



Scotland Liberal Democrats Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Registered Address: 1 Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2PN

Elected Representatives

Names

There were 4 Scottish Liberal Democrat MPs in 2023:

Alistair Carmichael MP

Christine Jardine MP

Jamie Stone MP

Wendy Chamberlain MP

There were 4 Scottish Liberal Democrat MSPs:

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Liam McArthur MSP

Willie Rennie MSP

Beatrice Wishart MSP

Responsible Officers

For the purposes of the Political Parties Elections Referendums Act 2000 the responsible officers are:

Names

Position

Jennifer Lang

Convenor

Stephen Arrundale (until 6 March 2023)

Treasurer

Mike Gray (from 6 March 2023)

Treasurer

Branches

There are no branches

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Accounting Notes

This statement of accounts uses accruals accounting method.

The Accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The executive committee has assessed the Party's ability to continue as a going concern and have reasonable expectation that the Party has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing these accounts.

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Income Overview

The membership figures continue to decline which continues to be monitored. The party has continued to receive significant donations to help with campaigning for the present and the future.

Expenditure Overview

Our expenditure costs have decreased for campaign costs, increased NIC costs, work to improve the capacity and quality in the top target council wards across the country, there was no material increase in the other expenditure costs.

Balance Sheet Overview

Reserves mainly comprise of cash at bank.

Overview of political activities

During 2023 there were no major election campaigns. There will be increased costs during 2024 for the general election.

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Income and Expenditure Account

	Note	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Income			
Membership	1	£157,177	£150,016
Affiliations	2	£0	£0
Donations	3	£270,544	£503,520
Branch Income	4	£0	£0
Fundraising income	5	£0	£0
Investment income	6	£0	£0
Transfers in	7	£170,443	£205,792
Property and rental income/Office services	8	£3,000	£3,000
Miscellaneous	9	£30,390	£23,307
Total Income		<u>£631,554</u>	<u>£885,635</u>
Expenditure			
Premises	-	£40,758	£40,396
Office costs	-	£76,846	£66,454
Branch Expenditure	4	£0	£0
Staff costs	10	£235,351	£176,971
Transfers out	7	£119,467	£124,960
Campaigning costs	-	£77,276	£120,741
Fundraising costs	5	£0	£0
Financing charges and taxation	11	£1,834	£2,053
Depreciation	12	£2,533	£3,147
(Profit)/Loss on sale of assets	15	£0	£227
Miscellaneous	9	£58,470	£59,399
Total Expenditure		<u>£612,535</u>	<u>£594,348</u>
Surplus / (Deficit)		<u>£19,019</u>	<u>£291,287</u>

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Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023
Balance Sheet

	Note	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Fixed Assets			
Property	12	£0	£0
Fixtures and fittings	12	£343	£1,087
Office equipment	12	£4,234	£4,387
Investments	6	£0	£0
Total fixed assets		<u>£4,577</u>	<u>£5,474</u>
Current Assets			
Cash in hand and at bank	6	£505,396	£232,015
Stock	13	£0	£0
Debtors and Prepayments	14	£9,650	£254,043
Total Current Assets		<u>£515,046</u>	<u>£486,058</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors and Accruals	-	£40,671	£31,599
Loans Outstanding	15	£0	£0
Total Liabilities		<u>£40,671</u>	<u>£31,599</u>
Total Net Assets / (Liabilities)		<u>£478,952</u>	<u>£459,933</u>
Reserves			
Accumulated fund at the start of the year		£459,933	£167,873
Surplus / (Deficit)		<u>£19,019</u>	<u>£292,060</u>
Accumulated fund at the end of the year		<u>£478,952</u>	<u>£459,933</u>
Other Funds including restricted reserves		£0	£773
(Deficit)		<u>£0</u>	<u>£(773)</u>
Accumulated fund at the end of the year		<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>
Total Reserves		<u>£478,952</u>	<u>£459,933</u>

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Notes to the Accounts

Note 1: Membership

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Membership fees received via the central party	£157,177	£150,016

Note 2: Affiliations

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
There were no affiliation fees	£0	£0

Note 3: Donations

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Cash and cash equivalent donations	£249,544	£482,517
Notional / Donations in Kind	£21,000	£21,003
Total Donations	<u>£270,544</u>	<u>£503,520</u>

Note 4: Branch Income and Expenditure

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>
	Income	Expenses	
	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	
			<u>£0</u>
			<u>£0</u>

Note 5: Fundraising Income and Expenditure

There were no fundraising events this year.

Note 6: Investment Income

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>
	Year end balance	Income received	
Bank accounts	£505,396	£0	£232,015
Investments	£0	£0	£0

Note 7: Transfers

	<u>2023</u>	
	Incoming	Outgoing
From/to Liberal Democrat regional/state parties	£0	£0
From/to other Liberal Democrat local parties	£4,106	£350
From/to other Liberal Democrat central party	£166,337	£119,117
From/to other Liberal Democrat accounting units	£0	£0
	<u>£170,443</u>	<u>£119,467</u>

Note 8: Property and rental income / Office services

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Rent received	£3,000	£3,000
Other services income	£0	£0
	<u>£3,000</u>	<u>£3,000</u>

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Notes to the Accounts

Note 9: Miscellaneous Income / Expenditure

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Commercial Income	£30,390		£23,307	
Conference		£35,257		£29,455
Audit fee		£5,750		£6,000
Other expenses		£17,463		£23,944
	<u>£30,390</u>	<u>£58,470</u>	<u>£23,307</u>	<u>£59,399</u>

Note 10: Salary Costs

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Salary costs	£191,137	£161,660
Employer's National Insurance and Pension costs	£43,714	£10,753
Training costs	£500	£4,558
	<u>£235,351</u>	<u>£176,971</u>
Number of staff	8	8

Note 11: Financing Charges and Taxation

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Bank charges	£1,834	£2,053
Interest charged	£0	£0
Taxation charged	£0	£0
	<u>£1,834</u>	<u>£2,053</u>

Note 12: Fixed Assets

	Fixtures & Fittings	Equipment	Total
Value at start of year	£1,087	£4,387	£5,474
Additions	£0	£1,636	£1,636
Disposals	£0	£0	£0
Revaluations	£0	£0	£0
Depreciation	£(744)	£(1,789)	£(2,533)
Value at end of year	<u>£343</u>	<u>£4,234</u>	<u>£4,577</u>

Note 13: Stock

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Opening balance	£0	£0
Movements: Increase	£0	£0
Movements: Decrease	£0	£0
Closing balance	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>

Note 14: Debtors and Prepayments

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Prepayments	£7,550	£51,755
Debtors	£2,100	£202,288
	<u>£9,650</u>	<u>£254,043</u>

Note 15: Loans

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Outstanding at start of year	£0	£0
Capital repayments	£0	£0
New loans	£0	£0
	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>

Note 16: Profit/(Loss) on Disposal of Assets

	Book value at disposal	Sale Proceeds	Profit /(Loss) on Disposal
No assets were disposed of during the year	£0	£0	£0

Scotland Liberal Democrats
Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Statement of Registered Treasurer's Responsibilities

The Registered Treasurer of the political party is required by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendum Act 2000 to prepare accounts for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the political party as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the political party for that period.

In preparing those accounts the Registered Treasurer is required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the political party will continue in business.

Section 41 of the Act requires that the Registered Treasurer is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the political party and to enable him to ensure that the accounts comply with the Act. He or she is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the political party and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Section 43 of the Act requires that the Treasurer is responsible for delivery of the statement of accounts to the Electoral Commission by the required deadline.

Declaration

I confirm that the above statement of accounts has been prepared in accordance with guidance issued by the Electoral Commission and is correct to my knowledge.

In addition I confirm that these accounts have been approved by the executive committee of Scotland Liberal Democrats.

Signature: [REDACTED]

Name: Mike Gray (from 6 March 2023)

Position: 2023 Treasurer

Date: 09 March 2024

Signature: [REDACTED]

Name: Jennifer Lang

Position: 2023 Convenor

Date: 09 March 2024

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TREASURER OF
SCOTTISH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**



Opinion

We have audited the accounts of the Scottish Liberal Democrats (the "Party") for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, and notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Northern Ireland".

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Party's affairs as at 31 December 2023, and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the Party in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Treasurer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is not appropriate; or
- the Treasurer has not disclosed in the accounts any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Party's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Treasurer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TREASURER OF
SCOTTISH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS (continued)

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Responsibilities of the Treasurer

As explained more fully in the Treasurer's responsibilities statement, the Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Treasurer determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the Treasurer is responsible for assessing the Party's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Treasurer either intends to liquidate the Party or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts. Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the party and the industry in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the party which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. These included but were not limited to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the accounts, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement in the party's accounts.

Our tests included, but were not limited to:

- agreement of the accounts disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- enquiries of the treasurer and the party officers;
- review of minutes of committee meetings throughout the period;
- review of legal correspondence or invoices, and
- obtaining an understanding of the control environment in monitoring compliance with laws and regulations.

There are inherent limitations in an audit of accounts and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the accounts, the less likely we would become aware of it. We also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the party members that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TREASURER OF
SCOTTISH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS (continued)**

CT:

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Treasurer, in accordance with Section 43 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Treasurer those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Treasurer, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



CT
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
61 Dublin Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6NL

Date: 20 March 2024