

**Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010**

Sections 31 and 32 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 impose duties on Scottish public bodies to publish information on expenditure and certain other matters as soon as is reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year.

For the financial year ended 31 March 2025, the following information is required:

Duty to provide information on certain expenditure

Section 31(1) and (2) requires us to publish details of any expenditure incurred in the previous financial year on or in connection with the following matters:

Public Relations

We spent £85k on communications in 2024-25 informing the public and disseminating information. This figure consists of staff costs and external agencies, the bulk of this spend was made up of staff costs as most information is now distributed online

Overseas Travel

We spent £nil on overseas travel.

Hospitality and Entertainment

We spent <£1k in 2024-25 on hospitality and entertainment.

External Consultancy

We spent £13,765 on external consultancy as follows:

| Activity | Core |
|----------------|----------|
| HR Consultancy | £ 13,765 |
| Total | £ 13,765 |

Payments in Excess of £25,000 Single Instance

| Payments in excess of £25,000 made by the Mental Welfare Commission: | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Supplier | Number of instances | Value | Type of spend |
| Scottish Legal Aid Board | 1 | £ 41,619.12 | Rent - 3 months |
| Scottish Legal Aid Board | 1 | £ 43,983.48 | Rent - 3 months |
| Scottish Legal Aid Board | 1 | £ 45,266.73 | Rent - 3 months |
| Scottish Legal Aid Board | 1 | £ 44,412.13 | Rent - 3 months |
| Access UK Ltd | 1 | £ 45,769.20 | Software Maintenance |
| | | | |
| | | £ 221,050.66 | |

Payments in excess of £25,000 made by the Mental Welfare Commission:

| Grouped instance | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Supplier | Number of instances | Core Value | Type of spend |
| Access UK Limited | 3 | £ 67,563.84 | Software Maintenance |
| Anderson Strathern LLP | 25 | £ 30,021.44 | Legal Costs |
| ASA Recruitment | 91 | £ 33,832.03 | Temporary Staff |
| NHS Education For Scotland | 2 | £ 84,052.00 | Secondment staff |
| NHS Lanarkshire | 7 | £ 48,150.93 | Secondment staff |
| NHS National Services Scotland | 3 | £76,401.00 | Software subscription |
| Scottish Legal Aid Board | 4 | £ 175,281.46 | Office Rent |
| Venesky Brown | 70 | £ 50,252.50 | Temporary Staff |
| | | | |
| | | £ 565,555.20 | |

Government Procurement Cards – transactions over £500

The Scottish Government requires that from 1 September 2013 onwards, all public bodies will publish data on GPC transactions of £500 and above. The Commission publishes this data once annually.

These single transactions are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Communication Software | £ 943.06 |
| Equipment for Comms | £ 523.99 |
| Staff training | £ 2,100.00 |
| Marketing and Communications | £ 608.40 |
| Software | £ 656.21 |
| Software renewal | £ 1,342.62 |
| HR Software renewal | £ 2,694.46 |
| Professional services | £ 1,026.00 |
| Staff Workshops | £ 2,250.00 |
| | |
| | £ 12,144.74 |

Members or employees who received remuneration in excess of £150,000

One employee received remuneration >£150k.

Duty to Publish a Statement on Sustainable Economic Growth and Efficiency, Effectiveness and Economy

Section 32(1)(a) of the Act place a duty on public bodies to publish a statement of the steps it has taken during the financial year to promote and increase sustainable growth and improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy through the exercise of its functions.

Sustainable Economic Growth

The Scottish Government has a [National Performance Framework](#) which gives Scotland's public services a common set of outcomes to work towards.

In any successful country, if all its citizens are to flourish, it is imperative that there are systems in place to safeguard the most vulnerable in society, those without a voice and those that may be detained or compelled to take treatment against their will. The Commission provides part of this essential function for Scotland. In particular our work contributes to the national outcomes on health and human rights.

People with mental illness, learning disabilities and related conditions are at greater risk of being marginalised and of having their rights eroded. We safeguard those rights by ensuring compliance with mental health and incapacity legislation and by highlighting situations where existing legislation provides insufficient safeguards and/or appears incompatible with human rights law. During the year we:

- Published our AWI monitoring report highlighting that there were 19,078 individuals subject to a guardianship order in Scotland on 31 March 2024 compared to 17,849 in 2023, representing a 6.9% increase; A total of 4,009 guardianship orders were granted in 2023-24, 12.9% more than in 2022-23.
- Visited 361 people subject to guardianship orders (compared to 329 last year) and exceeded our target of 350 people.
- Published our MHA monitoring report reported that a total of 7109 detention episodes began in 2023-24, which was 5.6% more than in 2022-23 (6,733 detention episodes last year) and slightly higher than the average year-on-year increase in the previous years of 4.2%.

We have a major role to play in making Scotland healthier. People with mental illness, learning disability and related conditions have poorer physical health and a reduced life expectancy. By reporting on the care of individual people, we can help to address inequalities in health care and raise expectations of what can be done to help the people we see. Our investigations into deficiency of care and treatment of individuals result in significant learning points for services. Our visits to individuals result in action to address unmet needs and help to build a picture of service locally and nationally. This year we:

- Carried out 149 local visits to hospitals and care services. We met 900 individuals, and this exceeded our target of 650. We particularly focus on units where there is a major deprivation of liberty, where intelligence gathered from themed visits, previous visits, concerns from people in receipt of services and other sources raise issues about care and treatment or where it has been some time since our last visit. For each local visit we provided feedback and recommendations for improvement to the services involved (where indicated). The local visit reports are published on our website. A report summarising the findings and recommendations from our local visits in 2024-25 will be published later in 2025.
- Published a report considering the circumstances of 55 people who had stayed in learning disability or mental health hospital settings for 10 years or more. We raised concerns about what is happening to support these people to recover, retain skills and leave hospital

- Planned a full programme of local visits throughout the year, both announced and unannounced (25% of our visits were unannounced).

Efficiency, Effectiveness and Economy

We are committed to demonstrating that our work provides value for money. This year we:

- Continue to audit the advice given on the telephone advice line and our local visits. Results from these evaluations are fed back to the practitioners to improve practice and share any learning points.
- Collaborated with NHS Education for Scotland throughout the year as part of a project (funded by Scottish Government) to support a national approach to learning and applying the principles and requirements of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 in practice.

We utilise, wherever possible, the Scottish Government framework agreements and collaborative contracts. This allows us to benefit from competitive rates and economies of scale.

We also share services with other public sector partners. We share payroll and finance with the Scottish Government, building services with the Scottish Legal Aid Board and Microsoft O365 and email provision with the NHS in Scotland.