

Children's Hearings Scotland information in compliance with the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Sections 31 to 32 of Part 3 of The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (the Act) places duties on public bodies to provide and publish information on certain expenditure and exercise of functions. The Act names Children's Hearings Scotland (CHS) along with other public bodies to publish information on:

- Expenditure in relation to public relations, overseas travel, hospitality and entertainment and external consultancy
- Payments with a value in excess of £25,000
- Members or employees who received remuneration in excess of £150,000
- Sustainable growth
- Efficiency, economy and effectiveness.

Expenditure in relation to public relations

CHS does not directly engage the services of external public relations consultants and does not have a dedicated public relations team, but a communications function that manages both internal and external communications for the organisation. A review of the costs of public relations in the year to 31 March 2024 indicates expenditure of £66,290. This excludes costs relating to CHS' annual campaign to recruit new Panel Members, and costs relating to ad-hoc recruitment exercises for casual vacancies arising within the volunteer management community.

Expenditure in relation to overseas travel

In the financial year ended 31 March 2024 CHS incurred no expenditure on overseas travel.

Expenditure in relation to hospitality and entertainment

CHS is committed to spending the public money it receives properly, efficiently and effectively. Expenditure by CHS in relation to hospitality and entertainment is primarily incurred in volunteer recognition and the provision of refreshments for staff and meeting guests including volunteers. In the financial year ended 31 March 2024 CHS incurred expenditure of £110,935 in the provision of hospitality and entertainment.

Expenditure in relation to external consultancy

The Scottish Government (SG) defines 'consultancy' as including a wide range of professional services such as management consultancy, IT consultancy, financial consultancy, construction and infrastructure related consultancy, research and evaluation and policy development. SG guidance states that 'external consultancy' does not include outsourcing or buying in technical or specialist services such as legal advice and representation or recruitment services. CHS incurred £171,499 on external consultancy in the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

Payments which have a value in excess of £25,000

The Act requires CHS to publish a statement of payments made during the financial year which have a value over £25,000. In the financial year ended 31 March 2024 Children's Hearings Scotland made the following payments in excess of £25,000

Supplier	Amount	Date	Subject
AHEAD BUSINESS CONSULTING LTD	33,000.00	26/03/2024	Consultancy
HMRC	73,882.97	31/03/2024	Tax
HMRC	45,435.93	31/03/2024	Tax
HMRC	39,932.78	07/02/2024	Tax
HMRC	38,573.29	07/03/2024	Tax
HMRC	33,344.22	10/01/2024	Tax
HMRC	32,909.97	08/12/2023	Tax
HMRC	28,332.22	07/02/2024	Tax
HMRC	28,111.65	07/03/2024	Tax
HMRC	27,401.81	06/10/2023	Tax
HMRC	27,022.15	13/11/2023	Tax
HMRC	26,268.46	30/04/2023	Tax
HMRC	26,131.23	07/08/2023	Tax
HMRC	25,986.71	31/03/2024	Tax
HMRC	25,420.87	10/01/2024	Tax
HP INC LTD	36,478.26	30/04/2023	ICT
LEIDOS INNOVATIONS UK LTD	229,200.00	31/03/2024	ICT
LEIDOS INNOVATIONS UK LTD	121,604.40	06/02/2024	ICT
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	101,956.15	31/03/2024	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	65,918.87	07/03/2024	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	62,097.68	07/02/2024	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	59,716.40	10/01/2024	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	53,078.71	08/12/2023	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	42,794.40	13/11/2023	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	42,343.69	06/10/2023	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	40,249.62	30/04/2023	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	40,105.15	07/06/2023	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	40,094.78	06/07/2023	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	38,989.23	06/04/2023	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	36,890.96	11/09/2023	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	36,656.22	07/08/2023	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	29,589.17	31/03/2024	Pension
SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S REPORTER ADMINISTRATION	50,691.15	11/04/2023	ICT and corporate services
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT	200,000.00	23/01/2024	
SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD	33,667.48	07/02/2024	Rent
SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD	33,426.16	16/08/2023	Rent
SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD	33,096.87	19/04/2023	Rent
SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD	32,865.60	02/11/2023	Rent
SOFTCAT	385,566.05	05/12/2023	ICT
SOFTCAT	32,093.28	01/04/2023	ICT

SOFTCAT	32,093.28	01/05/2023	ICT
SOFTCAT	32,093.28	01/06/2023	ICT
SOFTCAT	32,093.28	01/07/2023	ICT
SOFTCAT	32,093.28	01/08/2023	ICT
SOFTCAT	32,093.28	01/09/2023	ICT
THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL	41,206.49	31/03/2024	Volunteer Expenses
THE MEDIA SHOP (SCOTLAND) LTD	39,421.21	25/08/2023	Volunteer recruitment
THE MEDIA SHOP (SCOTLAND) LTD	28,701.86	30/10/2023	Volunteer recruitment
THE UNION ADVERTISING AGENCY LTD	49,987.20	05/04/2023	Volunteer recruitment
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	80,817.33	31/03/2024	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	73,028.00	30/04/2023	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	73,028.00	30/04/2023	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	73,028.00	30/04/2023	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	73,028.00	26/06/2023	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	73,028.00	20/07/2023	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	73,028.00	04/09/2023	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	73,028.00	04/09/2023	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	73,028.00	21/11/2023	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	73,028.00	21/11/2023	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	73,028.00	23/01/2024	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	73,028.00	23/01/2024	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	73,028.00	06/02/2024	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	64,195.68	16/08/2023	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	38,946.69	31/03/2024	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	27,105.24	31/03/2024	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	25,388.75	16/08/2023	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	25,291.81	16/08/2023	Volunteer training

Individual payments above may be settlement of multiple invoices covering different goods and services.

Remuneration in excess of £150,000

No member of staff of Children's Hearings Scotland received remuneration in excess of £150,000 for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

Sustainable Growth

The primary activities undertaken in the financial year ended 31 March 2024 related to the National Convener's statutory responsibility to recruit, appoint, train and support children's panel members. Other activities were carried out in the context of CHS' [Corporate Plan 2020-2023](#)

The activities undertaken in the financial year ended 31 March 20243 contribute towards achieving CHS' vision and purpose. CHS' vision is of "a forward looking and evolving children's hearings system, working as a community to ensure infants, children and young people are cared for, protected and their views are heard,

respected and valued". CHS' purpose is "to equip our volunteer community to engage positively with infants, children, young people and families; ensuring children are loved, cared for, respected and feel part of decisions taken to improve their lives".

CHS also contributed to the following outcomes under the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework:

- People grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential.
- People live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.
- People are creative and their vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely.
- People are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society.
- People respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination.
- People are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally.

Further details are in CHS' Annual Report.

Efficiency, economy and effectiveness

CHS uses Scottish Government frameworks and collaborative contracts wherever possible, including:

- banking facilities;
- media planning and buying;
- internal and external audit functions;
- stationery and printing;
- postage;
- travel;
- conference and meeting venue booking (via West Lothian College);
- ICT equipment, applications and web development;
- ICT network;
- telephony; and
- photocopying.

Together, the use of SG frameworks and collaborative contracts saves CHS around £24k p.a. compared to procuring all of these goods and services commercially.

Additionally, CHS occupies Scottish Legal Aid Board (SLAB) property with whom it cost-shares rates and utilities, and through a Memorandum of Understanding of Shared Services with the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), SCRA provides payroll, Accounts Payable and statutory reporting/finance services to CHS.