



Year in review

# 21 22

# Chairman's welcome

**Entering our 10th year of operation, we can look back with pride at how many people's lives have been transformed by the service Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) provides.**

As we reflect on the 3,786 (as of March 2022) life-saving missions that SCAA have been deployed to throughout Scotland, and the huge contribution the Scottish people have made to fund our charity; let's allow ourselves a moment to ponder the scale of our achievement.

The skill and tenacity of our executive team and charity staff, combined with the courage and commitment of our operational crews have made SCAA an indispensable part of our nation's emergency services, with a brand that is universally known and widely supported.

Despite our success, we have no right to become complacent or declare "Mission Accomplished!": the SCAA story must continue.

We formed this charity to work with the Scottish Ambulance Service to enhance Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) in Scotland. Despite the huge positive impact that Helimed 76 and Helimed 79 have made to our national resilience, opportunities still exist within large areas of remote and rural Scotland to improve HEMS coverage.

SCAA's Board of Trustees has instructed our executive team to carry out further research and obtain data which will support the development of our strategic plan, so the Trustees can consider what

enhancements are required to further improve our national air ambulance capacity and capability.

The Board anticipates that this work will be completed prior to our 10th birthday in May 2023, at which point we will mark our first 10 years of operations by revealing our new strategy. Rest assured that the next decade will be just as exciting and transformational as the first.

To deliver our new strategy will require an ambitious plan to develop our income streams; however, the Board acknowledges and understands the significant strain on household income with a looming recession, high inflation and rising energy and fuel costs. Throughout the pandemic, SCAA continued to be supported, despite the economic impact, and we are confident with your ongoing help, we can deliver this for Scotland.

None of what we have achieved, or hope to achieve, would be possible without the astonishing generosity of the Scottish people, plus Scotland's companies, Trusts and Foundations that continue to support our charity. On behalf of the Board of Trustees please accept my sincere thanks for your continued support.

**John Bullough**  
Chairman





# Chief Executive's Report

**I am pleased to report that SCAA continued to deliver its charitable purpose thanks to the generosity of the people of Scotland and the commitment of staff, volunteers and crew members.**

It has been another challenging year with fundraising and community activities impacted due to the uncertainty surrounding the emergence of further Covid variants. While we all adjust and are now living through this, the current cost of living crisis - as well as other global events - highlight, potentially, another difficult period for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance in 2022/23.

SCAA's purpose is to save and improve lives and we do that by providing rapid emergency medical service response capability by air and land. Working closely with the Scottish Ambulance Service and our aviation provider, Babcock Onshore UK, we respond to trauma, medical emergencies and transfer and retrieval of seriously ill people across Scotland from our bases in Perth and Aberdeen.

Being part of a chain of critical interventions, the impact we make is to keep people alive, keep families and communities together and, sometimes, it is being able to provide more time with loved ones.

All our services are funded entirely by voluntary donations and through the fundraising activities we undertake. During the 2021/22 financial year, you helped to raise nearly £5.7 million to fund the 893 incidents we responded to and sustain the charity.

There are many businesses who have supported SCAA including Apache North Sea and Aldi Scotland. Our three-year support from Home Bargains ended in March 2022 and I would like to thank their staff and customers who donated to the charity throughout this period.

Our army of volunteers conducted many talks and presentations either in person, where it was possible, or received additional training to deliver these remotely. Some volunteers were unable to continue over the last 12 months and I thank them for their support.

With the charity maturing and as we plan ahead, the Board of Trustees supported the investment and recruitment of five new colleagues during the last six months of the financial year. These appointments will help to complement and strengthen the existing staff team who have worked extremely hard, often helping fulfil other roles.

The operational crew of paramedics and pilots, supported by aircraft engineers, maintain the life-saving service daily, working in some extremely challenging situations and environments. They save and improve lives, with your support. I know how grateful and proud the people of Scotland are and how they value the team; as does everyone connected to SCAA.

Looking ahead, SCAA will celebrate its 10th anniversary in May 2023 and the last decade has passed very quickly. Hopefully, the Board of Trustees will announce its strategic plans at this time and SCAA can count on your continued support throughout the next 10 years.

**David Craig**  
Chief Executive



## SCAA's speed proves a lifesaver

**There are few things retired GP Alan Smith enjoys more than a round of golf. But a game with friends at his home club of Turriff turned to a race against time when Alan collapsed with a devastating heart attack.**

"I was on the sixth fairway when I just keeled over," he said. "I don't remember anything from then until waking up in hospital."

Unknown to Alan, his collapse sparked a rapid and life-maintaining response from fellow golfers, club staff and the emergency services. The speed and professionalism of Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance was to prove a life-saver when every second counted against the critically ill patient.

As Alan's golfing partner commenced CPR, club officials raced from the clubhouse with a defibrillator to kickstart his heart and SCAA's Aberdeen-based Helimed 79 lifted with a consultant-led team to bring critical care as quickly as possible to the patient.

"I owe my life to everyone who acted so quickly that day," said Alan, "From the cool-headedness of my fellow golfers and officials whose care proved

crucial, to SCAA and the specialist crew who basically brought the accident and emergency department expertise to my side by helicopter as I lay on the golf course and then airlifted me so speedily to hospital."

Alan was taken straight to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary's Cath Lab for immediate cardiac care and five days later underwent a triple heart bypass.

SCAA's helicopter made the flight in less than 15 minutes - a journey that would have taken nearer an hour by road.

As Alan reflects on what might have happened that day, he recognises SCAA's crucial role in his survival.

"SCAA is a wonderful charity and absolutely indispensable for those living, working or visiting communities far from major hospitals," he said.

"I came as close to losing my life that day as you would ever want to come and I'm in no doubt that the speed of SCAA saved my life."

**"I came as close to losing my life that day as you would ever want to come and I'm in no doubt that the speed of SCAA saved my life."**

# Community fundraising

Yet again the people of Scotland rose to the challenge of supporting SCAA in communities throughout the country to keep our Air Ambulances flying. We have been delighted to see fundraising activities return while the imagination and creativity of our supporters have flourished to create new events raising awareness and vital funds for the charity.

While contactless payments and online shopping have seen a boom during the pandemic, our collection cans, located in shops, restaurants, petrol stations and dentists (to name a few), continued to be filled with coins - and sometimes notes - raising a fantastic £44,817.

Running, cycling, walking, jumping and all sorts of physical activities were undertaken to raise £123,703 from challenge events during the year. After three postponements, the Etape Caledonia finally went ahead in September 2021 and 58 SCAA participants cycled their way to a whopping £30,326! On Islay the inaugural 'Run the Runway' event, organised by the Airport Fire Station, took place raising over £2,800 from the island community.

An impressive 1,458 people took part in SCAA's Facebook challenge fundraising events, building a community of support and encouragement through their dedicated Facebook groups as they undertook the month-long challenges. From '100 Miles

in October' to '10,000 Steps a Day in March', supporters from Orkney to the Borders raised £142,937 - funding more than 57 life-saving missions.

A Dino Egg hunt at Haddo House in Aberdeenshire organised by the local Rotary Clubs, a darts challenge by 9-year old Aiden, Christmas Lights at a home in Moray, an online raffle in Lochaber, art events in Rattray and on Orkney, and a non-uniform day at Auchmuty School are just some of the other ways that people have supported SCAA.

We would also like to recognise the ongoing support and unwavering efforts of both the Pitlochry Station Bookshop and Tayport Charity Shop who have raised over £7,000 during the year.

A massive thanks goes out to all who got involved and supported SCAA.

## £44,817

raised through collection cans

## £30,326

raised by Etape Caledonia

## 1,458

Facebook challenge participants



# Through their eyes

**Specially trained for their Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) role, SCAA's crew members have to cope with whatever each new day throws at them. Here paramedic Ali Daw and pilot Jamie Ross reflect on their duties with Scotland's only charity-funded air ambulance service.**

**Jamie:** SCAA's operational area is literally the entire length and breadth of Scotland. We can be tasked to the west coast, the Outer Hebrides, down to The Borders or anywhere up the east coast and our sister aircraft in Aberdeen is often tasked to the northern isles and Orkney so we can be pretty much anywhere in the country at any time.

**Ali:** We deal with all types of emergencies. We tend to go to mainly traumas but also deal with medical emergencies and crew requests for help in remote and rural Scotland and transfers from the islands to the mainland.

**J:** The challenges of flying in Scotland are many and varied, unfortunately. Our big problems are usually weather and range. We have to deal with a lot of weather problems - particularly in winter, but really any time of year - and also the terrain as well. We are quite often tasked to remote rural locations - often in the highlands - in mountainous terrain. Obviously in winter we face shorter days and flying into darkness, especially in poorer weather, just adds an extra level of difficulty to our mission.

**A:** We attend anything an ambulance would go to really but we can hopefully get there more quickly - especially to remote and rural areas further away from help. If patients need to be in hospital more quickly, we can facilitate that as well. No two days are ever the same. You don't know what you will attend on shift at any point. One day you're dealing with

something and the next day can be totally different - the type of job or the area or the patient - many different factors.

**J:** We can land pretty much anywhere as long as it's big enough - legally, the landing area needs to be twice the size of the helicopter rotor disc so that's a pretty small space. We can land on the side of a hill, on a road, in a farmer's field, someone's back garden or on a beach. There's not many places we can't land unless it's just too tight or there are too many hazards such as power lines or buildings nearby. Our aircraft are fast and reliable. We cruise at around 120 knots (about 140 mph) so if the weather allows us to fly as the crow flies we can get around the country more quickly.

**A:** Hopefully when the people of Scotland are most in need we make a massive difference by being able to get to them more quickly and treat them effectively and get them to the right hospital as fast as possible to get them the help they need. The speed we can reach patients and then get them to hospital undoubtedly helps save more lives across Scotland.

**J:** Being an air ambulance pilot - and for SCAA in particular - is a great job. Very rewarding. You come in to work every day and have no idea what's going to happen. You're waiting for the phone to go and you could be sent to the Outer Hebrides or a beach five minutes down the road and it's always to help someone who is in distress so it's a very rewarding and very satisfying job as a pilot.

**A:** Some of the people we meet are having the worst day of their lives and hopefully we are there to counteract that and make things better. To help as much as possible and get them to where they will receive the rest of the help and care they need. It's a big responsibility but it's rewarding - definitely rewarding.

**"We rely on everyone that helps us throughout the country to be able to do what we're doing."**



**J:** It's a lot of responsibility. Air ambulances tend to recruit experienced pilots - often from a military background - who are trusted to get on with the job. We do the whole gamut from planning the brief in the morning, completing the missions and then putting the aircraft to bed at night ready for the next day's taskings so there is plenty to keep us busy. It can be tiring after a long day - especially flying hours with multiple taskings or if you're combatting bad weather or dealing with multiple retasking events where you're constantly having to replan. You can definitely be mentally and physically drained at the end of a long 12-hour shift.

**A:** This job is a little bit different because I am a Scottish Ambulance Service paramedic but seconded to SCAA. You are representing both so have to work well with both and be willing to do charity duties as well as being a paramedic. Working with SCAA I enjoy flying - flying's great. The way we can access the country is fantastic - we're able to get in to places a lot quicker than anyone else really and working in such a small close knit team is brilliant as well. We all know each other really well which means we can work together really well and we all get on.

**J:** The thing I enjoy most is coming into work and being unsure of what's going to happen. It's like a little adventure each day. You get airborne with the crew and they're all brilliant. You always get a laugh each day despite the more serious and strenuous medical side of things. It's just the reward we get from carrying out that job and every day is filled with variety. One of the beauties of SCAA is that it is Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance - it's not Perthshire's, it's not Angus's, it's not Lochaber's - it is the entire country that we cover. We have the huge national base that we cover unlike a lot of the air ambulance operators down south or elsewhere in Europe where they have a much more contained geographical area that they operate in so, hence, we have all the varied challenges that go with that.

**A:** We couldn't do what we do without people from across the country that help to support us - whether through donations, fundraising or anything that raises the charity's profile. Without these people doing these kinds of things we wouldn't be able to function. We rely on everyone that helps us throughout the country to be able to do what we're doing. Thank you

**J:** Time and time again we land on scene and people say "I never thought I would actually need you" because no-one ever plans to have an accident or an incident. SCAA is entirely donation funded and it is an expensive operation to keep a helicopter like this, a modern machine, and the medical crew operational 365 days a year for the benefit of the entire country. So thank you to everyone that donates because it keeps this operation going and keeps us able to provide this fantastic service for everyone in Scotland.



# Operations overview

## Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance responded to 893 emergencies during 2021/22, our busiest year of operation since launching in 2013.

Still operating under restrictive Covid protection protocols as the country gradually emerged from the crippling pandemic, crews faced the challenge of an ever-increasing workload for both aircraft and rapid response vehicles as they responded to emergencies in every corner of Scotland.

From bases at Perth and Aberdeen, Helimed 76 and 79 attended the country's most serious and time critical illnesses and injuries where their rapid response would prove a lifesaver time and time again.

Four in every ten emergency call outs saw SCAA race to the scene of serious trauma, deployed via a recently actioned tasking model developed by the Scottish Ambulance Service and the Special Services Desk to ensure appropriate assets for specific incidents and aimed at getting patients to one of the country's four Major Trauma Centres (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen) within 45 minutes.

The deployment of air ambulances is pivotal in meeting that deadline.

SCAA's role has never been more recognised or utilised and we are at the forefront of reaching patients quickly who are in need of air support for emergency medical, trauma or critical care. Our deployment to trauma cases alone has increased by 56% in the past year.

SCAA also provides a platform that can take a consultant-led critical care team to the patient and then transfer doctors and patient to definitive hospital care where speed is the vital component.

Forty-two percent of all trauma cases attended throughout the year were to those involved in road traffic collisions, while 30 percent were to falls.

A total of 361 patients were airlifted to hospital care by SCAA over the 12 months - a 57% increase on the previous year.

Nineteen percent of all call outs saw SCAA paramedics attend at medical emergencies ranging from heart attacks and strokes to sepsis and convulsions.

Aberdeen and Perth are both large busy cities and we have seen an upsurge in the demand on our rapid response vehicles to support Scottish Ambulance Service responses in these areas - especially in emergency medical cases - and we have saved countless lives and made a positive difference in both communities.

As air ambulance usage increases, SCAA helps facilitate more support for our critical care teams to retrieve more patients from our island and remote community hospitals.

This is where we deliver paramedic or critical care teams to the islands to support the local clinical staff - be it GP, nurse or paramedic led.

Populations and seasonal visitors on our islands are increasing and we provide a vital service and deliver a quality of care that allows access to specialist hospitals on the mainland for both trauma and medical patients.

Scotland's most remote areas are a long way from hospitals and the road networks are challenging.

While staffing has been testing for health services, SCAA's involvement helps to ensure ambulances positioned in rural locations remain available for their communities.



While medical patients will be airlifted to one of several specialist hospitals, those suffering severe injury are flown to one of Scotland's four Major Trauma Centres (MTC).

Having Helimed 79 based at Aberdeen has seen a huge increase in the number of patients taken by SCAA to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary – the MTC for the north of Scotland – allowing those seriously injured in the north east to reach critical care in the fastest possible time.

SCAA's increased services across the whole of Scotland and our many islands has seen our pilots' flying hours increase by 55% in the past year and the distance flown grow by the same percentage to over 78,604 nautical miles – that's the flying equivalent of more than three times around the world.

We're fortunate at SCAA to have some of the best helicopter pilots in the business, ensuring that we reach those most in need and get them off to hospital, and the paramedics' admiration for their work knows no bounds.

Patients are perhaps only aware of the paramedics who attend at scene but they should be in no doubt that it is the determination, experience and professionalism of our pilots that ensure lives are saved.

This year saw us start to plan for the refurbishment of the operational base at Perth Airport. This will ultimately see pilot and paramedic crew share a working space and provide separate relaxation, kitchen and dining facilities.

At Aberdeen, Helimed 79 has added a fuel trailer to their kit, facilitating a rapid refuel and turnaround when it returns from a mission.

As always, we are indebted to our sister services including police, fire, ambulance, coastguard etc – and in particular the Mountain Rescue teams across Scotland who work with us in partnership to reach, treat and recover patients off the hills and from inaccessible locations.

It's been great to gradually welcome members of the public back into our bases again – albeit in a hybrid format. There's nothing quite so uplifting as seeing a former patient walk up to you after major trauma or illness and realise you had a part to play in their recovery or survival. It's often as emotional for us as it is for them and it typifies why we do the job we do.

Our crews owe the public we interact with daily a huge debt of gratitude.

For in addition to the fundraisers, supporters and donors, the unsung heroes among the public are those who get stuck in to help us land safely at scene and get airborne again as quickly as possible.

This can include kindnesses as diverse as securing landing sites, corralling livestock to allow us to land in a field, opening gates, ferrying paramedics from the helicopter to an incident scene by all-terrain vehicles, keeping members of the public distanced and safe, providing care and comfort to patients and helping to lift and load stretchered patients in difficult conditions.

Thanks to all.

We do it FOR you but we couldn't do it WITHOUT you.

**John Pritchard**

Helimed 76 Paramedic Team Leader



# Mission Stats 2021/22

**893**

Total call outs

**689**

Flying hours

**638**

Helicopter call outs

**78,604**

Nautical miles flown -  
the equivalent of more  
than 3 times around  
the world!

**255**

Rapid Response Vehicle  
(RRV) call outs

**55%**

Increase in nautical miles flown  
over 2020/21

**75%**

Increase in call outs over 2020/21

**56%**

Increase in trauma cases  
over 2020/21



- Cardiac-related call outs
- Trauma-related call outs
- Retrievals and transfers
- Other

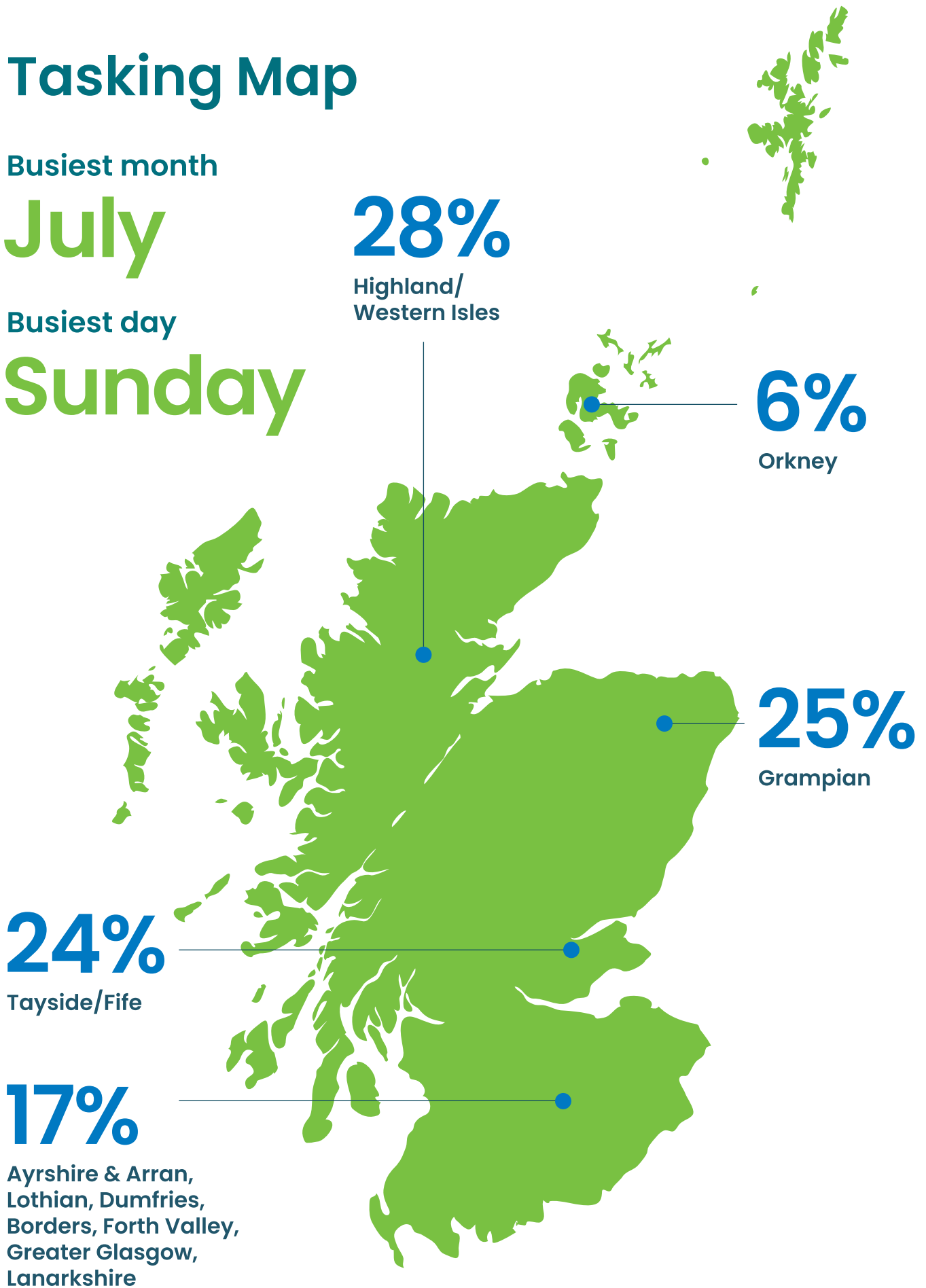
# Tasking Map

Busiest month

**July**

Busiest day

**Sunday**



# Summer heralds increase in countryside casualties for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance

**Summer repeatedly proves to be the busiest season for SCAA as more and more people take to the countryside for work and pleasure.**

July alone last year accounted for 13 percent of the charity's annual workload.

For while the hills, forests, lochs and fields are a workplace for many, they also provide the ideal getaway for lovers of the great outdoors.

In summer, the number of motorists and motorcyclists increases, as does the number of hillwalkers, horse riders, anglers, trail bikers, campers, wild swimmers and others involved in the myriad of leisure pursuits available in Scotland's glorious countryside.

When accidents happen miles from anywhere, a helicopter air ambulance such as SCAA can make a critical difference - often between life and death.

Helimed 76 Paramedic Team Leader, John Pritchard explained that SCAA's Helimed 76 at Perth and 79 at Aberdeen deploy regularly to accidents and emergencies in remote inaccessible locations - well away from roads and tracks where casualties cannot be reached easily by land ambulances.

"One of SCAA's great strengths is that it can fly direct to remote rural areas and land in inaccessible spots to reach those seriously injured or ill," he said.

When you're dealing with thousands of square miles of countryside, however, finding the casualty - and finding them fast - can prove challenging.

"We can only bring rapid paramedic care to the scene and transfer the casualty quickly to hospital if we can locate the incident scene easily," said John.

"Air ambulances can land very close to an incident location - but it's spotting that location from hundreds of feet in the air that can prove a problem."

Many taking part in rural leisure pursuits opt for high visibility clothing which is often vital in spotting casualties from the air.

Horse riders, cyclists, runners and walkers in bright day-glo clothing stand out against the countryside colours and make them easier to locate if the worst happens.

**"One of SCAA's great strengths is that it can fly direct to remote rural areas and land in inaccessible spots to reach those seriously injured or ill."**



By contrast, countryside camouflage and rustic tweed clothing favoured by field sports enthusiasts, farmers and rural workers renders the wearer virtually invisible, even when they have pinpointed their location to emergency services.

"Precious minutes can be lost trying to locate sick or injured people who simply 'disappear' against the landscape," said John.

But even the most difficult missions can have solutions.

John recalled one call-out to a remote hillside where a member of a stalking party sustained head injuries after an all-terrain vehicle overturned on a steep slope.

"Due to the camouflage clothing everyone was wearing it was difficult to see the party from the air. Although they could see the helicopter approaching and circling, SCAA couldn't see them.

"It was only when a quick thinking member of the group removed his shirt and the crew spotted his gleaming white Scottish torso that the casualty was pinpointed!"

Agricultural emergencies throw up another unique set of challenges for our airborne rescuers.

SCAA's senior pilot Captain Russell Myles explained how - approaching the scene - the helicopter crew has to take several factors into account.

"When we're working out our approach we try to avoid livestock or take a flight path that gives them somewhere to run to and cause them least stress.

"We're equally considerate about crops," he said. "If we simply have to land in crops then we touch down as close to the edge of the field as possible - landing the skids parallel to the machinery tracks and the furrows - to keep both helicopter and foot traffic damage to a minimum."

Vital minutes can be saved when people on the ground lend the crew a helping hand to spot the exact location.

SCAA highlighted one farmer who had the presence of mind to arrange feed troughs into a large "H" to guide the helicopter to his land.

Rural workers are among the first to offer to help at countryside emergencies.

"Often the incident can be miles from access roads or habitation," said John, "and the rugged terrain can force us to land a little way from the scene.

"Many times, a worker has appeared from nowhere in an all-terrain or 4 x 4 vehicle to drive paramedics to the patient," he said. "They're also quick to open gates, corral livestock or help carry kit and the stretchered patient."

# A farmer's gratitude

**When farmer Euan Baird and his cousin were administering routine medicine to young calves, an anxious mother decided she didn't want to be separated from her youngster – a move that would almost prove fatal for the 52-year-old farmer.**

As the 800 kg cow crushed against Euan in a funnelled metal barred handling area in a desperate bid to reach her calf, he felt the bones snap in his pelvis amid excruciating pain.

"I knew straight away that something was seriously wrong – I could feel that something had snapped inside me," he said. "I roared and the cow pulled back. If she'd pressed on she would have rolled me over and crushed me to death – I had nowhere to go."

Luckily the cow pulling back allowed Euan and his cousin to escape the handling area and call an ambulance.

"My wife and cousin got me into a chair but the pain was getting even worse and I felt I was going to pass out," recalled Euan. "I was frightened – I didn't know how badly injured I was or what the outcome would be. It's a terrifying situation and I was near total collapse with the agonising pain."

"Then I heard a helicopter approaching and as it circled overhead I knew it was an air ambulance – Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance goes over here all the time so it's a familiar sight."

"I've never been so relieved to see it."

SCAA landed in a field beside the farm and paramedics were quickly assessing Euan's injuries and administering welcome pain relief.

"They were amazing – so professional and caring," said Euan. "I was so glad to be in their hands and so relieved. I dared to think I would survive this and come through it OK thanks to their help."

"They came to my aid so quickly and then flew me to hospital in just minutes. I don't want to think what that journey would have been like in a road ambulance – I would have felt every bump in the road."

X-rays and cat scans revealed that Euan had snapped his pelvis front and rear, severing it from the spine. Complex surgery followed to stabilise the bone while pins and plates were inserted to graft the pelvic structure back together.

"I'm out of action for a while as far as farming goes but doctors expect me to make a full recovery in time," said Euan following a two-week stay in hospital.

"I was in the wrong place at the wrong time that day and I paid the penalty," he said, "but it could have been a lot worse and I owe a huge debt of gratitude to SCAA for coming to my aid so quickly. It's an incredible charity and I'll be forever grateful."

"I don't want to think what could have happened if they hadn't been there."





**"I owe a huge debt of gratitude to SCAA for coming to my aid so quickly. It's an incredible charity and I'll be forever grateful."**

# A lifeline for our island communities

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance has long been acknowledged as a vital lifeline for Scotland's island communities, but the past year has seen a record number of call outs to assist those ill and injured far from mainland hospital care.

More than 22 per cent of all aircraft taskings throughout the year were to attend island communities, taking our crews from Orkney to Islay and Benbecula to Arran on their life-saving and life-supporting missions.

Twenty-two different islands welcomed SCAA in its busiest-ever year for island support.

Helimed 76 Paramedic Team Leader, John Pritchard explained that increased use of air ambulances across the island communities helped clinical teams on the islands provide a level of care to which those living on the mainland have easier access to.

"Populations and visitor numbers on many of our islands is increasing – particularly over the summer months," he said, "and accidents and illnesses happen in these remote areas just as they do on the mainland.

"We provide a true lifeline for these communities – offering a quality of care and rapid access to specialist hospital care that is always of benefit and often life-saving.

"SCAA also provides a vital support service to our critical care teams, allowing them to retrieve more patients from our island and remote community hospitals and transport them to appropriate mainland hospital care," said John. "This covers

illness, injury, surgery and transplant patients who would otherwise face long and arduous road and ferry journeys.

"And in every situation, we bring either a paramedic or critical care team to the islands, supporting the clinical staff on site, be it GP, nurse or paramedic led."

SCAA's most frequent island destination throughout 2021/2022 was Orkney (33 times), followed by Arran (26) and Mull (19). Crews were also tasked to attend patients on Bute, Benbecula, Papa Westray, Colonsay, Gigha, Iona, Coll, Lewis, Tiree, Great Cumbrae, Islay, Lismore, Skye, Eigg, Jura, Sanday, Eday and Flotta.

Dr Charlie Siderfin, a GP on Westray, summed up what the helicopter air ambulance service means to him and colleagues everywhere.

"As a GP working on an outer island of Orkney, the helicopter air ambulance is quite literally a lifeline service," he said.

"When dealing with critically unwell patients, either because of illness or trauma, early evacuation to hospital can have a significant impact on patient outcomes.

"The GPs, Advanced Practitioners, Nurses and voluntary emergency services in our remote island communities are trained in the provision

**"We provide a true lifeline for these communities – offering a quality of care and rapid access to specialist hospital care that is always of benefit and often life-saving."**





of emergency care, but evacuation to hospital for definitive care is often essential," he stressed.

"I always feel a deep gratitude to the helicopter crew when they arrive to transport unwell patients to Kirkwall or Aberdeen, not infrequently in the dark or in poor weather. This gratitude is shared by our island communities who are very aware of the essential service the air ambulance provides in our times of need.

"Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance provides the Scottish Ambulance Service with additional resource that helps them provide us with rapid evacuation when we require it," said Dr Siderfin, "and we thank them so much."

Reflecting on the busy summer of 2021, Dr Martin Beastall of the Jura Medical Practice praised the support SCAA offers to Jura and similar islands.

"SCAA provides an invaluable lifeline service to the population of the Isle of Jura," he said.

"Helicopter evacuation is often the only viable option for patients in need of urgent hospital care in Glasgow.

"Jura Medical Practice and its patients are immensely grateful to the pilots and crew of SCAA and to those who provide financial support to keep the service going."

# 33

visits to Orkney

# 26

visits to Arran

# 19

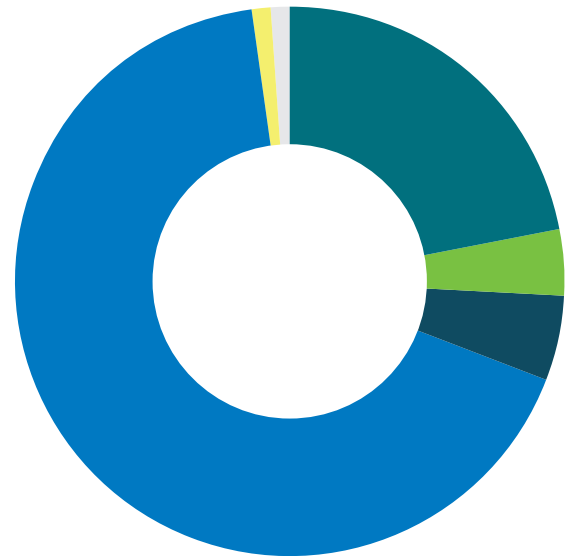
visits to Mull



# Financial information

## Income

	£	% (1)
Donations	1,246,304	22
Legacies	250,712	4
Trusts and Foundations	280,125	5
Lottery	3,841,548	67
Sponsorship	30,000	1
Other Income	37,293	1
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,685,982</b>	<b>100</b>

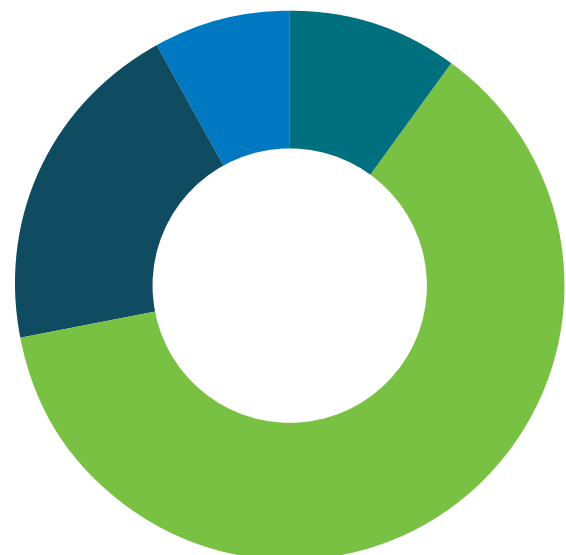


(1) Figure shown is a percentage of the total income.



## Expenditure

	£	% (2)
Fundraising Costs	588,848	10
Frontline Service	3,622,221	62
Lottery	1,168,327	20
Support & Other Costs	457,114	8
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>5,836,510</b>	<b>100</b>



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





# Thank you for your support

**During the past financial year, support from individuals, groups, local businesses, trusts, volunteers, lottery players and major donors helped us to provide life-saving emergency pre-hospital care to people in need across the 30,000 square miles of Scotland's mainland and islands.**

The community's generosity saw nearly £5.7 million donated to the charity ensuring that we could continue to operate 365 days of the year and respond to a record-breaking number of missions that totalled almost 900 call outs.

Our corporate partners Apache North Sea Ltd, Gillanders Motors, Home Bargains, Bidwells, MTC, SSE and the Stagecoach Group continued to provide vital financial support for the charity and we are extremely grateful to these companies and their staff for the invaluable support they provide.

Grants from Trusts and Foundations continued to provide significant support again this year. We are again grateful for the support of players of the People's Postcode Lottery with the award of a further grant from the Postcode Care Trust. These contributions, alongside those who have left a lasting legacy to SCAA, delivered real impact to the work of the charity.

Community fundraising support started to grow again as we all re-emerged from lockdown conditions and our social media pages burgeoned with thousands of people getting involved in virtual fundraisers, socially distanced events and online engagement.

Our incredible volunteers, whose main activities for the charity were curtailed during the lockdown, were able to start to get out and about again to provide talks, event participation and base support.

Our work through this second year of the pandemic was only possible due to the unwavering support from the communities that we serve across the whole of Scotland. I am incredibly proud of the charity team who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to build awareness and engagement opportunities for people to learn more about the life-saving work that we do and how to help to contribute the funds that enable us to provide more life-saving care to more people, more quickly.

In what has continued to be a challenging time for all, I thank everyone who has contributed their time, efforts and donations for your ongoing support and generosity.

**Nick Harvey**  
Director of Fundraising & Communications

# Partnerships that save lives

**SCAA is fortunate to have had the support of many corporate partners since first launching our service in 2013.**

These partners have helped to raise awareness of SCAA in communities across Scotland and have helped us fund our work with donations and financial support.

In the last year we have received significant support from Apache North Sea who sponsor our Helimed 79 air ambulance based in Aberdeen, providing funding that helps us to respond to time-critical emergencies all year round. Peterhead-based vehicle dealership Gillanders Motors continues to support SCAA by providing vehicles to assist the

charity in a wide range of tasks, allowing us to fulfil a variety of fundraising and charity demands. One of our longest standing supporters, Knockhill Racing Circuit has continued to support us throughout the pandemic by requesting donations from its customers when they book tickets for events and by helping to promote our life-saving lottery to their audience at particular events.

We are very grateful for the support of these partners, and all of our other corporate supporters.



Gillanders Motors Ltd



## Could you be our next life-saving partner?

**2021 was SCAA's busiest year operationally since launching in 2013 and reliance on our life-saving service continues to grow in 2022.**

With this comes a need to raise more money to fund the vital emergency response work carried out by our crews.

As a charity we rely on the generosity of our supporters and partners. Choosing SCAA as your charity partner offers opportunities to build a mutually beneficial partnership that can meet specific business or CSR needs, while also giving back to the communities where you, your employees and your customers live and work.

### **A partnership with SCAA could help your business to:**

- Raise your profile and increase brand awareness by sponsoring our Helicopter, our paramedic crews or our fundraising and community events

- Increase employee and customer engagement by taking part in fundraising events or by choosing SCAA as your charity of the year
- Increase sales and improve customer loyalty by developing a commercial partnership with SCAA, one of the most recognisable charity brands in Scotland

By supporting SCAA you would be helping to save and improve lives of people in communities across Scotland.

If you would like to know how your business could get behind our crews and help to make a real difference across Scotland, please contact our Partnerships Manager Ross Martin:  
[r.martin@scaa.org.uk](mailto:r.martin@scaa.org.uk)

# Volunteering

**SCAA is immensely grateful for the efforts and enthusiasm that our volunteers contribute to our life-saving work. Volunteers are central to our success and we recognise and value each individual that freely gives their time and skills.**

The past year has had many challenges and our Volunteering Team adapted and succeeded in bringing together new ways to support SCAA.

Our volunteers ensured our virtual talks could continue raising awareness of our life-saving work within the community. Virtual office volunteers continued to support us and, in time, were welcomed back in person.

Once restrictions were lifted, fundraising volunteer roles returned including attending events, playing the part of SCAA's mascot Scotty and distributing and gathering in our collection cans.

We hosted our first Volunteer Tea Party in our Aberdeen Base. It was a time of celebration

and socialising amongst all of us and it was a warm reunion for many.

We are at an exciting time for SCAA, being able to expand and offer new volunteering roles across Scotland. Our volunteer numbers have increased and we have welcomed back many of our long-term volunteers. Flexibility is central to our volunteer offer and we look forward to another year of celebrating volunteer successes together.

To find out more about volunteering, please visit [scaa.org.uk/support-us/volunteer](https://scaa.org.uk/support-us/volunteer)

## Why we volunteer

**"We only come this way once so it's important to choose to help someone in real need – SCAA is always there to medically support the people of Scotland at their most vulnerable time"**

**Dave Barwick**

**"I enjoy volunteering on a regular basis because, having taken early retirement, I still wanted to have a purpose and keep busy. I always look forward to volunteering in the office – the staff are always friendly, helpful and supportive. I chose SCAA because it's a fantastic Scottish charity with an obvious definite mission."**

**Mary Duffus**

**"I like to volunteer for SCAA as it's so worthwhile and people easily understand what it is about but are often surprised it's not government funded. There are so many great events this year that as well as raising awareness for this vital service, I'm having lots of fun with really nice people."**

**Kathleen Nelson**



# There are many ways to support SCAA

## Regular giving

Becoming a SCAA Regular Giver means providing life-saving financial support to help the charity to deliver more care, more quickly to more people across Scotland. Regular donations allow us to manage our resources better and deliver critical care more effectively, meaning SCAA can continue to be part of a strong, resilient emergency response network for Scotland.

## Legacies

Every year, approximately 50 of our life-saving missions are made possible through gifts in wills. We're very grateful to those who, after providing for loved ones, consider supporting our vital work by including a gift in their will to SCAA.

## Volunteer

The dedication and passion of our volunteers helps SCAA to save lives. We are always looking for reliable, enthusiastic people to join our family of volunteers by donating their time and skills. Volunteers are an integral part of our charity and support us in many ways - helping at events, giving presentations around Scotland, taking on the role of Scotty our mascot or helping out at one of our offices.

## Payroll giving

Payroll Giving is a flexible and tax efficient way to support SCAA through PAYE. Donations are deducted directly from salary before income tax deductions, meaning that SCAA receives more than it costs the donor.

## Take part in a fundraising event – or create your own!

Every year, there are hundreds of fundraising events taking place all over Scotland that supporters can get involved in to raise vital funds for SCAA. From cycling and skydiving to pub quizzes and coffee mornings, there really is something for everyone. These challenges can help people accomplish personal goals, rally support for a great cause and inspire others to get involved – even if that means creating their own event!





# Thank you for helping us to keep saving lives

**We are enormously appreciative of the support we receive from trusts, foundations and grants. This support has helped us save and improve hundreds of lives over the past year.**

Howberry Charitable Trust

The Mickel Fund

The Misses Barrie Charitable Trust

Highfields Trust CIO

The March Brown Charitable Trust

The Misses Robinson Charitable Trust

Souter Charitable Trust

The Grace Trust

PF Charitable Trust

William Gibson's Trust

The Meikle Foundation

Keirans Legacy

The Polo Charity Trust

Miss A M Pilkington Charitable Trust

Cruden Foundation

League of Friends of Newton Stewart Hospital

The Miss I F Harvey's Charitable Trust

Murdoch Forrest Charitable Trust

Hugh Fraser Foundation

Miss M B Reekie's Charitable Trust

Margot and Andrew Tennant Charitable Trust

West Hall Charitable Fund

The Aberbrothock Skea Trust

Binks Trust

Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust

Peter Samuel Charitable Trust

I B B Trust

The Caram Trust

The Brownlie Charitable Trust

Cadogan Charitable Trust

The Cecil Howman Charitable Trust

Friends of Crieff Hospital

The Netherton Charitable Trust

The Tillyloss Trust

The Gamma Trust

Mrs M A Lascelles Charitable Trust

Tay Charitable Trust

People's Postcode Lottery

Bank of Scotland Foundation

The William Grant Foundation

Dunlossit and Islay Community Trust



**Registered office:**

The Control Tower, Perth Airport, Scone, PH2 6PL  
Registered Company SC 384396 (Scotland)  
Registered Charity Number SC041845

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Mike Beale  
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**Chief Executive:**

David Craig

**Make a donation to SCAA:**

You can make a donation by direct debit or credit  
or debit card online at

[scaa.org.uk](https://www.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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