

Scottish Transport Studies Group

Accounts

For year ended 31 March 2019

Charity no SC014720



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Charity Information for the Year Ended 31st March 2019

Committee

David Connolly, Systra

Neil Ferguson, Strathclyde University

Derek Halden, DHC (Secretary)

Mike Harrison, Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance (Treasurer)

Paul White, CPT

John Yellowlees, First ScotRail (Chair)

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Committee Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2019

The committee present their report together with the accounts of the year ended 31st March 2018.

Form and Purpose of the Charity

Scottish Transport Studies Group (STSG) was founded by a constitution last amended in September 2004. It was recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Scottish Charity on 6th May 1987 (Ref no SCO14720) and is thus exempt from most forms of taxation.

Principal Activity and Committee Objectives

The aim of the charity is to stimulate interest in and develop awareness of the transport function and its importance for Scotland, its economy and society. It encourages contacts between operators, public bodies, users and others interested in transport. It improves information provision and promotes research, issues publications and organises seminars to these ends.

Administrative Structure

Membership is open to public bodies, transport operators, other organisations and to individuals. A committee is elected at the Annual General Meeting to have executive power, and half the committee are re-elected each year. Details of the committee members are shown on page 2.

Review of Activities

During the year the charity published Scottish Transport Review, and technical papers on gender equality in transport, transport forecasting, a potential cruise ship terminal, and presented the findings of the 2018 STSG review on how to fund better transport at a European conference in Dublin.

The Chair met Chinese delegations from Kunming and Guangxi. The website hosted debates on transport and inequality and on the purpose of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, and an article was included in the special publication on Scotland's Buses for the CPT annual conference at St Andrews on 4/5 November. Our Secretary gave evidence on management of the road maintenance budget to a Scottish Parliament inquiry which was subsequently placed on the STSG website.

Through the website and in printed publications STSG promoted discussion of transport issues in Scotland and these continue to be well read by people from across the world but particularly Scotland and UK. The charity aims to develop awareness of transport problems and opportunities, and to stimulate discussion and held two round tables, one on collaboration in transport and one on road pricing.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the committee to keep approximately six months expenditure as a reserve against decreases in membership and sponsorship, meaning that activities could continue for a period of time. At 31 March 2019, this aim was achieved and reserves look set to grow further with rising publication revenue in 2018.

Statement on Risk

The committee keeps under review the major risks to which the charity is exposed and mitigate those risks which have been identified. As of 31 March

2018, no new risks were identified that needed additional action provided the organisation continues to be effectively managed on a day to day basis.

Statement of Committee Members' Responsibilities

Charity law requires committee members to prepare accounts that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity, and its incoming resources and application of resources including its surplus and deficit for that period. In doing so, the committee members are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue its activities.

The committee members are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose at any time the charity's financial position and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with charity law. The committee also have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to it to safeguard the charity's assets and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Costs associated with preparation, printing and publication of documents and the administration and organisation costs for the group are largely covered through voluntary inputs by committee members. External costs including catering and venues for meetings are reimbursed from charity funds.

On behalf of the committee,

Date 26 November 2019

Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

STSG 2018-19

	2018-19	2017-18
Incoming Resources		
Membership fees	288	230
Publication revenue	1,088	3,907
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	1,376	4,137
Resources expended		
Printing & Publication	-	-
Meetings & seminars	-	224
Researcher fees	-	300
Governance Costs		
Independent Examiner fees	100	100
Committee expenses	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	100	624
Surplus (Deficit) for year	1,276	3,513
Statement of Balances		
Bank 2018-04-01	6,746	3,401
Surplus	1,276	3,513
Bank 2019-03-31	8,023	6,915
BALANCE SHEET as at 2019-03-31		
Current assets		
Bank	8,123	6,915
Creditors accounts due within 1 year	100	100
net current assets	8,023	6,815

The notes on page 6 form part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the committee on 26th November and signed on its behalf by

Michael Harrison, Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1 Principal Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and under the guidelines laid down in the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities – 2005 version.

Grants, bank interest and other income are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as they are received. Expenditure including VAT, which is unrecoverable, is accounted for an accruals basis.

All activities are dealt with in unrestricted funds.

2 Committee expenses and related party transactions

Members of the committee are able to claim travel expenses for committee meetings and conferences, but none did so during the financial year.

No committee member received payment for any other Group activity during the year.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Scottish Transport Studies Group on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2019 set out in pages 5 and 6

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) regulations 2006. the Charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulation 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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Date: November 2019