



IMPACT REPORT

On the front line of Scotland's all
animal emergency service





Our first impact report since we launched our 10-year vision

It's no understatement to say animals and people are in crisis. During 2022 calls to our helpline to give up an animal trebled. Our frontline teams saw first-hand the heart-breaking decisions people had to make about their animals. Often they felt they had no choice but to give up their beloved pet because they simply could no longer afford them. Feed your pet or feed your family – that was a very real decision being made by thousands of people across Scotland every day last year.





Calls of deliberate cruelty also rose at an alarming rate and we saw animals in increasingly poor condition, with a **16%** rise in 2022 of animals arriving at our centres in need of vet care.

It's not only companion animals who were under pressure. The worst avian influenza outbreak in recent memory saw our National Wildlife Rescue Centre forced to make the difficult decision to stop admitting birds in summer 2022 as a biosecurity measure to protect the animals already in our care. Our helpline team did their best to support people who called about birds, and our rescue officers and inspectors did all they could to treat birds in the field. We stopped intake of birds completely from July 22 and started admitting low risk species again on 12 October. Further quarantine measures are now in place this year, allowing us to increase our capacity.

Farmed animals and farmers faced the challenge of high costs and trade deals from overseas where welfare is of a much lower standard. We continued to offer support to farmers, as they faced a whole host of pressures, and worked with our partner RSABI to help them wherever we could. Working with key stakeholders and partners supported our efforts to get ahead of any potential welfare issues, with farmers proactively seeking us out for support.

As Scotland's only all animal emergency service, when someone calls from any corner of Scotland, be it about companion animals, wildlife or farmed animals, we are compelled to respond. We have no choice and it's our privilege to do it. And that's what makes our role so special.

We faced rising demand for our services, rising costs and pressure on our income. Largely thanks to the support and skills of our team, volunteers, Board, partners and supporters who enabled us to rise to the challenge and not miss a step.

We're incredibly proud of all we achieved in 2022 and our team of colleagues and volunteers who delivered so much for the animals and people of Scotland. We're also so grateful to our supporters, partners and ambassadors in enabling us to do what we do best – rescue all animals, always. Thank you all.

2022 taught us how important it is to safeguard our charity for the future. Our services are needed now more than ever, and we must do everything we can to ensure that we will be there when Scotland's animals need us most.



Kirsteen Campbell



Fiona MacLeod





Contributing to the bigger picture: how we align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and One Welfare

The Scottish SPCA has a vital role to play in this world. Often unseen, we do our part when it comes to delivery of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals through encouraging good health and wellbeing of all animals and in turn their owners. We encourage **responsible consumption and production** through working closely with our farming partners. We play our part in society through delivery of **quality education** via our AnimalWISE programmes and support some of the most vulnerable children via our Animal Guardians programme. Our much-needed Pet Aid service supports those who are faced with poverty. By enforcing animal welfare legislation when needed, but doing more in communities where we can, we are encouraging **peace, justice and strong institutions**. The Scottish SPCA is also doing our part in taking **climate action** and supporting both **life on land** and **life below water** through continuing to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife, releasing them into suitable sites and creating that biodiverse rich environment for us all to thrive in.

Ultimately, we will continue to work collaboratively with others and forming those vital multi stakeholder **partnerships**. By working together, we achieve more which benefits animal and human welfare and the surrounding environment we all share.

'One Health', put simply, recognises that the health of humans is closely connected to the health of animals and the environment that both humans and animals share. 'One Welfare' was created in order to focus more on the direct and indirect interconnections between animal welfare, human wellbeing and the environment. We see every day how negative factors (e.g. poverty, climate change, abuse, mental health, food supply) can influence both an animal and a human's welfare. We take that One Health One Welfare approach in everything that we do.

In 2022 we assisted farmers with 2,282 animals, we supported an average of 290 people and animals per month via our Pet Aid service. We were supporting 34 foodbanks in December 2022. We worked closely with the veterinary profession to identify the true challenges owners are facing when it comes to the care of their animals. We attended incidents jointly with Police Scotland and assisted Local Authorities with supporting many owners who were struggling with their mental health. We conducted a full week of enforcement action with partners at both the port of Cairnryan and on warrant at a property in a bid to crack down on the illicit puppy trade rescuing over 30 dogs in that week alone.

In 2022 we commenced research to help us get to the root of what is driving animals into our care. We created a plan to see what that multi-agency approach could look like when it comes to tackling particular societal issues which also affect animal welfare (abuse, drug/alcohol misuse, mental health, habitat destruction) at source. Identifying and working with the right partners, who can focus on the human side, can then enable the Society to focus on the animal welfare side.

We will continue to do everything we can to alleviate any suffering experienced and best place in world for all animals to call home. In doing so we can ensure that Scotland is the best place for all animals to call home and that every person embraces the joy and value animals add to our lives, and recognises they have feelings and needs which should be met. We will be here for all animals, always. Now, in 2023, forever.

Delivering all-year round: our highlights in 2022



JANUARY

The populations of internationally important seabirds, including puffins, are in steep decline. We do everything we can to rehabilitate vulnerable animals so that they can re-join Scotland's wild population and ensure their species' survival well into the future.

Over the new year, two puffins came into our National Wildlife Rescue Centre within hours of each other after being found injured on beaches in Montrose and Fife. They were dubbed Tony and Don and, due to the social nature of puffins, rehabilitated together so that they could keep each other company.

Tony and Don received the specialist care they needed and were released together near Elie, Fife in collaboration with the Scottish Seabird Centre.

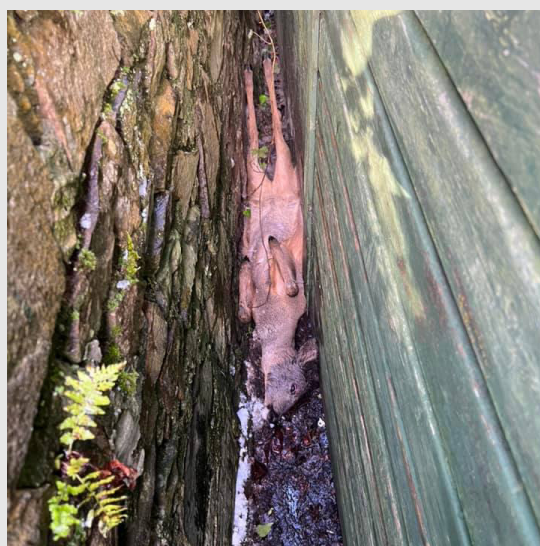


FEBURARY

We were called to an unusual rescue after a deer somehow became stuck on her back between a wall and a shed in Pitlochry on 24 February 2022.

She had been stuck there for a few hours but, after a few attempts, animal rescue officer Lucy Rattray was thankfully able to free her.

The deer had light grazing to her body and was able to be released only a couple of miles away from where she was found.



MARCH

We launched our Pets and Tenants Together survey, which found that 77% of Scots would rather face homelessness than lose their pets.

787 adults living in Scotland took part in the survey, 64% were landlords, 35% tenants and 1% were people seeking refuge.

Many tenants have been faced with the unbelievably difficult decision of choosing between housing and their pets due to 'no pets allowed' policies in both the private and public renting market. Over a quarter of those surveyed said it took them over 12 months to find suitable accommodation that would allow them to bring their pet.

Landlords expressed worry over the physical and financial damage pets could cause to their properties, but expressed interest in resources that would help them come to a compromise with their tenants over pet ownership, such as pet deposits and pet CVs.

Pets provide many social and health benefits for their owners, and it can cause untold distress to both human and animal when separated. We will continue to campaign to ensure that both tenants and landlords have the support they need to keep families and their pets together.



APRIL

Fostering gives animals who find kennel environments frightening and stressful a safe space to come out of their shell while they wait for their forever homes. It relieves the pressures on our busy shelters and speeds up the rehoming process for all of our pets, both at our centres and in foster homes.

Food, basic pet supplies and veterinary treatment are provided by the Scottish SPCA for all animals on foster. This wonderful gift from the Mars Food Fund meant we were able to expand the service as needed and rehabilitate even more dogs and cats in a home environment.



MAY

A woman from Edinburgh was handed a three-year ban on keeping more than one dog following a Scottish SPCA investigation.

She was found guilty of failing to seek veterinary treatment for her American bully puppy, Ice, at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on 27 May.

Ice was only five months old when he had the painful ear cropping procedure carried out to remove the flaps on both of his ears. The wounds from the unnecessary surgery were swollen and infected, causing the puppy a huge amount of pain and distress.

The woman stated she bought the puppy from France, however the procedure is also illegal there. It is an immensely painful and unnecessary procedure for an animal to go through, even if provided with full expert veterinary attention. Any dog that has been subjected to this procedure will have suffered significantly, physical and mentally, and will have been put at huge risk to health and life from the use of drugs, by untrained personnel, to anaesthetise the animal prior to procedure.

Thankfully, Ice made a full recovery from his wounds and went on to find a new, loving forever home.

Ear cropping is just one of the illegal activities our special investigations unit works hard to disrupt and we will continue to target people carrying out this harmful procedure.



JUNE

We closely collaborated with the RSPCA on a new Animal Kindness Index, which showed that the biggest threat to animals in the UK is the cost of living crisis.

The Animal Kindness Index is an annual UK-wide investigation into people's attitudes towards animals. Animal kindness is treating animals with compassion, empathy and respect. It is about recognising that animals have value in themselves and are sentient (they have physical and emotional experiences, and can feel pain). They deserve to be treated well, to be free from suffering and harm, and to live good lives.

The report surveyed over 4,000 UK adults and found that many pet owners were worried about how they were going to be able to continue to provide for their pets due the rising cost of animal care, with over a fifth fearing that they would no longer be able to even afford pet food.

These figures highlighted a growing trend around owners struggling to afford food for their animal. In response, we began work on our Pet Aid service which we were able to launch just two months later.



JULY

A man and his son pled guilty to failing to provide veterinary treatment or a suitable living environment for their dogs, at Elgin Sheriff Court on 6 June. They were sentenced at the same court on 7 July and were handed a 10-year ban on owning dogs and ordered to serve 300 hours of community service.

Our Special Investigation Unit brought an end to their cruel puppy farm in Moray in collaboration with Moray Council and Police Scotland. Our team raided the site and found over 56 dogs living in cramped and squalid conditions. Due to two dogs being pregnant, we ultimately cared for 78 dogs in total.

With care and determination, our animal care teams were able to successfully rehabilitate the dogs and find them loving homes.

Low-welfare puppy farms are deeply inhumane and put profiteering above basic empathy. We work tirelessly to bring those who operate these brutal sites to justice.



AUGUST

We launched Pet Aid to support struggling pet owners through the cost-of-living crisis. Pet Aid provides essential food supplies for animals through a network of food banks across most of Scotland. The service currently delivers to over 40 food banks and our supporters can donate a virtual box which will be delivered to the nearest food bank in their area.

In 2022, calls to our animal helpline from owners requesting to give up their pets more than trebled. Owners expressed how much they did not want to give up their animals, but felt that they had no choice due to the rising costs of pet care from providing suitable food to accessing affordable veterinary care.

We believe that the rescue begins before an even animal enters one of our centres. We will do whatever we can to help pets stay with their forever families so that they never have to needlessly enter our care.



SEPTEMBER

BEAR Scotland, a philanthropic alliance between three prominent organisations in Scotland's road sector, hosted a Doors Open day in September to raise funds for our animals. Over 400 guests enjoyed tours of the Forth Road Bridge and visited the onsite exhibition, with one lucky raffle winner even snagging an amazing trip to the top of the Forth Road Bridge's main towers.

We were incredibly lucky to be selected as BEAR Scotland's National Charity Partner of 2022 after winning a third of the votes in an employee poll.

As a charity that receives no government funding and relies solely on donations, we were extremely grateful for BEAR Scotland's support. It helped us continue to be there for Scotland's animals when they needed us most.

We couldn't come to the rescue of every animal who needs our help without the support of organisations like BEAR Scotland. We are grateful for donations from all of our supporters, from individuals to businesses who are passionate about investing in their local communities.



OCTOBER

Our Push up for Paws and Scottish SPCA Squat Challenge virtual challenge was supported by the amazing Kilted Coaches.

The challenges, which participants could sign up for via Facebook, allowed supporters to raise money for us in the comfort of their own homes.

The Kilted Coaches provided demonstrations of each difficulty level of the exercises to help our fundraisers reach their fitness and financial goals.



NOVEMBER

We were able to expand our ground breaking Animal Guardians programme, in which we work closely with children and young people who have displayed concerning behaviours towards animals.

We are now able to offer one-on-one sessions with children ranging from three to 16 years old to teach them about animal emotions, animal sentience, and educate them on how to be safe and responsible around animals.

Research from The University of Edinburgh proved that the Animal Guardians programme has a positive impact on children who take part. There are lots of reasons why a child might hurt an animal, and the programme allows us to intervene early, encourage positive interactions between that child and the animals they meet and break the link between abuse of animals and violence towards humans.



DECEMBER

We exhibited at The Scottish Parliament to highlight important key animal welfare issues, including the cost-of-living crisis and the low-welfare puppy trade and promote our vital Pet Aid service to MSPs.

The cost of animal care has caused concern for pet owners across the country, and as the demand for new puppies slows, we are increasingly worried about what could happen to mums and pups still in the supply chain.

We will always stand up for animals who need our help.



Prevent abuse and enforce the law



As Scotland's only all animal emergency service, we are committed to rescuing animals from abusive circumstances, and we want to lower the risk of potentially abusive situations taking place.

Unintentional abuse

The cost-of-living crisis has created a perfect storm for animal welfare. Our frontline teams have seen first-hand that many pet owners are having to make difficult decisions such as putting off veterinary treatments or cutting down on food due to lack of money. This often leads to problems spiralling further out of control, which can result in cases of unintentional abuse or neglect.

The true measure of success for us is an animal not coming into one of our centres, and we want to keep pets and people together whenever we can. We launched our Pet Aid service in August 2022, as a response to the trends we were seeing, to help pet owners during this financially difficult time. This service sees us work closely with over 40 food banks and community larders across a number of local authorities to provide vital supplies for dogs, cats and other pets.

The Scottish SPCA has also been working closely with Scotland's farming community to ensure the welfare of farm animals. Our inspectors were able to carry out the highest level of farm assurance checks since 2019 after years of disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 185 beef, lamb and pork farms were inspected to ensure high welfare standards were in place. Thankfully, while farmers were fearful of the economic climate, levels of animal welfare had not dropped. We will continue to work with farmers to ensure unintentional neglect does not occur due to financial pressures on the industry.



Intentional abuse

We are always on hand to investigate instances of animal cruelty and to enforce the law when needed. However, we saw a significant rise in investigations and welfare incidents in the last quarter of 2022. In December of 2022 alone there were 165 more investigations than the previous year, which was a 16% increase. Many of these incidents are complex and have created challenges across our inspectorate and animal rescue and rehoming centres.

Our Special Investigations Unit, which tackles the most heinous animal welfare crimes such as puppy dealing and badger baiting, launched 565 investigations in 2022. This included 124 probes into the activities of low-welfare puppy dealers, 52 investigations into the illegal ear cropping of dogs, and 42 reports of badger baiting.

Every year, new and unique challenges emerge that require us to be agile in our response. Over the next year, one of our priorities is to disrupt the worrying rise of dog fertility clinics, which can lead to unsafe breeding practices and puppies with life-long health problems.

Despite the difficulties facing Scotland's animals, we will always be there to fight on their behalf. The rescues never stop.

THE NUMBERS



86,078

reports our animal rescue officers and inspectors responded to of animals in need, an average of over 230 per day.



53

young people supported through Animal Guardians.



88

convictions secured from concluding court cases.



252,265

people supported by our Animal Helpline.



Provide the best possible care and get animals to the right environment



As the cost-of-living crisis intensified, pet owners across Scotland found themselves under significant strain. 18% of people who called our helpline looking to give up a pet in 2022 stated that financial worries were the driving force behind their decision.

At the same time, calls to discuss adopting a pet fell by 5% compared to 2021. Interest in adopting from our centres dropped as people became increasingly wary of taking on the financial burden of pet care. This double-edged sword meant that our animal rescue and rehoming centres were often at capacity during 2022, with arrivals at our centres increasing by 16% from 2021.

To deal with this crisis, as well as keeping people and pets together wherever we could through Pet Aid, we implemented new initiatives that would help reduce the time animals spend in our centres. Fostering can be beneficial for animals for many reasons whether that's taking an animal out of kennels who finds the environment too stressful, allowing an animal a quiet place to recover from medical treatment or helping rehabilitate

an animal with behavioural issues. As an added benefit, the service helped to create critical extra space in our rescue centres when we've never needed that more. We had over 150 foster families signed up by the end of the year.

We launched a post adoption treatment scheme (PATS), where we would rehome animals still receiving veterinary care and treat them as outpatients. This helped to get animals into loving homes, and alleviate pressure on our busy centres. We also invested in dog behavioural training for centre teams to speed up rehab and get dogs ready for rehoming a lot faster.

Strict quarantine protocols were put in place at our National Wildlife Rescue Centre to deal with the worst outbreak of avian flu influenza we have ever seen. At the time of the outbreak we had over 900 birds on site, so we temporarily stopped admissions as bringing in one bird with the disease could have led to disaster. Once these birds were released, we implemented a new biosecurity procedure to allow us quarantine arrivals and keep admissions at a manageable rate.

THE NUMBERS

5,683

domestic animals arriving at our animal rescue and rehoming centres.

9%

reduction in the number of days in our care for domestic animals.

140

animals fostered.

74%

of wild animals successfully released

3,434

pets rehomed



Educate and inspire people, advocate and demand change

We believe the best way to prevent future animal abuse is to inspire people to respect animals and treat them with kindness.

2022 was the first year since 2019 that we could operate our AnimalWISE education programme without Covid-19 restrictions. The programme, which helps us to get ahead of problems by working closely with children and young people, was refreshed and relaunched, with over 80,000 children in nurseries and schools taking part. We also continued to run our Adventure Clubs, an extracurricular activity that allows children between seven and 12 to learn skills that will help them protect Scotland's pets and wildlife.

Our ground-breaking Animal Guardians programme, which works with young people who have been abusive to or shown behaviours towards animals that are a cause of concern grew in 2022. The programme now caters to children between three and 16 years old, and has received over 300

referrals. Feedback from those who have engaged with the Animal Guardians programme has been positive with it being described as an 'invaluable resource' by one principal teacher.

Early studies from our partners at The University of Edinburgh show that the programme is having a positive impact on the lives of the children and young people involved. Children participating in the programme saw a reduction in self-reported harmful behaviours towards animals as well as improvements in cognitive and behavioural empathy towards both humans and animals.

The Society continued to advocate for and demand change throughout 2022. We are determined to stamp out the heartless puppy farm trade in Scotland, and exhibited at the Scottish Parliament in December to raise awareness about the dangers of this terrible industry with Scotland's leading decision makers.

THE NUMBERS



114

children took part in our Adventure Clubs



310%

increase children taking part in our AnimalWISE programme from 2021



150

referrals to our Animal Guardians programme



80,238

school children reached by our education programme



Raise funds and build partnerships to deliver our services

Like most charities, we continued to face challenges in 2022 due to the tumultuous financial climate. The cost-of-living crisis, fuel price hikes, war in Ukraine, and the Avian flu influenza outbreak put new pressure on our day-to-day running costs and supply chains.

The societal impact of the cost-of-living crisis in particular meant that many of our wonderful members faced no choice but to cancel their monthly donations and we saw a continuous decline in our membership base throughout the year. We were hugely fortunate to receive a number of generous gifts in Wills, which meant we were able to continue delivering our vital services.

While we do everything we can, we cannot build a better future for Scotland's animals alone. We have cultivated partnerships with organisations such as CALA, Mov8 and BEAR Scotland. Working with the business community is absolutely key, partnering with companies who want to invest back into their local communities and help us be there for every animal in Scotland.

We also collaborated with other third sector organisations with common goals, pooling our resources and working towards our collective objectives throughout the year.

THE NUMBERS



46,539

active members



50

grant/trust donations



73

legacies received



Be the best version of ourselves



We could not be there for Scotland's animals without the hard work of our colleagues and volunteers. The team at the Scottish SPCA worked tirelessly throughout the challenges of the pandemic and arguably faced even more acute challenges through the difficulties of the cost-of-living crisis.

The work our colleagues do, especially those on the frontline, requires high levels of emotional resilience and so it's incredibly important to look after the wellbeing of every member of our team. In the last quarter of 2022, we launched an internal wellbeing initiative, beWell, to support all teams within our organisation. beWell provides 360-degree wellbeing support on financial, mental and physical health issues whenever a colleague needs help.

We also wanted to recognise the importance of the hard work our teams carry out by implementing fair pay structures and ensuring career progression wherever possible. We want to attract and retain talented people to help us realise our

ambitious goals and we carried out a job evaluation scheme to create this fair reward structure. We focused on right-sizing our frontline teams and support services, investing £1.5m in roles essential to sustain our service delivery. 48 appointments to roles were internal, a record number of internal moves in line with our ethos of growing and developing our own people

Our teams could not do what they do without the invaluable contribution of our volunteers. This wonderful group of individuals enrich our services and the experiences we give to people and animals.

In 2022 we expanded our volunteering roles, resulting in 824 regularly active volunteers by the end of 2022, up from 652 in 2021. They support us across the whole organisation and contributed 21,745 hours of their time, adding tremendous value to our work and capacity to help people and animals.

THE NUMBERS



48

successful internal candidates for job vacancies.



OVER

95%

of roles were positively impacted by our job evaluation scheme.



Monetary value of volunteer contribution is

£206,985

How we raised and spent money



Entering 2022 the Board approved a deficit budget recognising the need to invest in our organisation and secure a sustainable future for our charity and the animals and people who rely on us every year. Our organisational investments included:

- Becoming a real living wage employer.
- Implementing fair pay structures through job evaluation and the creation of a job family framework.
- Investment in both front line operations roles and supporting new services such as fostering, as well as essential supporting roles such as health and safety, L&D, communications, volunteering and fundraising.








Our 2022 deficit increased due to the perfect storm of continued increasing demand for our services, downward pressure on our income sources and rising costs within our operation. We are not immune to the cost of living crisis impacting all businesses and individuals.




Whilst we know that this situation may persist for a few years, we are developing the right strategies to diversify our income streams to ensure that the Scottish SPCA will still be here for all animals, for many years to come.

Our Board of Trustees recognise that in times of crisis it's important to focus on and continue funding our vital services and to keep delivering while improving. Our 10 year strategy and plans will allow us to adapt and innovate our services, be as efficient as we can and keep our cost base down. Meanwhile we will grow our income and build our brand to engage new audiences in our work. We are everyone's Scottish SPCA and we need everyone's help.



2022 operating position

Income	£	% of total income	
Legacies	8,332,000	50.2%	
Ordinary subscriptions	4,800,000	28.9%	
Ordinary donations	1,935,000	11.7%	
Appeals and events	310,000	1.9%	
Special efforts	110,000	0.7%	
Collection boxes	25,000	0.2%	
Supporter groups	7,000	0.0%	
Other income	1,067,000	6.4%	
Total income	16,586,000		

Expenditure	£	% of total expenditure	
Raising funds	1,331,000	7.0%	
Support costs	2,315,000	12.3%	
Charitable expenditure	15,239,000	80.7%	
Total expenditure	18,885,000		
Deficit	- 2,299,000		

Thank you

We are also extremely grateful to the wonderful colleagues across the Society, who come up with innovative new ways to carry out our work in the face of novel and difficult challenges. Their passion and dedication often makes the impossible possible.

We deeply appreciate our partnerships with likeminded organisations. In 2022, we worked closely with animal welfare charities and many others, to achieve common goals in bettering animal welfare. Businesses such as Pets at Home, BEAR Scotland and CALA Homes hosted brilliant fundraising events on our behalf, and we were completely floored by their generosity and support.

We want to say a big thank you to our lovely ambassadors Kieran Tierney, Laura Muir and Gail Porter, joined by Andrew Cotter and his dogs Olive and Mabel at the end of last year. By using their platform to be the voice of Scotland's animals, they have helped raise a huge amount of awareness for our cause. We are extremely grateful that they are part of the rescue effort.

Finally, we would like to thank our supporters and volunteers for their tireless hard work. We would not have achieved any of this without their vital support. We would not be able to carry on without their generous donations of money, items and, most of all, their time. We are beyond grateful to them – and we know that every animal in our care is grateful too!

Kirsteen Campbell

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Fiona MacLeod

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Any questions?

If you're not sure about any aspect of our impact report, just ask. We'll be happy to chat things through.

For further information about us please contact:

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Scottish Charity no. SC006467

