

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 2023 indicates expenditure of £35,293. 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. See appendix 1 for breakdown of expenditure.

Expenditure in relation to overseas travel

In the financial year ended 31 March 2023 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 2023 CHS incurred expenditure of £80,131 in the provision of hospitality and entertainment.. See appendix 1 for breakdown of expenditure.

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 £303,772 on external consultancy in the financial year ended 31 March 2023. See appendix 1 for breakdown of expenditure.

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 2023 Children’s Hearings Scotland made the following payments in excess of £25,000

Supplier	Date	£	Subject
AHEAD BUSINESS CONSULTING LTD	17-OCT-22	25200.00	Consultancy

LEIDOS INNOVATIONS UK LTD	10-MAR-23	190995.60	ICT
LEIDOS INNOVATIONS UK LTD	22-JUN-22	29813.10	ICT
HMRC	28-MAR-23	52454.02	Tax
HMRC	28-FEB-23	51297.15	Tax
HMRC	27-JAN-23	46078.16	Tax
HMRC	28-NOV-22	62566.08	Tax
HMRC	28-OCT-22	50907.17	Tax
HMRC	28-OCT-22	47987.23	Tax
HMRC	28-SEP-22	51164.29	Tax
HMRC	14-SEP-22	48881.48	Tax
HMRC	28-AUG-22	48881.48	Tax
HMRC	28-JUL-22	55252.08	Tax
HMRC	28-JUN-22	52633.57	Tax
HMRC	28-MAY-22	52324.36	Tax
HMRC	28-APR-22	51699.91	Tax
THE LENS	14-SEP-22	29890.00	Consultancy
THE LENS	24-JUN-22	35000.00	Consultancy
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	28-MAR-23	51093.52	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	28-FEB-23	51331.45	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	27-JAN-23	51996.32	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	28-NOV-22	68402.00	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	28-OCT-22	51485.52	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	28-OCT-22	51892.24	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	28-SEP-22	49982.89	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	14-SEP-22	48648.01	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	28-AUG-22	48648.01	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	28-JUL-22	50786.81	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	28-JUN-22	50777.99	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	28-MAY-22	50261.26	Pension
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	28-APR-22	49672.64	Pension
SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S REPORTER ADMINISTRATION	31-MAR-23	66770.81	ICT and corporate services
SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S REPORTER ADMINISTRATION	06-JAN-23	206705.68	ICT and corporate services
SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD	03-FEB-23	31954.62	Rent
SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD	10-NOV-22	31203.62	Rent
SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD	27-JUL-22	31448.01	Rent

SOFTCAT	30-DEC-22	385119.36	ICT
THE MEDIA SHOP (SCOTLAND) LTD	30-SEP-22	32121.18	Volunteer recruitment
THE MEDIA SHOP (SCOTLAND) LTD	15-SEP-22	49526.79	Volunteer recruitment
THE MEDIA SHOP (SCOTLAND) LTD	15-SEP-22	55916.32	Volunteer recruitment
THE MEDIA SHOP (SCOTLAND) LTD	15-SEP-22	39240.05	Volunteer recruitment
THE UNION ADVERTISING AGENCY LTD	28-MAR-23	49987.20	Volunteer recruitment
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	14-MAR-23	73028.00	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	09-FEB-23	73028.00	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	09-FEB-23	292112.00	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	01-SEP-22	70084.00	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	08-AUG-22	70084.00	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	29-JUL-22	69597.25	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	19-JUL-22	30981.32	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	14-JUN-22	69597.25	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	03-MAY-22	69597.25	Volunteer training
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	03-MAY-22	69597.25	Volunteer training
XMA LTD	09-DEC-22	42900.00	ICT
XMA LTD	22-NOV-22	31800.00	ICT

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 2023.

Sustainable Growth

The primary activities undertaken in the financial year ended 31 March 2023 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 2023 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.