

YEAR IN REVIEW

22/23

SCAA.ORG.UK



SAVING TIME, SAVING LIVES

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Registered office:

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

Trustees:

Paul Bassett
Mike Beale
Alan Bell

Jock Carruthers
Alistair Couper
Jan Cutting

Myra Fulton
Richard Holloway
Joyce Leslie

Helen Page
Andrew Richmond
Carol Sinclair

SCAA

Charity Air Ambulance

**Auditors:**

Azets Audit Services, 5 Whitefriars Crescent,
Perth, PH2 0PA, United Kingdom

Company Secretary:

Thorntons Law LLP, Whitehall House, 33 Yeaman
Shore, Dundee, DD1 4BJ, United Kingdom

TRUSTEE REPORT

The last year has seen some highs and a low as we marked the 10th anniversary of Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA).

Suddenly, on the 4 May 2023 the Chair of SCAA, John Bullough MBE, passed away peacefully. John had been involved with SCAA from its inception and, together with his fellow co-founders, saw the charity grow into a major and integral part of the country's emergency services network.

It is incredible to believe that the last decade has passed so quickly but, equally, it's remarkable to reflect on the success of SCAA and on all those who have played a part in its development.

Since 22 May 2013, the charity has responded to around 5,000 call outs, raised over £50 million and flown half a million miles, saving thousands of lives and impacting on thousands more, particularly in remote and rural areas.

In 10 years, the charity has grown from a one aircraft service at Perth to a two-helicopter fleet based at Perth and Aberdeen, with two Rapid Response Vehicles responding to nearby emergencies. It has more than doubled the crew numbers, extended its operational hours, developed its workforce and built an army of nearly 200 volunteers nationwide.

From those volunteers who provide invaluable time and support, to the skill and professionalism of the charity staff and the exceptional commitment of the paramedics, pilots and engineers who maintain our helicopters, all demonstrate collaboration and a healthy team environment. Additionally, my fellow Trustees, who also volunteer and devote their time, help to ensure that SCAA delivers its charitable purpose.

None of what we have achieved, so far, would have been possible without the amazing generosity of the people of Scotland, its businesses, communities, grant organisations and those who donate what they can afford.

As a Board of Trustees, it is vital that we maintain strong governance while being cognisant that, as SCAA evolves, different skills and experience may be required to oversee the charity. Being a Trustee can be quite

demanding but always rewarding. During this year, the Board reviewed the skills required to fulfil these roles and plan for succession in office.

I am pleased to report that six new Trustees – Jock Carruthers, Alastair Couper, Jan Cutting, Myra Fulton, Richard Holloway and Helen Page – were appointed in October 2022. All these Board members bring a vast array of business and third sector experience which complements and strengthens the governance of SCAA. Recently, Benedict Lawson stepped down from the Board after seven years and I place on record the Board's thanks for his contribution.



Finally, work on developing our strategic plans is nearing completion and the Board of Trustees remains committed to enhancing and improving our national air ambulance capability. These plans will take into consideration the current economic position to ensure that any developments are financially sustainable.

Our aim, with your continued support, is that the next decade will continue to be as rewarding and successful as the first.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, our sincere thanks go to you all.

Mike Beale
Interim Chair

CEO REPORT

The 10th anniversary of Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) has marked a significant milestone for the charity, with the last year also proving the busiest in our first decade.

As I reflect on the growth and development of SCAA since its launch, I realise what a privilege it has been personally to be part of its journey these last eight years, collaborating with a fantastic team of dedicated and highly skilled colleagues. I also reflect on the sad and recent sudden passing of our Chairman John Bullough MBE who dedicated an enormous amount of time, along with fellow Trustees, in establishing SCAA all those years ago.

A decade of saving and improving lives has positioned SCAA as one of the most recognisable charities in Scotland, an indispensable part of our nation's emergency services and an organisation that is supported by – and resonates with – so many people.

With no government funding, over £50 million has been raised by the people of Scotland which has seen SCAA respond to over 5,000 incidents, delivering a rapid response with skilled paramedics and doctors to anywhere in the country.

To deliver this service requires sustained income and I am pleased to report that £8.2 million was raised – a record year of fundraising and donations for SCAA. This included a significant legacy of £1.7 million from one of our donors. While an exceptional one-off donation, our total income has been achieved against a backdrop of financial and economic uncertainty, leading to rising costs for everyone and impacting across all areas of the charity. However, your support has helped to maintain our daily life-saving air ambulance service, ready to be deployed where SCAA is needed most.

The last year was the most demanding year for the crews of Helimed 76 in Perth and Helimed 79 in Aberdeen with 963 call outs, an increase of 8% on the previous year.

We all know how challenging the year was, with people struggling to pay household bills, which makes the continued support that SCAA receives, quite frankly, astonishing. Everyone connected with the charity values the support from the public,



Sincere thanks to everyone who has supported SCAA.

communities, businesses, grant funders and the many lottery players who contribute each year.

The charity is currently in a financially healthy position with a medium risk portfolio of investments, externally managed, helping to provide an annual return. This was only made possible throughout the last decade by the people of Scotland and their unfailing support of SCAA.

These and other funds may help support the continued development of SCAA and allow the Board of Trustees to consider how best to invest in enhancing and improving our national air ambulance capability, helping to deliver more care, to more people, more often, in Scotland.

Despite the success, no one in the charity is complacent. It will take a collective effort from us all to continue the SCAA story well into the future.

SCAA relies on the support of the public. We also rely on the many patients who have suffered trauma, or required medical assistance, to come forward to tell their story. Thank you to all those that have shared their experiences over the years.

David Craig
Chief Executive

A RESCUE FROM THE BRINK OF DISASTER

The last thing Mel remembers before entering a world of fear and pain was the front of a large black truck bearing down on their small hatchback car.

"It had started out such a lovely day," she said. "My husband Simon and I were heading off to climb Ben Lomond and looking forward to a day in the hills."

On a sharp bend just short of the Ben Lomond car park, however, a large pick-up truck on the wrong side of the road concertinaed the couple's vehicle and left Mel's life in serious danger.

As emergency services raced to the scene, Mel sat in the front passenger seat unable to move yet aware she had sustained serious injuries.

"People at the scene pulled me from the wreckage – afraid it might catch fire," she recalled. "I couldn't breathe properly or move. They laid me on the ground and I remember thinking – this is it. It all ends here."

Miraculously, Simon walked free of the wreckage unharmed but Mel was not so fortunate.

"There were voices all around me, asking my name, telling me an air ambulance was on its way. I didn't think I was going to make it at that stage but I had a real sense of calm – a sense of the inevitable."

When Mel next opened her eyes it was to see a red suit beside her and a Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance paramedic taking charge.

"SCAA's paramedics were amazing – so calm and reassuring," she said. "I felt I was in safe hands."



"I began to have hope – thanks to these guys I might just make it."

"I heard them saying they had to get me over a hedge and I was aware of being lifted over it and placed in the helicopter. SCAA paramedics never left my side – they were something professional and soothing to cling on to."

A 13-minute flight later and Mel was safely delivered to the Major Trauma Centre at Glasgow's Queen Elizabeth University Hospital where they discovered she had broken her back in two places, had seven broken ribs, a broken collarbone, a shattered right knee and a broken right ankle – all requiring major surgery.

It took Mel a year to recover sufficiently to go back to work and almost a year to the day from her accident, she was fit enough to climb another mountain.

"SCAA helped save my life when we crashed that day," said Mel. "When I saw that black truck filling the road in front of us there was no time to react – just a horrible, gut-wrenching sense of the inevitable."

"SCAA came at the darkest of times for me and made a truly awful situation so much better with their professionalism, expertise, speed and calming reassurance.

"They helped me fight – they brought me hope while carrying out their job spectacularly well.

"That amazing crew wrapped me in a sense of – 'we've got you, we'll get you through this, you're going to be OK'.

"Now I understand how the charity works I realise what a privilege it was to have them attend me," added Mel.

“Every time I see them flying now I wonder what sort of miracle they’re off to perform. They’re just amazing.”



OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

Ten years on and demand on Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) continues to grow as the service records its busiest ever year.

2022/23 saw the country's only charity air ambulance service respond to 963 call outs (+8%) from its bases at Perth and Aberdeen airports with both aircraft and Rapid Response Vehicles deployment on the increase.

Crews at Helimed 76 and 79 continued to take life-saving care in the fastest possible time to those most seriously ill or injured, airlifting 344 patients to vital hospital care.

Trauma cases continue to dominate the workload with around four in every ten call outs being in this category, while one in four of all aircraft taskings were to road traffic collisions – a 29% increase on the previous year's figures.

SCAA's ability to provide rapid air transport for our ScotSTAR teams, including EMRS, where illness or injury dictate a heightened clinical response has seen the number of joint taskings rise by 37% during the past year.

Deploying with a consultant-led critical care team literally takes the accident and emergency department to the scene and ensures patients receive the highest level of vital care in the fastest possible time. Supported by SCAA paramedics, this makes a formidable team at any emergency and offers the best chance of positive outcomes – particularly when we have deteriorating patients or are far from hospital care.

With SCAA's Helimed 79 and ScotSTAR North EMRS being almost co-located at Aberdeen Airport and Helimed 76 available to airlift teams from Glasgow or

rendezvous at scene, joint taskings now account for 22% of all aircraft deployments.

Sadly, we have witnessed a major increase in call outs to road traffic collisions (see feature on page 12).

Again, the ability to co-deploy with critical care staff and airlift patients rapidly to one of the country's four Major Trauma Centres (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee) within 45 minutes by air or road can make a life-saving difference.

We have also witnessed a significant rise in the number of medical emergencies we attend (+32%) and a notable rise in the number of cardiac - related call outs (+52%).

With the latter, we need early recognition, early call to ambulance service along with CPR and defibrillation and the rapid time-saving transfer which SCAA offers.

Hearteningly, we have seen many critical patients go on to survive and thrive because of that speedy process.

Similarly with stroke patients, it is a race against time to get the best result and outcome for patients – especially in remote and rural communities.

During the past year, our two aircraft have flown further and for longer than ever before, recording nearly 700 hours in the air and flying the equivalent of almost four times round the world.

Our most visited areas of operation continue to be the Grampian and Highland regions. Highland covers a vast tract of Scotland from Oban up through the Western Isles and eastwards across the spine of the country and, along with Grampian, accounts for a large percentage of Scotland's remote and rural communities where speedy air ambulance responses aid patient care and onward attention.

SCAA's two distinctive helicopters are no stranger to our many island communities (see feature on page 22).

The past year has seen SCAA fly to our islands more than ever before with our time saving often translating to saving lives when the alternative to a SCAA airlift is a long and arduous road and ferry journey.

While the majority of all our airlifted patients are taken to one of the four Major Trauma Centres, SCAA has





During the past year, our two aircraft have flown further and for longer than ever before, recording nearly 700 hours in the air and flying the equivalent of almost four times round the world.

flown to 16 different receiving hospitals in the past year ensuring that each patient is delivered to the most appropriate care offering appropriate specialisms.

After 10 years of operating in Scotland, SCAA's recognition and awareness among the public has never been greater. We are met with support, kindness and appreciation in every community we visit on our operations – from farmers to cyclists and golfers to hillwalkers – as well as from the clinicians and sister emergency responders we work alongside.

Our crews are always grateful for the help received in ensuring we can land safely and reach the patient quickly.

Helimed 79 at Aberdeen is now firmly established as a key asset in the 999 emergency response network alongside its stablemate Helimed 76 at Perth.

H79 had the benefit of launching from a purpose-built operations centre from Day 1 and the past year has seen a major refurbishment project undertaken at Perth to bring H76 on a par with its north-east colleagues.

Being prepared for every eventuality throughout our different seasons, however, means the teams have to constantly ensure the right standard essential PPE is on board.

Flying the equivalent of nearly four times round the world in a year is an amazing achievement by our team of base and touring pilots, especially when that flying is done in Scotland – known widely as presenting some of the most challenging weather and terrain helicopter pilots face.

We paramedics are in awe of their abilities and owe them a huge debt for their unfailing commitment to getting us through to patients and hospitals – and home again – all safe and secure.

Their contribution to our service is often overlooked but it is their determination, experience and professionalism that ensures lives are saved.

Similarly, in my 10 years with SCAA, I have been privileged to work alongside some of the best paramedics in the business. Our crews at H76 and H79 are something special – a breed apart – and while we all say, “we’re just doing our job”, there should be no doubt that a SCAA paramedic is someone we should all be proud of and grateful for.

As an operational team, we’re a quantum leap from where we were when SCAA launched 10 years ago and we’re all proud to have played a part in its decade of service to the public.

It's always humbling and heartening to welcome former patients to our bases and see the transformation in them. We see them at their worst, often critically ill or injured, distressed and frightened and it's so uplifting – and often emotional – to witness the positive result of the difference we made during the worst day of their lives.

John Pritchard MBE

Helimed 76 Paramedic Team Leader

ANNUAL MISSION STATS



**963
Callouts**

8% increase on
previous year



344 Airlifted patients

5% down on previous year



193 Road traffic collisions

29% increase on previous year



447 Medical cases

32% increase on previous year

79,272 Nautical miles flown

0.8% increase on previous year – nearly 4 times round the world.

364 Trauma cases

2.5% increase on previous year

210 Cardiac-related cases

52% increase on previous year

**151 Emergency Medical
Retrieval Service joint
responses**

22% of all aircraft call outs – 37% increase on previous years

694 Flying hours

1% increase on previous year

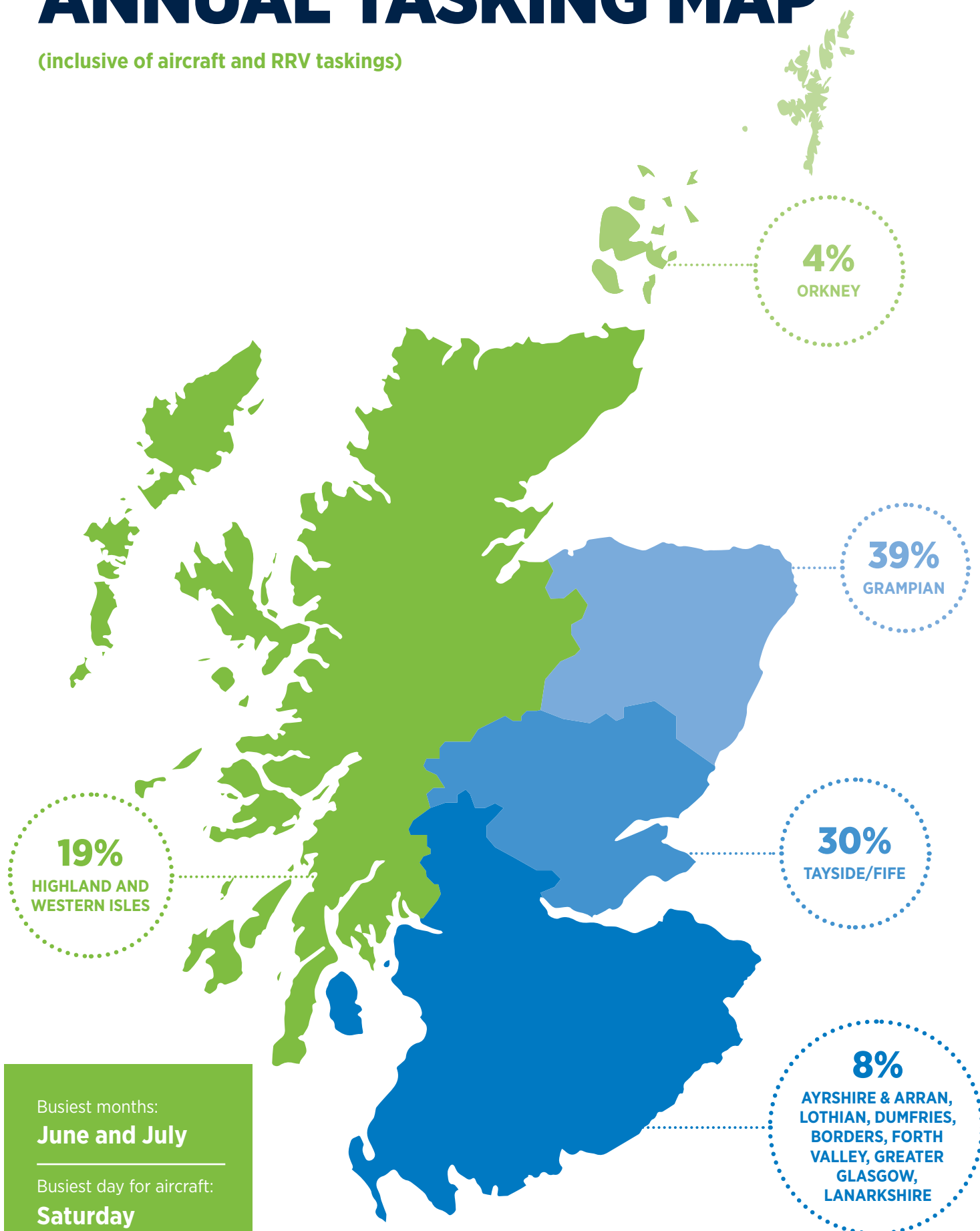
**Receiving hospitals
for airlifted
patients: Aberdeen
Royal Infirmary
(36%), Queen
Elizabeth University
Hospital (18%) and
Ninewells (14%)**

**Patients flown to 16
different hospitals
across Scotland**



ANNUAL TASKING MAP

(inclusive of aircraft and RRV taskings)



SAVING LIVES ON SCOTLAND'S ROADS

Over the past year, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) has responded to more calls to road traffic collisions (RTCs) than ever before.

Accidents involving pedestrians, cyclists and motorists accounted for more than a fifth of all call outs, as SCAA crews responded to emergencies involving everything from bicycles to lorries on roads ranging from country lanes to motorways.

The demand for rapid response emergency medical support saw SCAA's helicopters fly to every corner of the country, delivering paramedic or doctor-led teams to those seriously injured and then airlifting them from the roadside to critical care at hospital.

In the past year alone, SCAA responded to 154 road traffic collision emergencies by air and a further 39 in the charity's Rapid Response Vehicles. This represents a 29% increase on the previous year.

Of those 193 RTC emergencies, 107 were to injured car occupants, 48 to motorcyclists, 29 to cyclists and nine to pedestrians.

SCAA paramedic Ali Daw is aware that RTCs dominate the charity's workload. In more than two years with the charity, he's flown from SCAA's Perth base to horrific road accidents at both trunk road hotspots and rural backroads all across Scotland.

He explained how the crew swings into action when the call comes in.

"It's important to gather as much information as possible from the call," he said. "What is the location and surroundings? How many vehicles are involved, how many people, what type of vehicles and what type of collision? Have the vehicles rolled, are the casualties trapped? This all helps us build up an idea of what we might be facing."

As RTCs form a large part of the crews' workload, they often face a common range of injuries and the most in-demand equipment is always on board. This includes a variety of splinting kits such as pelvic binders, traction splints, neck collars, spinal boards etc. Also a lot of extrication equipment to get people out without causing them more harm.

"We also carry advanced pain relief and can give certain medications to combat internal bleeding which are often vital at RTCs," explained Ali.

"The nature of this type of emergency means we often have to treat casualties while they are still in the wreckage of their vehicles," he said. "We have to ensure it's safe to move them and we rely on Scottish Fire and Rescue crews to make the scene safe and cut us an access to the patient. It's not unknown for me to climb through a sunroof to reach someone trapped inside."

RTC major trauma patients need to be in hospital as soon as possible - ideally at one of Scotland's four Major Trauma Centres (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen) within an hour of the collision.

Equally important is getting clinical assistance to the scene as quickly as possible and helicopter air ambulances prove a vital link in any chain of survival because of their speed and agility to access difficult terrain.

SCAA often airlifts advanced consultant-led teams to the accident scene, effectively bringing the A&E department to the roadside and allowing patients to receive hospital level care as quickly as possible even when they're miles from anywhere.





“Only when they thank you do you realise the impact you have had on them and their family and that this is much more than just a job for us.”

Ali Daw, SCAA paramedic

“Scotland’s geography adds to the demand for helicopter air ambulances,” said Ali.

“In larger towns and cities patients are in hospital within minutes by road ambulance but the situation is very different in the more remote and rural parts of Scotland.

“Often the collision happens a long way from a hospital, where there are fewer ambulances to cover vast areas and where help is a long way away.

“SCAA helicopters are able to access the whole country – and our islands – by flying at 140 mph in a straight line,” added Ali, “and they prove invaluable in such cases.”

Serious RTCs can be very draining for the crew, and they look out for each other and check they’re OK afterwards.

“I try never to take it home with me,” said Ali. “You have to know you’ve done your best for those involved.”

SCAA paramedics often get to meet those whose lives they have helped to save when patients visit the bases at Perth and Aberdeen to say “thank you”.

“You’ve been with people at probably the worst time of their lives and it’s a strange feeling to see them again when it’s all over,” said Ali.

“It gives you a great sense of purpose and makes you realise that what we do is worthwhile. I’m very proud to work for the air ambulance service and be involved in making a difference.”

10 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES

As SCAA marks 10 years of life-saving service, we reflect on those milestones that have helped shape the organisation into one of the most recognised and respected charities in Scotland.

2007

Our story begins

The SCAA journey started in 2007 when Alan Bell first developed the concept of a charity air ambulance in Scotland and backed by a funder, was introduced a year later to John Bullough who enlisted the support of Mike Beale and Roddy Young. Over several years this group of business professionals discussed how best to take the project forward.



23 MAY 2013

Our first patient

On 23 May 2013, SCAA airlifted its first patient to hospital following a serious road traffic collision near Dunoon. Patient Tricia visited SCAA to thank the crew that saved her after her car struck a deer on a remote country road, treating her at the scene and airlifting her to advanced hospital care in Glasgow.



Since May 2013, SCAA has responded to over

5,000

call outs

22 MAY 2013

Launched for service

Helimed 76 was launched for service on 22 May 2013 by then-Scottish Health Minister Alex Neil from a newly established HEMS base at Perth Airport.



2015

Bye-bye Bolkow

SCAA launched its service with an entry-level Bolkow 105 CBS twin engine helicopter – long established as a reliable HEMS workhorse – operating 10 hours a day, seven days a week. The Bolkow would go on to respond to well over 700 emergency call outs for SCAA and fly the equivalent of nearly three times round the world from its Perth base before being retired in 2015.



2017

Growing our team

In 2017, SCAA committed £150,000 additional funding to extend its daily operational hours from 10 to 12 and increase the pool of base paramedics from five to six.

This allowed a larger response window for the aircraft and also the ability to have a third paramedic on shift to crew the charity's Rapid Response Vehicle for incidents closer to the base.



2015

A big boost

After receiving LIBOR funding in 2015, SCAA upgraded its aircraft from the Bolkow 105 to the larger, faster and more powerful Eurocopter 135 T2i.



SCAA covers an
area of more than

30,000

square miles

3 APRIL 2020

A second aircraft

SCAA's Helimed 79 was launched on 3 April 2020, at Aberdeen International Airport, providing the charity with a second aircraft, second operational base and second crew. Helimed 79 made an instant impact on Scotland's pre-hospital aero-medical provision and continues to prove a vital lifeline based in the North East of Scotland.



2023

Our 10th anniversary

As SCAA reaches the end of its 10th year of operation, it can reflect on a decade of outstanding life-saving service to communities in every corner of Scotland.

Since May 2013, SCAA has responded to over 5,000 call outs, raised over £50 million and flown nearly half a million miles saving thousands of lives and impacting on thousands more – particularly in remote and rural areas.

In 10 years, the charity has grown from a one aircraft service at Perth to a two-helicopter fleet based at Perth and Aberdeen, with two Rapid Response Vehicles responding to nearby emergencies. It has more than doubled the crew numbers, extended its operational hours, developed its workforce and built an army of nearly 200 volunteers nationwide.



THE FUTURE

Our plan of action

As the charity embarks on its next decade, the Trustees and Executive team are currently developing their next strategic plan.

Working closely with the Scottish Ambulance Service and aviation providers,

SCAA looks forward with excitement at how it can enhance its operational capability in the years ahead, ensuring we deliver more care, to more people, more often, in Scotland.

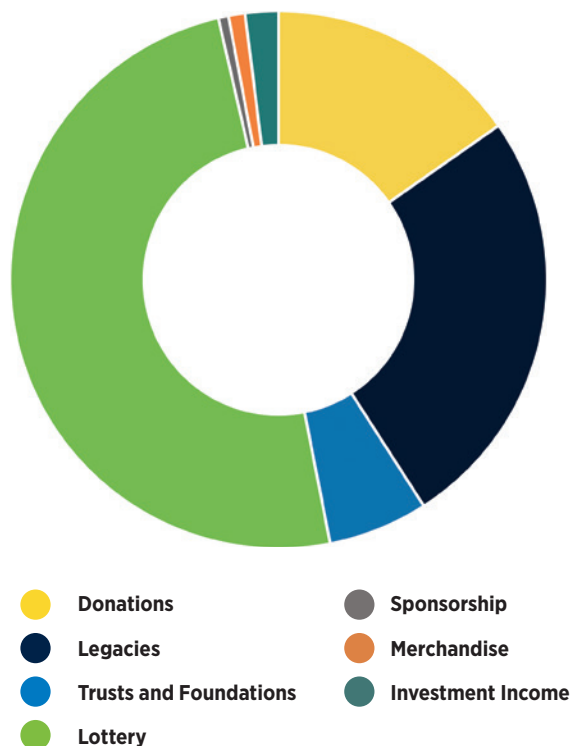


FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income

	£	% ⁽¹⁾
Donations	1,254,684	15
Legacies	2,104,926	26
Trusts and Foundations	494,055	6
Lottery	4,145,837	49
Sponsorship	50,000	1
Merchandise	27,191	1
Investment Income	133,146	2
Total Income	8,209,839	100

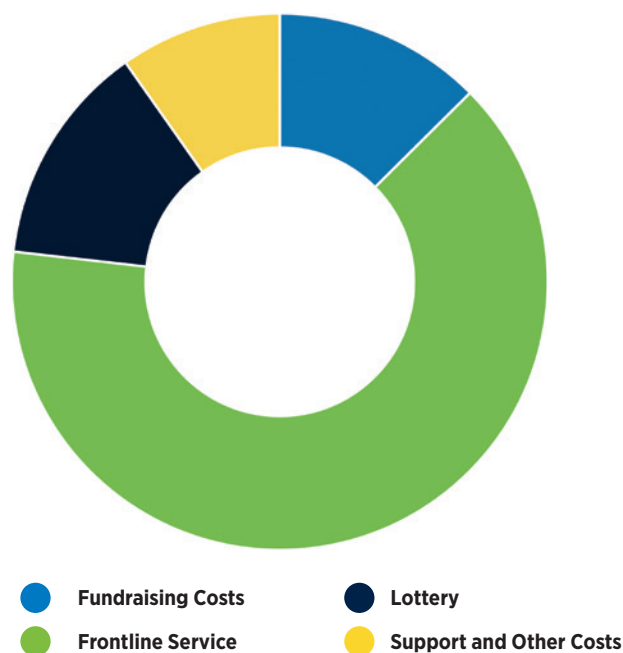
(1) Figure shown is a percentage of the total income.



Expenditure

	£	% ⁽²⁾
Fundraising Costs	775,241	13
Frontline Service	3,963,226	64
Lottery	828,876	13
Support and Other Costs	602,791	10
Total Expenditure	6,170,134	100

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





FUNDRAISING REPORT

22/23

Firstly, let us begin by saying thank you.

To the people of Scotland – individuals, groups, lottery donors, corporate partners, trusts and volunteers. With your support, SCAA continues to be an integral part of Scotland's frontline emergency response network responding to trauma incidents and medical emergencies across the country.

During the past year we have seen our highest number of call outs since inception and now, more than ever, we recognise that we simply couldn't do it without you.

Following some challenging years, 22/23 saw a return to relative normality. It has been heart-warming to hear stories of those of you that have welcomed the team back or taken the time to let us know about your experiences of SCAA either as supporters or beneficiaries.

Your unwavering support meant that we also had our most successful year to date in terms of fundraising, raising £8.2 million which included an unexpected, yet hugely appreciated, legacy donation of £1.7 million.

Trusts and Foundations have been fundamental in providing a steady and sustained level of income to the charity since it started. In total since 2013, income from Trusts and Grants has amounted to just over £5 million. In particular, the support of players of the People's Postcode Lottery should be acknowledged, with the award of a further grant from the Postcode Care Trust. Special thanks also to the Dunlossit and Islay Community Trust for their five-year grant award, the final payment of which we received in 22/23.



Groups and organisations across Scotland continued to support SCAA by raising over £226,000 in a variety of ways. 270 individuals took on a challenge for SCAA during the year raising a total of £110,833. Challenges included Kiltwalks, Skydives, mountain climbs, marathons, cycles and more.

Our corporate partnerships work has seen us focus on building strong relationships with businesses from all sectors and areas of the country. We again received great support from our existing partners like Apache North Sea and Gillanders Motors. Through a partnership with DC Thomson, we benefited from the successful Power of Energy Charity Gala held in Aberdeen in November 2022 with over £33,000 raised on the night.

Digital fundraising has continued to perform exceptionally well, with hundreds of supporters participating in virtual challenges throughout the country, raising over £150,000. **It was also our busiest year to date for online donations with more than £175,000 in donations through our website in support of appeals, campaigns, in memory and general donations.**

We now have 165 individuals volunteering for SCAA at events, talks, and supporting fundraising activities. We delivered talks to 114 groups and were able to represent SCAA in communities across Scotland at 88 events.

As we emerge from the shadow of the pandemic and look towards marking our 10-year anniversary we remain committed to supporting our dedicated donors and partners to understand the impact that their donations have on the lives of the patients we care for.

We will begin with a heartfelt thank you from the whole fundraising team!

LUCKY TO BE ALIVE

David knew within seconds of his glider taking to the air on a cable winch launch that he was in trouble.

"I hadn't locked the canopy properly and I knew I was in a very dangerous situation."

As soon as he released the glider at 500 feet, David elected to try a full 360 degrees turn and head back to the airfield at Scotlandwell.

"If the canopy flew off it could hit the tail or there would be enormous aerodynamic drag on the open cockpit. Either eventuality would be disastrous," explained David. "I was struggling to turn her as I was trying to hold on to the canopy, open the flaps for the air brakes and operate the controls."

"I gripped the control between my knees and that's when things went from bad to worse," he recalled. "The aircraft went into a dive, the canopy came off and the bracket broke my arm – I didn't have control of the aircraft in the seconds before impact."

David's glider struck the ground at 70 mph, nose down, and cartwheeled before coming to rest upside down at the front of the airfield.

"I was still conscious after the impact but I was trapped face down," said David. "I knew I hadn't broken my neck as I could wiggle my legs and feet but I couldn't see anything out of my right eye and my right arm looked like it had two elbows."

David bravely used his good left arm to manoeuvre his badly fractured right arm back into a natural position.

"The pain was excruciating in my eye and that overpowered the pain in my arm," he said.

David's crash was witnessed from the airfield and help arrived quickly with people switching off the battery and reassuring him that an ambulance was on its way.

"SCAA was next to arrive – I didn't hear the helicopter coming in but people told me they were there and I was aware of calm, reassuring professionals being at my side which was extremely comforting," said David.

"My harness was cut free and a local farmer used his tractor to lift the aircraft off me, leaving me on the ground and the paramedics able to tend me more easily."

"It's all a bit hazy but I knew I was in safe hands," he said. "They were brilliant – calming me and reassuring me while stabilising me and preparing me for the helicopter flight. It just seemed minutes later that we arrived at Ninewells Hospital."

David's catalogue of injuries included a broken arm and dislocated shoulder, hip and leg injuries, internal injuries, face lacerations and arm nerve damage.

"I have made around 600 flights and that day I made a stupid mistake that brought me as near to death as I ever want to come," he said. "I had been looking forward to a long flight ahead of a family gathering for my 70th birthday the following day and instead I 'celebrated' it lying broken and battered in a hospital bed."

A year on, David still has health issues resulting from the air crash. But he's in no doubt SCAA played a major role in supporting his life that day.

"Being airlifted rather than bumped along the road made a huge difference and the speed SCAA got me to hospital was also a major factor in my treatment and recovery," he said.





“SCAA is a brilliant charity – their care is faultless – and they were there for me when I stared death in the face as I plummeted towards the ground and helped pull me through. A thank you seems so inadequate but I do thank them – from the bottom of my heart.”

A LIFELINE FOR OUR ISLAND COMMUNITIES

Scotland's numerous island communities are no strangers to illness and injury. And when disaster strikes, their best hope of speedy evacuation to mainland hospital care is the country's fleet of helicopter air ambulances.



The past year has seen SCAA's two aircraft fly a record number of missions to remote island communities where the charity aircraft is recognised and acclaimed as a lifeline for those far from hospital trauma or medical care.

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

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

SCAA 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 that those living on the mainland have easier access to.

"Populations and visitor numbers on many of our islands are 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 2022/2023 was Orkney (46 times), followed by Arran (24) and Mull (22). Crews were also tasked to attend patients on Bute, Barra, Scarba, Colonsay, Gigha, Iona, Coll, Millport, Tiree, Easdale, Islay, Lismore, Skye and Eigg.

Having a base at Aberdeen enables SCAA to reach Orkney's many islands within an hour and safely transfer patients either to the islands' main hospital at Kirkwall or south to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary for advanced care.

The past year has seen ill and injured patients airlifted by SCAA from the outlying islands of Westray, Sanday, Stronsay, Rousay and Eday as well as from Kirkwall.

Dr David Mazza, a GP on Westray, said air ambulance support was a vital part of emergency cover for island communities everywhere and praised SCAA for its regular attendance to help.

"Westray is one of the outer islands in Orkney and without the helicopter air ambulance it would be impossible to provide emergency medical care for this amazing community," he said.





"I can recall many occasions waiting with a seriously ill patient at the airfield on a wild Orkney day or night," said Dr Mazza. "When we first glimpse the lights of the air ambulance there is relief and gratitude that 'the cavalry' has arrived and the patient can be transported safely and quickly to hospital, often for life-saving care."

"Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance is a vital additional resource for the Scottish Ambulance Service to use in these emergency situations and a welcome sight on Orkney's islands."

"I know that remote rural communities, like the one in Westray, are very grateful for all the effort and fundraising which goes in to keeping Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance in the air," added the island GP.

"There is a direct link between the funds raised by the charity and the safe evacuation of people facing life-threatening medical emergencies. Thank you!"

Doctor Erik Jespersen, GP partner at Lorn Medical Centre and Mull and Iona Medical Group, said SCAA provided "an absolutely essential service" for the islands.

"It is very reassuring for us working on the Islands to have the professional and fast response SCAA's helicopter service brings," he said.

"Islanders – particularly those in the more remote parts – know that if there is an emergency, they are very likely to have a helicopter with a paramedic on

board arrive in a nearby field to stabilise them and take them to hospital either in Oban or Glasgow.

"It is not just in dire emergencies that the helicopter is used, but also to transport patients needing specialised care to a major hospital in 30 minutes, avoiding the hours on a ferry and in the back of a road ambulance."

"It is hard to imagine island life without this service," said Dr Jespersen, "and we are extremely grateful to all the supporters that help fund the charity."



COMMUNITY

We continue to be astounded by, and grateful to, the individuals and groups in communities across Scotland who have shown their unwavering support for SCAA.

The enthusiasm of our supporters, along with their incredible determination to raise as much as possible for the charity, is truly life-saving and leaves a legacy through the lives of those our crews are able to help as a result of this fantastic fundraising.

Kiltwalks, skydives, mountain climbs, marathons and cycles were just some of the ways that 270 people challenged themselves to raise a total of £110,833. In Anstruther, Fife, a further 42 people took part in the East Neuk Dook on Boxing Day raising £17,500. The event was in memory of Eva May Cecelia who was born with a heart condition and, aged just 19 days, SCAA airlifted her from her Anstruther home to Ninewells Hospital.

The range of SCAA merchandise also continued to prove popular with Christmas card sales in particular showing a 48% increase compared to the previous year. Plans are already afoot for more designs in 2023/24.

Pitlochry Station Bookshop hit a milestone during the year, bringing their total raised to over £50,000 for the charity. The volunteer-run enterprise started supporting SCAA in August 2012, before we even took flight!

As always, we have been delighted to see the many different ways that people have chosen to support SCAA. These have included Harry and Irene who took part in Rust to Rome with their trusty car, Friday, travelling across France and Switzerland before reaching Rome and raising £1,957 in the process.

SCAA Facebook challenges continued to be well supported by the public, with over £100,000 raised through the 100 Miles in October and 10,000 Steps a Day in March campaigns.

More than 1,200 new supporters were acquired through these campaigns, including 500+ new fundraisers for the charity.

In addition to these funds raised, SCAA can now claim Gift Aid on money donated through Facebook, which will provide a significant boost to this digital fundraising income stream.

There are many other people who have gone to great lengths to support SCAA and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all.



VOLUNTEERING

We are grateful to our wonderful volunteer team who continue to dedicate their time to SCAA.

Our volunteer numbers have grown in the past year and it is inspiring to see such a supportive and encouraging team work together, ensuring we continue to raise awareness of our life-saving charity.

The volunteers have enjoyed their busiest year yet, supporting SCAA in both familiar and new locations across Scotland.

Volunteers have attended more than 85 events, varying in size from small gala days to large shows. Our team braved various weather conditions, tried new fundraising activities and Scotty our mascot was again the star of the show.

The series of talks continued to thrive within the communities with a host of new volunteer speakers joining us to raise awareness. We now have a network of over 40 volunteer speakers across Scotland.

Our office and collection can team continued to dedicate at least 12 hours a week to various administrative tasks.

We wish to thank each and every one of our volunteers for their efforts – we wouldn't be able to achieve this much without our amazing team.

If you are interested in hearing more about becoming a volunteer, please get in contact with us at volunteer@scaa.org.uk



Andy had met SCAA paramedic John Pritchard about 20 years ago through an RAF friend, and we decided to subscribe to a monthly donation about 12 years ago.

When we both retired last year, we agreed to sign up to volunteer, giving us a chance to speak to people at different events, encouraging donations and information about the wonderful life-saving charity and seeing more of beautiful Scotland, making short breaks where we can.

Since joining, we have met wonderful, kind volunteers from near and far, working as a team, encouraging and supporting each other at events. We hope to continue for many years, seeing different towns, cities and gorgeous venues we have sometimes driven past on the way somewhere.

Margaret and Andy Kerr

“I volunteer for SCAA as it provides a truly life-saving service. It's always good fun as the staff and volunteers are all really lovely people.

It allows me to see other communities in Scotland and how they come together to raise funds for SCAA – that is wonderful to see. I've never had a negative reaction from anyone to the charity. As I say, I hope no one ever needs the services of SCAA, but if they do we'll be there for them.”

Jim Luff



LIFE-SAVING PARTNERSHIPS WITH SCAA

Partnership working has the power to help SCAA crews save and improve lives across Scotland 365 days a year.

Over the last 10 years, we have been fortunate to benefit from the support of some of Scotland's biggest and best-known companies. These partnerships have helped to fund our work and to raise awareness of SCAA in communities across Scotland.

In the last year, Apache North Sea have continued to help fund our work, with their overall support now reaching £300,000. 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. The very successful Power of Energy Charity Gala held in Aberdeen in November 2022 saw over £33,000 raised on the night. This event was an energy industry event in support of SCAA as a result of our partnership with DC Thomson. We are also grateful to Knockhill Racing Circuit for their long-standing support of SCAA.

We are delighted that our long-standing partnership with Stagecoach Group will extend into 2023 and we have recently secured new partnerships with Bristow Group, Hadden Group and Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels who are all raising money for SCAA and engaging staff and customers with our life-saving work.

“Our support helps us to deliver on our promises to positively impact our local community as well as giving our workforce a huge sense of pride in knowing that they are contributing to such a worthy cause.”

Jillian Owen, UK Country Manager,
Apache North Sea



How your business can help SCAA save lives

As we enter our 11th year of operations, the demand on our service continues to grow. With that comes a need to raise more money, so we need your help to continue saving lives across Scotland.

Choosing to partner with SCAA will give your business lots of opportunities to give back to your communities, engage with customers and employees and meet your own business objectives.

If you would like to find out more, please contact our Corporate Partnerships Manager, **Ross Martin** at r.martin@scaa.org.uk

A partnership with SCAA could help your business to:

- Raise your profile and increase brand awareness by sponsoring our helicopters, 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.

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS




Thank you for helping us to keep saving lives. We are enormously appreciative of the generous support we receive from Trusts, Foundations and Grant Makers over the past year, including:

A Sinclair Henderson Trust	The Misses Robinson Charitable Trust
The Albert Hunt Trust	Morton Charitable Trust
Arnold Clark Community Fund	Mr and Mrs William Donald's Memorial Trust
The Basil Death Trust	Mrs M A Lascelles Charitable Trust
Binks Trust	Mrs Margaret H McInnes' Charitable Trust
The Cadogan Charity	The Netherton Charitable Trust
Cazenove Capital Donor Advised Fund	People's Postcode Lottery
The Cecil Howman Charitable Trust	Perth and Kinross Council – Volunteer Development Fund
Cruden Foundation	Peter Samuel Charitable Trust
Dunlossit and Islay Community Trust	PJ Foundation
The Ferndean Trust	The R J Larg Family Trust
Frank & Elizabeth Robertson Charitable Trust	Reo Stakis Charitable Foundation
Friends of Pitlochry Community Hospital	The Robertson Trust
The Gamma Trust	Screwfix Foundation
Garnett Charitable Trust	ShareGift
The Gates Foundation	Tay Charitable Trust
The Gordon & Ena Baxter Foundation	The Thistledown Trust
The Grace Trust	The W A Cargill Fund
The Hospital Saturday Fund	Walter Craig Charitable Trust
I B B Trust	Westfield Health Charitable Trust
The James Wood Bequest Fund	William Gibson Trust
The John Kemp Charitable Trust	William Grant Foundation
Kuenssberg Charitable Foundation	WSP Foundation
Kilpatrick Fraser Charitable Trust	
Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust	
The March Brown Charitable Trust	
Margot and Andrew Tennant Charitable Trust	
Miss A M Pilkington Charitable Trust	
Miss M B Reekie Charitable Trust	
The Misses Barrie Charitable Trust	

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
-  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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