



SCOTLAND'S CHARITY AIR AMBULANCE

Annual
Review

2025

2026

scaa.org.uk

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Registered Company SC 384396 (Scotland)
Registered Charity Number SC04185

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Trustees:

Robbie Brown (Chair)
Richard Cockbain
(appointed September 2025)
Alastair Couper
Sean Cox
Myra Fulton

Alastair Gibson
(appointed September 2025)
David Goodacre
(appointed September 2025)
Melissa Hope
(appointed September 2025)

Helen Page
Mike Stewart
Paul Bassett
(retired September 2025)
Mike Beale
(retired September 2025)

Jan Cutting
(retired August 2026)
Joyce Leslie
(retired September 2025)
Carol Sinclair
(retired March 2026)

Chair's report



Chair Robbie Brown

It is my privilege to introduce this year's Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Trustees. The past year has once again demonstrated the essential role our air ambulance charity plays in delivering rapid, specialist care to people at the most critical moments of their lives. Whether responding by air or road, our crews brought advanced clinical skills, compassion and calm professionalism to patients, families and communities when every second mattered.

Behind each mission is a team of remarkable people. I want to thank our pilots, paramedics and doctors for their commitment and resilience. Their work is demanding, often unpredictable, and always carried out with an unwavering focus on patient care. I also pay tribute to our charity staff and volunteers, whose dedication ensures that the charity continues to operate and plan with confidence.

Of course, none of this is possible without the ongoing support from people in Scotland who continue to give generously.

This year has been marked by both achievement and challenge, not least in launching our new H145 helicopter, the most capable aircraft of its type.

The wider financial climate continues to affect charities and households alike. Rising costs from global events place great pressure on both, which is why we never take that support for granted.

As Trustees, we remain focused on strong governance, sound financial stewardship and the long-term sustainability of the charity. Our responsibility is to ensure that resources are used wisely, risks are carefully managed, and decisions are made in the best interests of patients and the communities we serve. We have committed ongoing investment in our new aircraft and continued to support resource in operational delivery and staff wellbeing.

All our Trustees volunteer their time without remuneration. I would like to thank them for their commitment to SCAA, particularly Carol Sinclair and Jan Cutting, who retired after many years' service, and welcome four additions, Richard Cockbain, Alastair Gibson, David Goodacre and Melissa Hope.

Looking ahead, our ambition is clear: No one in Scotland should die because help can't get there in time. We will continue to work closely with the Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS Trusts and our aviation partners, Babcock, while strengthening the relationships with supporters that make our work possible.

On behalf of the Trustees, thank you to everyone who has stood with us this year. Your support saves lives, brings hope, and helps ensure that our crews can be there for the next patient who urgently needs them.



David Craig speaking at Operation Skyward, the launch of our new H145 Helicopter

Chief Executive's report

This year has once again shown the vital role our air ambulance charity plays in protecting life and supporting communities when time matters. Across cities, towns, islands and rural areas, our crews have responded with skill, compassion and urgency to people facing sudden illness, serious injury and life-changing trauma. Behind every mission is a patient, a family and a community whose lives may be changed forever by the speed and quality of care they receive.

Our impact is only possible because of an extraordinary team. I want to thank our operational crew for their dedication throughout the year. They bring professionalism and humanity to some of the most challenging moments imaginable. I also thank our Trustees for their stewardship, and our partners, the Scottish Ambulance Service and Babcock for helping us deliver safe, effective and responsive care.

Also, our amazing charity team and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organisation everywhere, expanding our reach and awareness throughout Scotland.

As a charity, we depend on public support. Every donation, legacy gift, event, corporate partnership keeps our aircraft flying, our

rapid response vehicles on the road and our clinical teams ready to respond.

Thanks to that incredible support, I am delighted to report that £9.8m was raised, an increase of £1m from the previous year. This is an outstanding achievement and a clear reflection of the strength of commitment shown by our supporters across Scotland and beyond.

At a time when households, businesses and communities are facing significant financial pressures, this growth in income is especially meaningful. It has enabled us to protect and develop our life-saving service, invest in the people, equipment and infrastructure our crews rely on, and plan with greater confidence for the future. Most importantly, it means we can continue to be there for patients and families when they need us most.

The upgrade of Helimed 76 (Perth) in April and launch of our H145 D3 helicopter (Helimed 79 in Aberdeen) in October last year demonstrates investment in our life-saving service.

On behalf of everyone at the charity, thank you. Your support enables us to work towards our vision that no one in Scotland should die because help can't get there in time.

‘This charity is why I am here today’

Mary-Jane’s story



“I lay still, pretending to be dead. I could feel one of the animals snuffling at my head. A second was licking my bleeding wounds while a third kept pawing at my foot. The danger was far from over.”

Experienced hillwalker Mary-Jane Parker (61) planned to bag three Munros near Newtonmore when she set out early that morning in August.

But within minutes she was in a world of pain, terror and despair as she was crushed, dragged, tossed and trampled by a herd of cattle on the approach footpath to her first ascent.

“I’m always very wary and respectful of cows on open ground,” she explained, “and usually stay well clear of them. Unfortunately, this gang was hidden behind a bank of high ground and I didn’t see them until I skirted the mound and found myself just feet away from them.”

Within seconds, the cattle surrounded Mary-Jane and started to close in on her.

“My little dog Lola panicked, broke out of her collar and bolted just as the cows attacked.

“I was crushed between two of the cows, swept off my feet and carried between them as they charged off along the track.

“I was thrown to the ground but my rucksack strap was round one of the cows legs and it dragged me along the ground. Next thing I knew I was tossed up in the air, then crashed back to earth.”

Mary-Jane’s horrific attack lasted just a few minutes but her injuries were extensive.

“I saw a massive wound on my left leg – my calf was ripped open from knee to ankle, and the muscle was hanging out. The cows didn’t move off – I was terrified they would trample me or attack me again.”

Mary-Jane lay for 45 minutes playing possum while her tormentors mulled around menacingly.

Luckily, Mary-Jane had been able to activate her Garmin emergency alert and tracking device on her rucksack beside her head, triggering the SOS alert.

The first voices Mary-Jane heard were some fellow hillwalkers who chased off the cattle and rushed to her aid, reassuring her that her little dog was safe and well.





Minutes later, police and then paramedics arrived and transported Mary-Jane off the hill to a waiting ambulance.

“A doctor and advanced nurse practitioner then arrived and judged that my injuries were so extensive that a road ambulance wouldn’t make it to hospital in time. The pain was crippling – I’ve never experienced anything like it.”

Medics knew an air ambulance was Mary-Jane’s best hope of survival and prompt surgical intervention and Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) was scrambled to help beat the race against time.

“I heard SCAA’s helicopter coming in and landing beside the ambulance. I started to feel hope again.”

“A lovely SCAA paramedic called Claire kept a comforting hand on my arm at all times. I felt so safe – so reassured. SCAA was the best blend of professionalism, caring and kindness all wrapped into one.

“I felt my leg was going to explode – it was agony. They gave me a painkilling drug that sent me reeling but I knew Claire was with me at all times. I was safe.”

Landing at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary just 30 minutes later, Mary-Jane was rushed through X-ray and into theatre.

She had suffered 10 broken ribs, a broken sternum, a broken right hand, pooling of blood in the chest wall, bruised lungs, major leg trauma and multiple bruises to the head, face and body.

Ten days later, following various surgeries – including skin grafts – Mary-Jane was allowed to return home to Peebles where her recovery continues.

“I thought I was done for out there on that track. I thought that was where it would all end for me. SCAA turned that on its head and got me where I needed to be – in time – to keep fighting and survive. This charity is why I am here today.”

Operations report

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance impacted on nearly a thousand families during 2025/26 as crews responded to emergencies in every corner of Scotland.

In a year when significant investment brought an enhanced helicopter and night vision capabilities to our crews, SCAA continued to deliver a 365-day frontline life-saving service to the people of Scotland.

Our new Aberdeen-based H145 D3 helicopter – the most capable aircraft of its type in the UK (see pages 12 and 13) – took our crews further, faster, and, along with its sister H135 aircraft in Perth, provided critical rapid response medical support whenever and wherever needed.

In the past year, SCAA took to the air 598 times, flying help and hope to those most seriously ill or injured across Scotland's 30,000 square miles of mainland and many islands.

Our speedy response in delivering doctor and paramedic-led teams to the scene ensured patients had the best possible attention in the quickest possible time, before being airlifted to definitive hospital care.

And our continued working with advanced critical-care teams saw 122 taskings with the Emergency Medical Retrieval Service due to the potential severity of the incident.

A total of 314 patients were airlifted to hospital, while hundreds more were treated by our paramedics at the scene.

A further 273 patients benefitted from our attendance by air, when paramedics provided at-scene care and assistance. Responding to emergencies closer to our bases, paramedics deployed their Rapid Response Vehicles for 136 emergency responses.



SCAA is primarily tasked to the most serious, remote or inaccessible incidents, and medical emergencies continue to dominate our workload with 308 such patients requiring our help last year. Of those, 126 were cardiac-related emergencies and 35 were stroke, while others ranged from sepsis and breathing difficulties to collapses and allergic reactions.

Our crews faced some of the most harrowing time-critical trauma incidents with 291 such call outs last year. Of those, 137 were to road traffic collisions, a further 81 to falls (many from height), 19 to industrial incidents (including agricultural), 17 to equestrian accidents and 17 to patients injured in other sporting activities.

SCAA has the largest operational area of any air ambulance charity in the UK and responding to emergencies across such a vast area necessitated over 655 hours in the air, flying more than 86,000 miles – the equivalent of nearly three and a half times round the world.

These lengthy flights are often to our island communities where SCAA provides a lifeline for those most in need when the only alternative – if available – is lengthy, uncomfortable, ferry and road transport.

In the past year, SCAA has transferred 133 patients from remote and island communities to definitive hospital care or returned those still ill or recovering to their local healthcare.

To sustain the best possible frontline operation, SCAA invests heavily in both training and equipment.



Our new helicopter, launched in October, took SCAA to the next level in emergency pre-hospital care, with its customised fit uniquely designed for the specific needs of our crew and patients over long distances and in challenging weather conditions.

And Night Vision Imaging Systems (NVIS) on both our aircraft enhanced our winter response capability with the state-of-the-art equipment proving a lifesaver on 13 call outs after dark.

SCAA has also significantly invested in upgrading the helipad and fuel delivery system at our Perth base, upgrading all pad lighting and replacing the previous 2,000 litre trailer bowser with a 10,000 litre fixed fuel bowser, offering both financial and operational benefits.

All crew helmets have been replaced in order to accommodate NVIS goggles and aviation partner Babcock has enhanced simulator

and virtual reality training for all crew, providing a safe replication of high risk, low frequency, emergency scenarios.

The need to keep our crews at the top of their profession also prompted the delivery of new hi-tech paediatric and adult mannequins for near-reality training at both bases.

Our pilots face some of the most difficult and varied flying in the UK and their skills allow our frontline medical teams fast access to patients wherever they are, expertly landing in challenging spots such as roadways, hillsides, beaches, forest tracks, playing fields, schoolyards and docksides to reach an emergency as quickly as possible.

And our dedicated paramedics, backed by doctor-led teams when necessary, continue to provide the very highest level of patient care, helping to advance SCAA's vision that "no one in Scotland should die because help can't get there in time".

Annual mission stats

April 25 – March 26

Call outs: 734

Helicopter: **598** Rapid Response Vehicle: **136**

314

Airlifted patients

137

Road traffic collisions

147

Medical cases

74,778 nautical miles flown



Trauma cases: 291

Stroke cases: 35

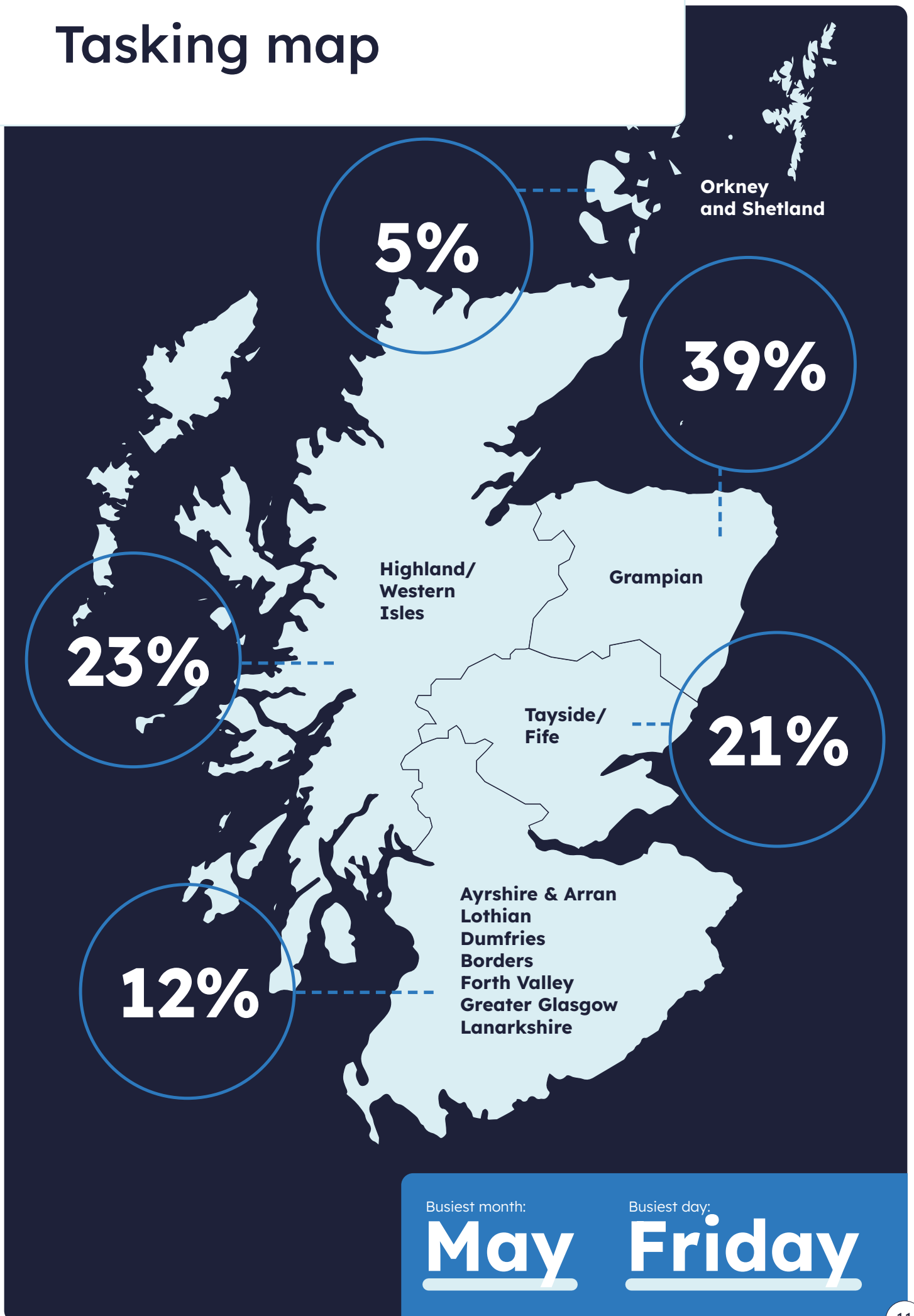
Cardiac-related cases: 126

Falls: 81

Flying hours: 655:57

EMRS joint responses: 122

Tasking map



The impact of your support



In October 2025, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance launched the country's newest generation of emergency response aircraft when the most advanced helicopter air ambulance of its type in the UK took to the air.

The state-of-the-art Airbus H145 D3 would prove a major advance in SCAA's delivery of emergency pre-hospital care and acquit itself well within several hours.

Investing in its first-ever newly manufactured aircraft allowed SCAA to design a customised medical fit-out, unique in Scotland, and created to reflect the specific needs of crew and patients over long distances and in challenging weather conditions.

SCAA's Operations Manager Russell Mackay said the charity's forward thinking had been vindicated time and time again as the new workhorse played a pivotal role in the delivery of Scotland's Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS).

"Within hours, our new Aberdeen-based helicopter was able to deliver critical care to a patient and airlift them to hospital

without refuelling, ensuring a faster turnaround between incident and hospital care," he said.

"That first example of the aircraft's enhanced range, endurance and capacity has been repeated again and again as SCAA delivers time-critical frontline emergency care to those most in need, all across Scotland."

Together with a newly upgraded NVIS equipped H135 Helimed 76 at Perth, the charity is now operating a fleet fit for the future.

"The new replacement Helimed 79 aircraft is doing the job it was specifically designed to do," said Russell, "for our crews, our patients, our country and our weather. The H135 is a brilliant HEMS aircraft but this H145 D3 was built with Scotland in mind and that's proved a game changer."

SCAA's new aircraft comes with many benefits, including:

- 1.** Enhanced safety features including NVIS and weather radar;
- 2.** Greater capacity to convey more clinicians and specialist equipment or a patient's loved one;
- 3.** Increased range allowing an additional 60 minutes flying time before refuelling;
- 4.** Customised medical fit-out provides extra room and facilities for treating patients in flight;
- 5.** Comfort comes from improved crew seating, special state-of-the-art trolley bed and five-rotor smoothness of flight.

And SCAA's crews have given the new aircraft a resounding chorus of approval. Aberdeen-based SCAA pilot Captain Pete Winn said the H145 was "a joy to fly".

"I think SCAA has pretty much hit the sweet spot for air ambulances and HEMS in Scotland with this aircraft," he said.

Pilots at the base all underwent refresher, conversion and NVIS training to ready them for the introduction of the new larger aircraft with its suite of enhanced tech.

"The additional payload gives us greater flexibility and longer range when attending call outs," said Pete. "It also allows us to carry extra medical crew and equipment in a much more comfortable cabin space.

"But the most impressive thing from a pilot's point of view are the hi-tech modern avionics," he explained.

"The weather radar and terrain awareness system are tremendous assets. Cameras allowing us to see beneath the aircraft and behind us have proved invaluable, while

NVIS and our external lighting have allowed us to extend our operations into the early hours of darkness in the winter months."

SCAA paramedics are equally enthusiastic about their new life-saving ally.

"It's a much roomier and comfortable platform on which to travel and to treat patients on board," said Helimed 79's joint lead paramedic Claire Allan.

"The larger space enables us to carry our own crew plus a trauma team which means we are delivering a really robust specialist and extensive multi-disciplinary team to attend some of the most complex, acute, and traumatic incidents anywhere in Scotland," she said.

"Carefully considered seating configurations also allow us to access our patient more easily and store, deploy and access a variety of specialist equipment both before and during flight.

"It's also great to be able to airlift a loved one along with a patient," said Claire.

Claire highlights the new Rollin stretcher/trolley which – unlike with the H135 – can be mechanically lowered from the helicopter and wheeled to the patient.

"It is easy to manipulate and has side rails and brackets which can be used for hanging equipment such as ventilation aids, defibrillator and syringe driver," she said, "as well as providing a cushioned and comfortable transfer option for the patient to and from the helicopter – especially over challenging surfaces. It then functions as their bed in flight with all the equipment to hand."

Extra storage, improved lighting and heating, additional headroom and comfortable seats all add to the enhanced crew and patient experience delivered by SCAA's new aircraft.

In just six months, the specially customised aircraft has secured its place at the cutting edge of Scotland's HEMS operations, saving and improving many lives and enhancing SCAA's status in the eyes of a grateful and supportive public.

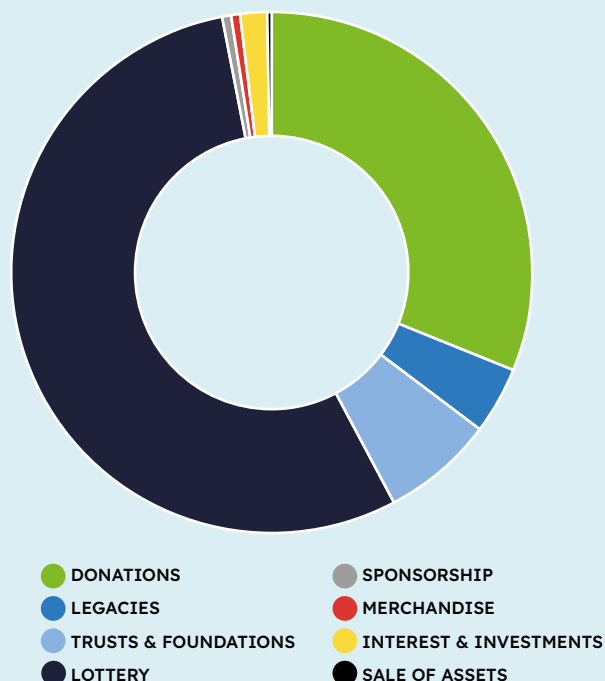
Financial information

Year End March 2026

Income

	£	% ⁽¹⁾
Donations	3,051,343	31.4%
Legacies	380,690	3.9%
Trusts and Foundations	674,560	6.9%
Lottery	5,326,441	54.8%
Sponsorship	52,500	0.5%
Merchandise	49,774	0.5%
Bank interest and investment gains/losses	185,294	1.9%
Sale of Assets	1,075	0.0%
Total Income	9,721,677	100%

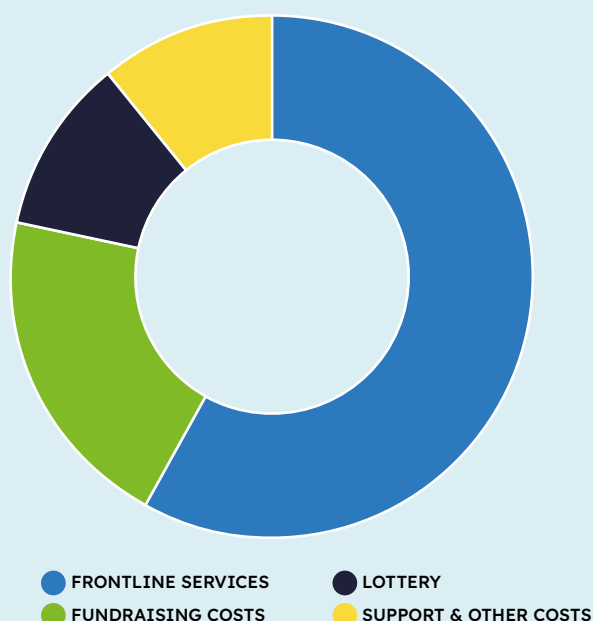
(1) Figure shown is a percentage of the total income.



Expenditure

	£	% ⁽²⁾
Frontline Services	5,661,165	58.1%
Fundraising Costs	1,982,200	20.3%
Lottery	1,071,423	11%
Support and Other Costs	1,030,066	10.6%
Total Expenditure	9,744,854	100%

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





Fundraising report



Thank you to you all

What a year 25/26 has been for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. But before I talk about that, I wanted to say thank you to every donor, partner, supporter, trust and foundation, volunteer and team member that made it happen. This year, with your support, we raised an incredible £9.8m, an increase of £1m on last year's fundraising total.

What is clear to me is that when we came together in January 25 to let the people of Scotland know that we intended to upgrade our Perth air ambulance and introduce a new H145 D3 helicopter in Aberdeen, you heard our ask for help and answered it. We told you that the new aircraft will cost an extra £2m each year, but we believed it was worth it for the lives it will save - and you did too.

We still have a lot to do. We are progressing steadily, sustainably and with our ambition that no one in Scotland should die because help can't get there in time at the heart of it

all. Ensuring that whenever we are tasked we can answer that call for help and be there for you, your family, your friends and your communities.

It is with great pride that we watched our new aircraft take off in October from Aberdeen to save more lives and improve outcomes for patients across Scotland. We all hope that each of you shared in that sense of pride. On her first day of operation, that air ambulance conveyed our Helimed 79 team on a mission from Huntly to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary in one journey. With the previous aircraft, they would have needed to stop to refuel. This improvement meant that the patient was delivered to hospital in the quickest time possible.

This year, we are again very grateful for the funds raised by Postcode Lottery players and awarded by the Postcode Care Trust. Our sincere thanks also go to the many other Trusts and Foundations whose support has been invaluable throughout the year.



PL
POSTCODE
LOTTERY

POSTCODE
CARE
TRUST

I'd like to say a special thank you to some of our philanthropic donors, who have made incredibly generous personal gifts to SCAA: David Beattie, Irene Moulson, Val Peachey, and Eric and Anna Ploughman.

We continue to be supported by our fantastic partners including Apache, Edradour and Harbour Energy and we are excited to start working with Sheila Fleet in 26/27.

A standout moment was our Make Your Mark campaign, which gave supporters the chance to leave a lasting tribute on our new H145 helicopter. More than 4,500 names, representing donors, loved ones, groups and organisations, were added to a one-of-a-kind map of Scotland decal on the aircraft's belly. Displayed for at least the next 12 months, these names are a powerful reminder that every life-saving mission is made possible by the generosity of our incredible supporters.

We launched our first ever Skyward Challenge event for schools across Scotland. Those schools that raised the most funds per pupil for SCAA won a visit from our air ambulance and paramedic teams. It was an utter pleasure to see so many smiling faces from communities across Scotland as the helicopter came in to land and have the opportunity to show the children first-hand the difference their fundraising makes.

What this year has shown us again is that we can only continue to do what we do with your support. Every element of support we receive from across the country is hugely appreciated by us all. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!



Criona Knight
Director of Development
and Engagement

Community fundraising across Scotland

Throughout the year, individuals, schools and community groups have organised and taken part in a range of amazing fundraising events and activities to support SCAA.

The year started with the launch of our first Skyward Challenge which invited schools across Scotland to complete 145 laps of their playground, gym or local park to help bring SCAA's new H145 air ambulance helicopter into service. Forty-one schools took on the challenge with over 5,500 pupils completing 32,500 laps to raise an incredible £78,552.

We were kindly supported by some magnificent gardens who opened their gates in aid of SCAA, including Glenkindie Estate, Glenbervie House and North Craighill in Aberdeenshire, Bradystone House and Torwood House in Perthshire, and the Secret Garden on Isle of Lismore in Argyll.

Not many six-year-olds choose to spend their summer holiday fundraising but Ruben took up the challenge and raised over £2,500 with a tombola, bake sales and more. We were delighted to host him at our Aberdeen base to say thank you.

Carol and members of Whitehills Rowing Club organised a Rowathon and lucky squares competitions after one of their rowers was airlifted by SCAA in 2025. While in Caithness a pumpkin pick was organised after crews airlifted a little boy to hospital, it was an outstanding success with £11,896 raised.

Bikers gathered in their thousands in August at Thunder in the Glens in Aviemore where



SCAA was the event's chosen charity. The motorbike community is incredibly supportive with other clubs including Widows Sons Scotland, Cuminestown MCC, Tayside N Angus Bike Meets, Moto Guzzi Club Scottish Branch, Scottish Classic Motorcycle Club, and The Twisted Pistons Motorcycle Club all making donations. Partnerships with Motorcycle Law, Two Wheels Motorcycles and Hub 71 all continue to help SCAA raise awareness and funds among the community.

In September, SCAA's first Run the Runway event took place at our Perth base with hundreds of people running 2.5k, 5k or 10k to raise £36,000!

We had a braw time at the SCAA St Andrew's Day Ball at Stirling Castle. Thanks to the generosity of our guests, over £55,800 was raised on the night.

There are so many people we want to thank and with your help we can ensure no one in Scotland dies because help can't get there in time. Thank you.



Our wonderful volunteers

We've had another great year with our wonderful volunteers. We often say we can't do this without them, and this year has really highlighted their efforts. We have over 310 regular volunteers and several one-off and corporate volunteers supporting us in various roles across both rural and city communities.

They braved all weather, travelled extensively through Scotland, and spoke to more of our lovely supporters who shared heartfelt stories about the impact SCAA had had on them, their families, and friends.

Volunteers attended over 200 events in the last year. From the County Show in Orkney, our Run the Runway in Perth, Skyward Challenge Helicopter visits, Thunder in the Glens and many more in local communities up and down the country.

From setting up stands, chatting to everyone who visited, car park and crowd marshalling, racing mascots, to our golf buggy taxis, our event teams were kept busy.

Over 300 talks were presented by our busy team to local groups, businesses, schools and youth clubs. Volunteers answered questions about the new operational upgrades and highlighted our crew's recent life-saving efforts.

We introduced a new role this year: Auction Prize Volunteers. They reached out to local businesses to see if they'd like to support our SCAA charity ball. We were grateful to receive such wonderful prizes thanks to their efforts.

Collection cans were in high demand at new locations, and after a busy period our team ran out of cans to clean. Volunteers continue to count, sort and bank our can contents all over the country.

Office volunteers were kept busy with an increased volume of letters and parcels in our buildings. They helped us create hundreds of Skyward Challenge, Facebook Fundraising T-shirts and Brew for the Crew packs, ensuring they arrived in time.

Our virtual volunteers have continued to support multiple research projects and busy online groups.

A huge thank you to our volunteers; it has been a massive effort to achieve everything. We can't wait to spend another year with you.

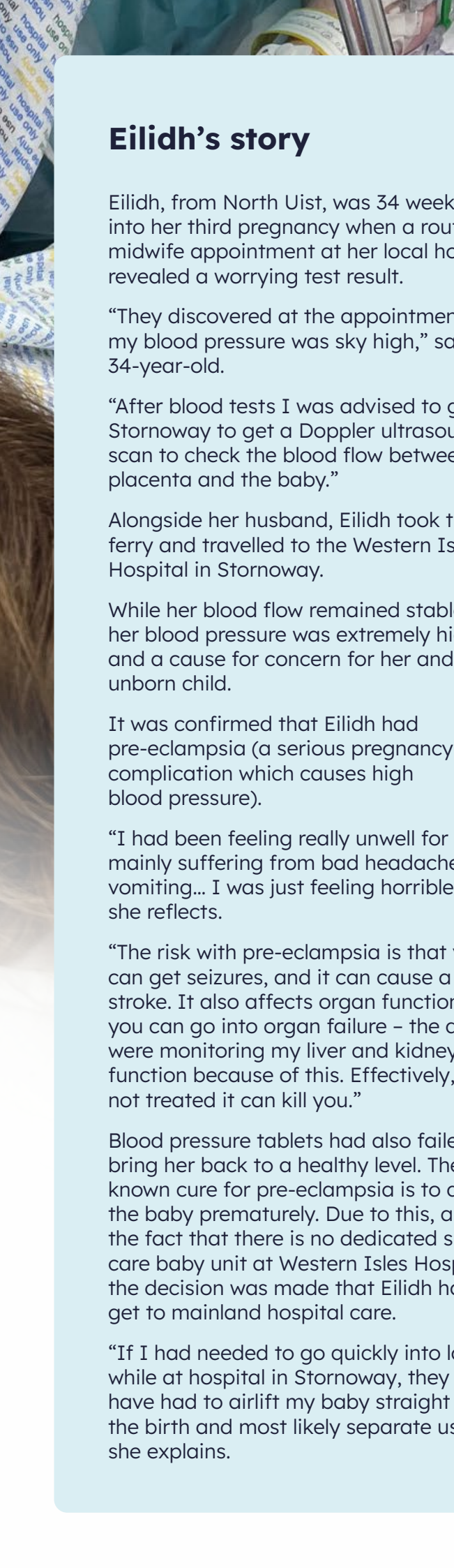
If you are interested in joining our friendly team of volunteers please email Rebecca at: volunteer@scaa.org.uk

"When I joined SCAA I can safely say I found my tribe, a wonderful charity, a family and friends for life."

Laura, volunteer



“If SCAA hadn’t been there, it could have been a completely different story – flying to the mainland helped save my baby’s life.”



Eilidh's story

Eilidh, from North Uist, was 34 weeks into her third pregnancy when a routine midwife appointment at her local hospital revealed a worrying test result.

"They discovered at the appointment that my blood pressure was sky high," says the 34-year-old.

"After blood tests I was advised to go to Stornoway to get a Doppler ultrasound scan to check the blood flow between my placenta and the baby."

Alongside her husband, Eilidh took the ferry and travelled to the Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway.

While her blood flow remained stable, her blood pressure was extremely high and a cause for concern for her and her unborn child.

It was confirmed that Eilidh had pre-eclampsia (a serious pregnancy complication which causes high blood pressure).

"I had been feeling really unwell for days, mainly suffering from bad headaches and vomiting... I was just feeling horrible," she reflects.

"The risk with pre-eclampsia is that you can get seizures, and it can cause a stroke. It also affects organ function so you can go into organ failure – the doctors were monitoring my liver and kidney function because of this. Effectively, if it's not treated it can kill you."

Blood pressure tablets had also failed to bring her back to a healthy level. The only known cure for pre-eclampsia is to deliver the baby prematurely. Due to this, and the fact that there is no dedicated special care baby unit at Western Isles Hospital, the decision was made that Eilidh had to get to mainland hospital care.

"If I had needed to go quickly into labour while at hospital in Stornoway, they would have had to airlift my baby straight after the birth and most likely separate us," she explains.

Thanks to donations from the Scottish public, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) was available to airlift Eilidh and her unborn child to the specialist facilities they desperately needed.

Crew from SCAA's Aberdeen base transferred her from Stornoway to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness in just 40 minutes.

"It was my first time in a helicopter," Eilidh, who works as a high school teacher, confesses.

"The fact that the air ambulance helicopter was involved did give a sense that this was an urgent situation that we were in. I think I was in quite a bit of shock throughout the experience, and I kept thinking about my two boys that I was leaving behind.

"But I remember the air ambulance paramedics made me feel at ease. Everything was all very calm and controlled. They never made me feel like it was a total emergency, and they kept me relaxed throughout the process. My blood pressure continued to be monitored throughout the flight, which felt very quick."

The crew ensured the mother-to-be received a SCAA teddy as a present for her unborn child.

Eilidh delivered baby Seòras soon thereafter, and both were able to make it home just in time for Christmas where his two big brothers, Findlay and Hamish, met him for the first time.

"I'd like to thank the crew for being so calm and warm – and for Seòras' teddy which still sits in his cot with him," says Eilidh.

"Growing up on Uist, you hear the air ambulance all the time on the islands... it has always been absolutely vital here. We're so lucky to have this resource."

Partnerships that save lives



At Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance, we rely on communities across Scotland to make our work possible, and the business community is no different. Thank you so much.

From large to small, businesses across Scotland contribute hundreds of thousands of pounds and much-needed volunteer hours to our mission.

From donating funds, to organising fundraising events, running, walking, baking, or golfing, businesses find all sorts of creative ways to help raise funds for our work.

Our long-term supporter Barratt North Scotland Limited kindly chose us as their charity of the year. They organised major events, including a golf day and a ball, while team members also took on their own fundraising activities — together raising almost £60,000 through their efforts.

We were delighted to welcome our long-term partner Apache North Sea Production Limited to our Aberdeen base, to mark the milestone of donating £350,000 to our work since 2020. They spent time seeing first-hand what their latest generous gift of £50,000 has helped to achieve.

Edradour Distillery continued their generous contribution which includes their special charity bottling. We are thrilled that they have now increased their support of our work for at least the next three years.

This year, we were also delighted to see new commitments from businesses choosing to support us in many different ways. Harbour Energy became a partner, giving generously through donations and staff fundraising. Wolfburn Distillery in Thurso pledged to donate £15 from every sale of their special SCAA-labelled whisky for the next five years. Whilst Orkney-based Sheila Fleet Jewellery have chosen us to benefit from their Daisies at Dawn charity collection – each sale donating 10% to SCAA.

All these partnerships are just a small selection of the incredible support we receive from Scotland's business community. From company donations to staff teams and individuals fundraising, we know it takes hard work to raise these precious contributions or make time to volunteer.

We rely on you to make our work possible and are extremely grateful that so many businesses choose to help SCAA.

Thank you so much.

Trusts, Foundations and Grant Makers who help us save lives

The A E H Salvesen's 1985 Charitable Trust

A Sinclair Henderson Trust

Air Pilots Benevolent Fund

AABIE Charitable Initiative

Arnold Clark Community Fund

Barratt Redrow Foundation

The Basil Death Trust

Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm Community Ltd
(Kilmuir and Logie Easter Community Council)

The Blackford Trust

The Brownlie Charitable Trust

Card Factory Foundation

Mrs. Cecil Howman Charitable Trust

Cordis Charitable Trust

The CPF Trust

The Crerar Family Trust

Cruden Foundation

Englefield Charitable Trust

The Fairthorn Foundation

Foundation Scotland

Frank & Elizabeth Robertson Charitable Trust

Friends of Pitlochry Community Hospital

The Gamma Trust

The Geoff and Fiona Squire Foundation

Gledswood Charitable Trust

Hart Knowe Trust

Highfields Trust CIO

Howberry Charitable Trust

Hugh Fraser Foundation

I B B Trust

The John M Archer Charitable Trust

League of Friends of Newton Stewart Hospital

The Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust

M V Hillhouse Trust

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Margot and Andrew Tennant Charitable Trust

McDonald's in the Community Foundation

The Mickel Fund

The Miss I F Harvey's Charitable Trust

The Misses Barrie Charitable Trust

The Misses Robinson Charitable Trust

Morton Charitable Trust

Mr and Mrs William Donald's Memorial Trust

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Pat Munro Foundation

Peter Samuel Charitable Trust

Peter Vardy Foundation

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Sir Reo Stakis Charitable Foundation

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Tay Charitable Trust

Tesco Community Grants

The Cadogan Charity

The Meikle Foundation

Thistledown Trust

The W A Cargill Fund

Walker-Shoolbraid Charitable Trust

Walter Craig Charitable Trust

Westfield Health Charitable Trust

Westwood Charitable Trust

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/debit card **online at** 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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