, also support EMRS Teams from other Scottish bases when required, enhancing the team at the scene and providing the best possible care for patients.

**During the past year, SCAA's Helimed 79 and 76 aircraft deployed with an EMRS team on 142 occasions during what would prove the charity's busiest year to date.**

These partnership missions accounted for more than 19% of all SCAA take offs and saw the joint working in action at scenes from Orkney to Aberdeen and Skye to Arbroath.

Consultant Dr Shaun McLeod is one of the EMRS critical care team at Aberdeen and a frequent flyer with Helimed 79.

"ScotSTAR North operates out of the Scottish Ambulance Service base at Aberdeen Airport and was established in 2019 as part of the national Scottish Trauma Network" he said. "In 2020, SCAA launched



its second air ambulance helicopter – this one located near us at Aberdeen – and we very quickly realised the advantages of working alongside the charity service."

Shaun detailed that using a helicopter platform to deliver time-critical care allowed the EMRS clinicians speedy access to many jobs that would prove challenging to reach by car. It also allowed them a much wider geographical area of delivery for Critical Care interventions, greater flexibility in delivery of care and a faster retrieval of patients to Major Trauma Centres (MTCs).



"Working with SCAA allows us to deploy as a multi-professional health care team, consisting of a Consultant, Retrieval Practitioner, experienced paramedic and a pilot.

"They bring additional vital skills to each job and a larger team – all with advanced expertise – which proves particularly useful when there are multiple casualties involved."

Shaun is in no doubt that the joint working has proved a lifesaver time and time again.

"The speed of access and getting teams to the scene of an emergency leads to improved patient outcomes and undoubtedly saves lives," he said.



**These partnership missions accounted for more than 19% of all SCAA take offs.**

The Scottish Ambulance Service second the paramedics for SCAA's Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) who already deliver a high level of patient care and clinical expertise, but the charity is quick to acknowledge the critical care provided by EMRS.

Lead Paramedic Claire Allan detailed the advantages of the team's additional skills set at the emergency scene.

"Over and above the care we bring, the EMRS clinicians offer advanced interventions which can make a real difference at the scene," she said. "These include the ability to administer advanced pain relief, anaesthesia and decision-making, as well as a number of surgical procedures and blood transfusions.

**"If a patient can have that sort of pre-hospital emergency care at the scene as quickly as SCAA can get the team there, then the outcomes can be greatly improved."**

The aim is to have all trauma patients receive Major Trauma care within 45 minutes and EMRS Advanced Retrieval Practitioner Gregor McIntosh explained that this can often be achieved by taking that critical care to the scene.

"That can prove a lifesaver in itself," said Gregor. "Going by air gets us there quicker, the patient receives critical interventions quicker and they are in hospital

quicker," he added. "It's a really crucial, effective and rewarding partnership and the advantages for the patient are extensive."

This sort of seamless combined care at a scene is honed through daily briefings and joint training at Aberdeen.

"The paramedics have joint pilot briefings and doctor briefings so that we all know exactly what we're doing in any situation that might arise. These briefings also outline the day's crew configuration and who does what," explained Claire.

**"We also have regular training sessions, dealing with different emergency scenarios that we might face on a job and combining our skills sets to ensure best patient care."**

"This is all important because it makes everyone feel part of the team," she said.

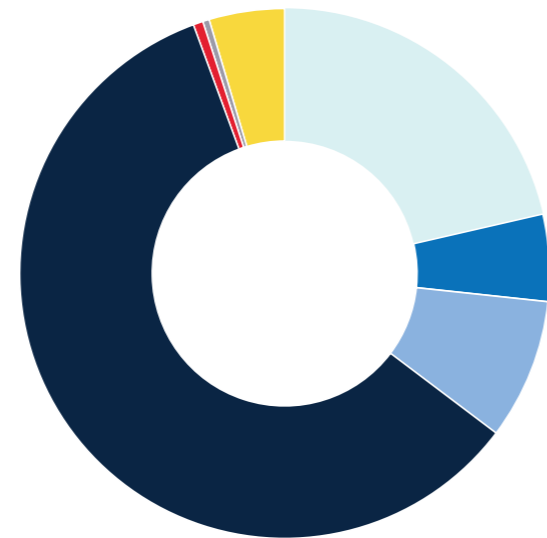


# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Income

	£	% <sup>(1)</sup>
Donations	1,651,609	21.4
Legacies	409,485	5.3
Trusts and Foundations	660,963	8.6
Lottery	4,571,114	59.1
Sponsorship	50,000	0.6
Merchandise	33,944	0.4
Investment Income	352,043	4.6
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,729,158</b>	<b>100</b>

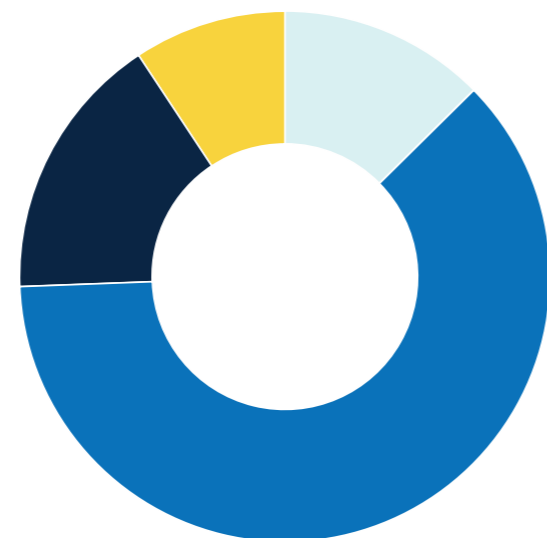
(1) Figure shown is a percentage of the total income.



## Expenditure

	£	% <sup>(2)</sup>
Fundraising Costs	873,291	12.6
Frontline Service	4,272,914	61.8
Lottery	1,129,561	16.3
Support and Other Costs	641,602	9.3
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>6,917,368</b>	<b>100</b>

(2) Figure shown is a percentage of the total expenditure.



# FUNDRAISING REPORT 23/24

As always, I would like to begin with a big thank you to each one of our donors, partners, stakeholders, volunteers and the team and crew that make Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance the integral part of the Scottish emergency response network that it is today. Every donation, comment, phone call, letter, visit we receive from you shows that you hold this charity in your heart, and we are so grateful.

**In 2023/24 we have again surpassed our previous busiest year of operations, having flown over 1,000 missions to deliver vital medical care and expertise to people in their moment of need, wherever they are in Scotland.**

Thanks to you all, we raised just over an incredible £7.5m which has gone directly to our services to ensure that our pilots and crew can be there when you call us.



We received over £500,000 in funding from existing trusts as well as significant contributions from new trusts. We were overwhelmed to hear that we had been chosen to become a long-term charity partner of the People's Postcode Lottery. Thank you to all of the players for their support.

We continue to work alongside many corporate partners including Apache, Stagecoach and Hadden Construction, we are hugely grateful for their continued support. SCAA was chosen as one of five charities to benefit from the Press & Journal 275 Community Fund which forms part of the P&J's 275-year anniversary celebrations. It has been fantastic to work alongside the team.

In addition, we were excited to hear that we had been chosen by the staff at Historic Environment Scotland to become their chosen charity for the next two years.



This year we saw a tremendous response from our supporters to our Make Your Mark campaign and we would like to welcome all of our new donors who gave to the appeal. Over £110,000 was raised by the incredibly generous people of Scotland, plus an additional £14,000 in Gift Aid. It is an absolute privilege to watch the names of our donors and their friends and family take off alongside our crew each time they attend a mission.

**The need for our service continues to grow and the challenging situations our crew and pilots find themselves in when attending an emergency call continue to demonstrate the importance of our service in Scotland.**

To ensure we can rise to these challenges we must constantly appraise the needs of our patients and adapt accordingly. The ability to do this is enabled by the consistent and loyal support of our volunteers, donors, partners, stakeholders and staff. In Scotland, no-one should die because help can't get there in time - only with your help can we continue to be there. Thank you.



**Criona Knight**  
Director of Development and Engagement



# FAST ACTION PROVES LIFE-SAVING

With medical emergencies rising sharply to account for more than half of all SCAA's call outs, last year's statistics revealed a significant increase in stroke-related emergencies.

Compared to the previous year, the number of responses to stroke emergencies rose by a significant 63% – a surge that SCAA paramedics believe results partly from targeted campaigns and increased public awareness of the life-threatening condition.

They highlighted a recent major public health campaign in stroke recognition, which included a hard-hitting TV advert.

This showed the public in graphic detail how to recognise when someone is suffering a stroke and showed in relatable terms what happens to someone in this situation and why fast action is critical.

With more people now able to identify what is happening to their friend, colleague or loved one, the 999 system passes that information on to their responders – including SCAA's Perth and Aberdeen-based crews.

**Strokes can occur anywhere at any time and SCAA is regularly called to fly professional, life-saving medical care to all corners of the country and out to Scotland's many island communities. And the sooner a stroke is detected, the better the outcome, and the shorter the recovery period, for the patient.**



Helimed 76's experienced air ambulance paramedic Gillian Thomson explained that a stroke is a life-threatening emergency which occurs when the supply of blood and oxygen to the brain is cut off.

"Strokes remain one of the leading causes of death and disability in Scotland," she said. "It's critical that stroke patients are able to receive the right care, from the right people, in the right timeframe. That's where SCAA can make a real difference – especially in remote and rural areas.

**"Not only can we get to the patient quicker than a road ambulance may be able to, crucially, we can take patients to the right care in the quickest time."**

Gillian explained that, with strokes, it really is a case of every second counts, and SCAA's crews are well aware their response can make a real difference to the survival or level of recovery of their patient. If the alarm is raised



quickly and SCAA can get there as fast as possible, patient outcomes are greatly enhanced.

"One of my most memorable incidents with SCAA was to a patient who was critically unwell with stroke symptoms," recalled Gillian.

"We made a decision as a crew to bypass closer hospitals and instead airlift this patient to a larger hospital with a dedicated stroke team who could provide the surgical interventions this patient required.

"With time and rehabilitation this patient made a remarkable recovery.

"I have no doubt that this was possible due to the generosity of the people of Scotland in helping to ensure that SCAA is here every day to provide equity of care to our stroke patients."

Throughout 2023/24, SCAA was called to 62 stroke emergencies. While that represented a marked increase on previous years and mirrored a rise in calls involving all Scottish Ambulance Service responses nationwide, SCAA also recorded a substantial demand for responses to cardiac-related call outs.

As with strokes, these time-critical emergencies rely on rapid responders such as SCAA to give patients the best possible chance of survival and recovery.

**SCAA can get medical care there quickly and get a patient airlifted to hospital in the fastest possible time but the more educated the public is in that initial procedure can help enormously.**

Gillian also believes an increase in availability of public access community defibrillators, together with enhanced awareness of the importance of bystander

CPR, has undoubtedly improved survival rates of cardiac arrests in Scotland.

"For each minute that passes, without chest compressions and use of a community defibrillator, a person's chance of survival reduces by 10%," she explained.

"SCAA is not only able to reach these patients as quickly as possible, but we also bring an enhanced level of cardiac care.

**"All SCAA paramedics have received additional training in clinical leadership and decision making which helps to ensure the highest level of care for our patients and their families."**

"We also carry a LUCAS mechanical CPR device. Once fitted to the patient this machine does chest compressions for us, ensuring that the patient continues to receive high quality, effective chest compressions whilst freeing clinicians to undertake other aspects of cardiac arrest care.

"We can also operate the LUCAS machine and deliver shocks in flight," added Gillian, "so SCAA plays a vital role in improving patient outcomes, particularly for remote and rural patients."

**SCAA responded by both helicopter and their Rapid Response Vehicles to 206 cardiac-related emergencies in 2023/24.**



# COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Individuals, groups and companies across Scotland have pulled out all the stops to support SCAA during 2023/24, raising vital funds in a variety of ways.

From Kiltwalks and marathons to skydives and cycles, 335 people took on a challenge for SCAA to raise a total of £168,264. One of these people was Irene Cattnach who skydived for SCAA raising £2,000 and earning the 80-year-old the title of the 'Skydiving Gran'. In May 2023, brothers Tom and Michael Hanratty walked and kayaked an epic journey from Musselburgh to Dornoch to raise £20,673 after Tom's 11-year-old daughter was assisted by an air ambulance following a road traffic collision in 2017. And all 141 of the 5-13-year-old pupils and staff at Belhaven School in East Lothian took part in a three peak challenge to raise over £12,000.



During the summer SCAA's yellow and blue gazebo stood out at many events and shows in communities across Scotland where we were able to meet so many of you. The Foggie Truck Show in Aberdeenshire donated all the proceeds of their event totalling £10,000 with a pledge to do the same in 2024.

At Christmas, Hope Blamire ran her annual prize draw and chose SCAA as one of the four charities to be supported in 2023. This resulted in a truly life-saving £33,000 donation to the charity.

Tractor Runs have taken place the length and breadth of Scotland to raise funds for SCAA, including on Stronsay, Hoy, Tiree (along with emergency vehicles around the



airport), Coupar Angus, Banff & Buchan and in Highland Perthshire (by NFU). The agricultural community also supported SCAA through the Farmers' Choir concert in Perth, organised alongside RSABI, raising over £18,000 for the charity.

**A huge thank you to all of our supporters, from Wendy in Kirkcaldy organising an annual Children's Christmas Party to the Lewis & Harris Rangers Supporters Club, the Police recruits at Tulliallan to Inner Wheel Clubs across Scotland. We appreciate the efforts of everyone who has raised money and awareness, helping to keep our crews flying and able to respond to emergencies across Scotland.**



**Thank you to everyone who's helped raise money this year!**

# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We celebrated a significant milestone recently, with over 200 volunteers offering their time, skills and enthusiasm to fundraise for SCAA.

SCAA volunteers attended over 100 events this year, travelling as far north as Orkney and as far south as the Borders. The help our event volunteers provide is vital for raising awareness whether it be speaking about SCAA, hosting activities or engaging with new contacts.

We welcomed our new mascots Whirly and Nevis to their first event season. They have quickly become fan favourites at events, posing for photos and videos, even enjoying a ceilidh or two.

Our Perth office volunteers continued their weekly support, helping with general administrative tasks and our increasingly busy merchandise postal orders. We were delighted to welcome office volunteers to Aberdeen for the first time who also provide weekly support.

Speaker volunteers presented at over 180 talks, engaging positively with various groups and organisations. Thanks to their efforts we continue to be busier than ever, with additional volunteers providing support and offering popular merchandise at talks.

We have hundreds of collection cans, managed by volunteers who check, count and bank on our behalf. Earlier in the year, this led to the discovery of a special gold coin that proved very valuable for SCAA. Our volunteers continue to find new locations for cans, further boosting our fundraising efforts.

While we have traditional volunteer roles, we also wish to acknowledge the efforts our volunteers provide in other ways whether it be helping with the transport of kit, ad hoc filming tasks with staff and crew or research support for Grants and Trusts.

One-off volunteering is becoming increasingly popular among those with limited time who still wish to support our life-saving work. We also welcomed several corporate groups this year who took part in fundraising, mascots and driving our golf buggies.

**We wish to thank every volunteer who has supported us - your dedicated efforts allow us to continue providing our life-saving service.**

**Volunteer Jennifer Sneddon, said:**

**"I enjoy volunteering for SCAA as you not only meet a wide variety of people when at events but you also encounter people that SCAA has actually helped. You hear personal stories and it makes you aware that what the organisation does is invaluable and I am very humble that I can contribute in a small way."**



**Volunteer Ian Hendry, said:**

"As a volunteer speaker, it is a privilege to represent SCAA when I attend various community groups to deliver talks and it is quite humbling when people come and share their personal stories of how SCAA has previously helped either themselves or other family members or friends.

"There is a great amount of flexibility in terms of the time you volunteer and having been volunteering with SCAA for around 18 months now, I can highly recommend it to anyone who is thinking about getting involved.



**If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer, please email Rebecca at: [volunteer@scaa.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@scaa.org.uk)**

# WITHOUT SCAA I WOULDN'T BE ALIVE

A heart attack can occur at anytime, anywhere, and unfortunately for Martin, this was to strike while he was staying in an 'off-grid caravan deep in the Tay Forest Park'.



"I was awoken at 6am with a searing pain in my chest," Martin recalls. "It felt like a punch to the solar plexus."

Storm Babet had caused flooding, and major storm damage around Perthshire and Martin was attempting to wait out the rest of the storm before towing his van back to Edinburgh.

**Thankfully, despite his immense pain, he was able to call 999. "I explained my symptoms to the call taker, she confirmed that she would dispatch an ambulance but due to the adverse weather and road conditions it would probably be several hours before they arrived," he reflects.**

"During the attack, it felt like being winded...but it wasn't going away. The sensation can be described as a vice tightening in the upper half of your body, with pain down both arms as if they had been punched repeatedly to the point of being lifeless. Cold sweats were coming and going - I knew it was serious."

As the storm abated and the cloud base lifted from the surrounding landscape, the father of two remembers hearing a "distant rhythmic thud of rotor blades."

**"The noise grew and grew until the SCAA helicopter (Helimed 76) appeared low over the tree canopy flying straight towards me."**

Two SCAA paramedics quickly assessed Martin and administered the appropriate pain and cardiac relief drugs. He was placed on a stretcher and loaded carefully into the aircraft. The team were able to constantly monitor his condition by utilising an ECG machine.

Soon thereafter a community first responder was on the scene to back up the crew.

**"I immediately felt comfortable with the crew, they all introduced themselves, and talked me through what had happened and what they were going to do... everything was seamless," Martin reflects.**

Once the helicopter departed from the secluded location, Martin, to his relief, was told they would arrive at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee within 20 minutes.



On arriving at Ninewells, Martin was transferred to the resus room in the emergency department before being taken to the Coronary Care Unit.

"The SCAA team were the epitome of calm professionalism," he explains. "They came into the ward to shake my hand and wish me all the best."

"I was a bit of a minor celebrity among the ward because I came in via helicopter."



**"I now know a lot more about SCAA than I did a few months ago. To the crew who undoubtedly saved my life, I know I'm a lucky man, my heartfelt thanks."**

After being monitored, treated, and provided with medication, Martin was sent home after eight days of hospital care.

**"I was told my heart had suffered severe damage... the doctors said I was very lucky. I've been in relatively good health my whole life, so it was all a big shock. But the aftercare with the NHS has been very impressive," he points out.**

After having a good rest over the last few months, Martin is regaining his strength and admits the physio is pleased with his progress thus far.

He is currently arranging a base visit with his two young daughters to reunite with the crew who attended to him.

# SCOTLAND'S CORPORATES STAND BY SCAA

SCAA's corporate partners maintain support to help fund our life-saving missions across Scotland.

Our corporate partners have been vital to SCAA's success story and this year they have been more important than ever. These partnerships not only keep our helicopters flying but allow us to increase awareness of the work SCAA does in communities all across Scotland. In light of challenging economic conditions, the continued and significant support we received from our corporate partners in the past 12 months is all the more impressive.

Long-term partner Apache North Sea has continued to provide substantial support with their total so far sitting at £300,950. Stagecoach donated £25,000 to SCAA this year as part of their long-standing commitment to our mission. Hadden Group's numerous fundraising events throughout the year saw them donate £12,000. Scot Mid donated £15,000 which helped fund six new mascot costumes for the SCAA community team to bring to events across the country.

**With demand increasing on our life-saving service, the need for corporate support has never been greater. That's why new partnerships with Kwik Fit, Peninsula Group and Crieff Hydro Hotels will be vital to the future success of SCAA's operations.**

Corporate social policy has never been more of a hot topic than it is now. As a result, meaningful charity partnerships have become a powerful tool for companies of all sizes.

In addition, a truly transformational partnership between a charity and a company can bring a wealth of benefits to a business, in time, even helping it achieve its own objectives.

**If you would like to find out more, please contact our Corporate Partnerships Manager Andrew Kernohan at: [a.kernohan@scaa.org.uk](mailto:a.kernohan@scaa.org.uk)**



## By positioning yourself as a partner of one of Scotland's most treasured institutions you could:

- Improve your company's reputation.
- Increase brand awareness.
- Increase customer retention.
- Improve employee satisfaction and engagement.

## In return for your support, we can:

- Put your company name and logo on the body of the helicopter.
- Provide talks from our staff and volunteers on SCAA's mission.
- Facilitate volunteering days for staff.
- Increase your media exposure through all our social media channels.
- Provide access to our logo and marketing resources.

# TRUSTS, FOUNDATIONS AND GRANT MAKERS

We are enormously appreciative of the support we have received over the past year.

## Thank you for helping us to keep saving lives.

A Sinclair Henderson Trust  
The AMW Charitable Trust  
Barratt Foundation  
The Basil Death Trust  
Binks Trust  
The Blackford Trust  
BP Foundation  
The Brownlie Charitable Trust  
Cadogan Charity  
The Cecil Howman Charitable Trust  
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International Beverage's Spirit of Our Community Award  
St Katharine's Fund  
Tesco Community Grants  
The March Brown Charitable Trust  
Tom Morris & Toby Black Ribbonfield Memorial Trust  
Walter Craig Charitable Trust  
Westfield Energy Recovery Community Fund  
The Whitaker Charitable Trust  
William Gibson Trust  
William Grant Foundation

**We also want to thank other contributors who wish to remain anonymous.**



### Make a donation to SCAA:



You can make a donation by Direct Debit or credit or debit card online at [scaa.org.uk](https://scaa.org.uk)



Or by phone on 0300 123 1111



Or by sending a cheque made payable to 'Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance' or 'SCAA' to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance, The Control Tower, Perth Airport, Scone, Perthshire, PH2 6PL

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