

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 31 March 2025 indicates expenditure of £80,510. This excludes costs relating to CHS's 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 2025 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

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for staff and meeting guests, including volunteers. In the financial year ended 31 March 2025 CHS incurred expenditure of £78,643 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 £84,672 on external consultancy in the financial year ended 31 March 2025.

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 2025, Children’s Hearings Scotland made the following payments in excess of £25,000:

SUPPLIER	AMOUNT (£)	DATE	SUBJECT
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	80,817.33	03/04/2024	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
XMA LTD	30,723.60	03/04/2024	ICT
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	68,995.75	09/04/2024	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
HMRC	147,877.61	17/04/2024	TAX
LEIDOS INNOVATIONS UK LTD	229,200.00	17/04/2024	ICT
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	132,115.32	17/04/2024	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD	34,113.71	17/04/2024	RENT
THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL	46,133.27	17/04/2024	VOLUNTEER EXPENSES
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	89,644.44	17/04/2024	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT	25,975.06	24/04/2024	SCOT CHARGE AND OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS
HMRC	97,608.45	30/04/2024	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	72,046.06	30/04/2024	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
SCRA	256,476.17	30/04/2024	SHARED SERVICE CHARGES
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	52,540.93	30/04/2024	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	80,817.33	30/04/2024	VOLUNTEER TRAINING

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WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	33,347.80	05/06/2024	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
HMRC	99,258.84	12/06/2024	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	73,180.76	12/06/2024	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
LEIDOS INNOVATIONS UK LTD	108,000.00	20/06/2024	ICT
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	80,817.33	20/06/2024	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT	25,821.01	26/06/2024	SCOT CHARGE AND OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	49,419.79	04/07/2024	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
HMRC	98,236.82	10/07/2024	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	74,564.99	10/07/2024	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	89,763.18	10/07/2024	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD	36,159.23	31/07/2024	RENT
HMRC	99,420.91	14/08/2024	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	74,839.86	14/08/2024	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	80,817.39	14/08/2024	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
HMRC	102,419.61	11/09/2024	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	75,519.59	11/09/2024	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
THE MEDIA SHOP (SCOTLAND) LTD	164,944.30	11/09/2024	VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	80,817.39	18/09/2024	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
LEIDOS INNOVATIONS UK LTD	148,800.00	08/10/2024	ICT
HMRC	95,664.74	16/10/2024	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	72,552.09	16/10/2024	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
SCRA	88,475.38	24/10/2024	SHARED SERVICE CHARGES
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT	26,942.46	30/10/2024	SCOT CHARGE AND OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS
HMRC	98,533.99	13/11/2024	TAX
LEIDOS INNOVATIONS UK LTD	54,000.00	13/11/2024	ICT
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	74,392.81	13/11/2024	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD	37,245.01	13/11/2024	RENT
SORTITION FOUNDATION	33,474.00	20/11/2024	CONSULTANCY
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	191,065.30	20/11/2024	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
SOFTCAT	401,010.90	29/11/2024	ICT
HMRC	99,550.30	12/12/2024	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	75,548.62	12/12/2024	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	93,209.18	18/12/2024	VOLUNTEER TRAINING

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HMRC	100,961.39	15/01/2025	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	75,923.55	15/01/2025	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	91,372.67	15/01/2025	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD	36,365.25	05/02/2025	RENT
THE MEDIA SHOP (SCOTLAND) LTD	129,961.93	05/02/2025	VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT
HMRC	102,750.32	12/02/2025	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	78,099.85	12/02/2025	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT	28,112.69	26/02/2025	SCOT CHARGE AND OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	91,372.67	26/02/2025	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
HMRC	106,862.93	11/03/2025	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	80,324.92	11/03/2025	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	120,355.84	11/03/2025	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
SCRA	265,806.70	26/03/2025	SHARED SERVICE CHARGES
SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD	36,721.83	03/04/2025	RENT
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	165,589.90	03/04/2025	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT	29,224.12	04/04/2025	SCOT CHARGE AND OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS
BRIGHTWIRE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES LTD	47,700.00	09/04/2025	ICT
HP INC LTD	588,303.07	09/04/2025	ICT
HMRC	115,134.81	15/04/2025	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	79,268.65	15/04/2025	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL	39,952.75	16/04/2025	VOLUNTEER EXPENSES
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	91,372.67	24/04/2025	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
HMRC	119,848.11	30/04/2025	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	82,853.98	30/04/2025	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	91,372.67	30/04/2025	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
HMRC	120,109.44	11/06/2025	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	81,705.98	11/06/2025	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL	25,320.35	11/06/2025	VOLUNTEER EXPENSES
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	142,844.98	11/06/2025	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	137,543.99	18/06/2025	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
HMRC	123,239.46	16/07/2025	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	84,398.57	16/07/2025	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
SCRA	253,084.34	16/07/2025	SHARED SERVICE CHARGES

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WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	91,372.67	16/07/2025	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT	32,232.17	23/07/2025	SCOT CHARGE AND OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	74,002.61	23/07/2025	VOLUNTEER TRAINING
HMRC	120,643.58	13/08/2025	TAX
LOTHIAN PENSION FUND	82,916.35	13/08/2025	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD	37,477.92	13/08/2025	RENT
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	91,372.67	20/08/2025	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 2025.

Sustainable growth

The primary activities undertaken in the financial year ended 31 March 2025 related to the National Convener's statutory responsibility to recruit, appoint, train and support Panel Members. Other activities were carried out in the context of CHS's [Strategic Outlook 2024-2027](#).

The activities undertaken in the financial year ended 31 March 2025 contribute towards achieving CHS's vision and purpose. CHS's 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's 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

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- 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's 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 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.