



# Ballot Box Scotland Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

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**April 2024**



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# 1. Overall Figures - Net Income £3,634.75

## 1. Headline Income and Expenditure Figures

<b>Income</b>	
<b>Donations (Liberapay)</b>	
Q1	£1,386.15
Q2	£517.72
Q3	£696.35
Q4	£1,185.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,785.46</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	
Q1	£61.61
Q2	£65.00
Q3	£74.88
Q4	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£201.49</b>
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>£3,986.95</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Q1	£107.82
Q2	£38.11
Q3	£121.45
Q4	£84.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>£352.20</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>£3,634.75</b>

## 2. Notes

2023/24 was the fourth year of Ballot Box Scotland accepting donations. Gross income for 2022/23 decreased by 34% versus 2021/21, and net income decreased by 29%. This likely reflects effectively the quietest year since launching I began taking donations, with every other financial year thus far either directly including a national election or the busy run up to one; had there been a UK General Election in May 2024, it's likely pre-election coverage would have prompted an uptick in donations.

Donations to BBS are completely anonymous when paid via Stripe, whilst payments via Paypal provide the donor's name. Although Paypal does provide a name, all donations are listed anonymously in these accounts, and I have not kept a record of who has donated and how much beyond what exists on my Paypal account.

BBS committed to publishing these accounts when launching the donations platform in April 2019.

## 2. Income - Total £3,986.95

### 2.1. Liberapay Donations - Total £3,785.46

#### 2.1.1. Q1 (April-June) - Total £1,386.15

Date	Amount
02/04/2023	£29.38
04/04/2023	£11.08
04/04/2023	£11.63
04/04/2023	£8.67
04/04/2023	£1.57
05/04/2023	£9.66
10/04/2023	£4.73
11/04/2023	£11.07
11/04/2023	£51.02
11/04/2023	£10.81
11/04/2023	£1.57
11/04/2023	£1.61
11/04/2023	£1.77
12/04/2023	£19.12
12/04/2023	£19.12
14/04/2023	£9.41
18/04/2023	£9.65
18/04/2023	£11.62
18/04/2023	£14.57
18/04/2023	£19.50
18/04/2023	£4.72
18/04/2023	£9.65
18/04/2023	£3.74
19/04/2023	£70.72
25/04/2023	£58.90
25/04/2023	£44.36
25/04/2023	£58.90
25/04/2023	£42.82
25/04/2023	£9.65
25/04/2023	£20.29
25/04/2023	£10.56
25/04/2023	£11.62
25/04/2023	£21.31
25/04/2023	£19.50
25/04/2023	£10.56
26/04/2023	£4.55
02/05/2023	£49.05
02/05/2023	£24.42
02/05/2023	£58.90
02/05/2023	£29.35

02/05/2023	£1.57
03/05/2023	£9.65
03/05/2023	£19.12
09/05/2023	£8.62
09/05/2023	£8.66
09/05/2023	£1.77
12/05/2023	£49.05
16/05/2023	£14.57
16/05/2023	£11.07
16/05/2023	£8.66
16/05/2023	£11.07
16/05/2023	£9.65
16/05/2023	£3.74
23/05/2023	£11.62
23/05/2023	£4.72
24/05/2023	£11.07
30/05/2023	£8.66
30/05/2023	£58.90
30/05/2023	£8.66
30/05/2023	£1.61
30/05/2023	£1.57
01/06/2023	£4.55
06/06/2023	£1.77
07/06/2023	£44.13
10/06/2023	£4.72
13/06/2023	£43.34
13/06/2023	£19.50
13/06/2023	£9.65
13/06/2023	£3.74
15/06/2023	£57.96
17/06/2023	£29.35
18/06/2023	£50.19
21/06/2023	£9.65
21/06/2023	£4.55
27/06/2023	£11.62
27/06/2023	£4.72
27/06/2023	£1.57

## 2.1.2. Q2 (July-September) - Total £517.72

<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
01/07/2023	£14.57
04/07/2023	£10.81
04/07/2023	£1.77
05/07/2023	£58.90
11/07/2023	£8.66
11/07/2023	£9.65
11/07/2023	£3.74
18/07/2023	£14.57
19/07/2023	£4.55
25/07/2023	£1.57
01/08/2023	£51.02
01/08/2023	£1.77
08/08/2023	£14.57
08/08/2023	£8.66
08/08/2023	£4.72
15/08/2023	£11.07
15/08/2023	£11.62
15/08/2023	£29.17
15/08/2023	£19.50
15/08/2023	£11.07
15/08/2023	£8.66
15/08/2023	£11.07
15/08/2023	£11.07
15/08/2023	£19.50
15/08/2023	£9.65
15/08/2023	£1.57
16/08/2023	£5.53
22/08/2023	£1.77
29/08/2023	£58.90
12/09/2023	£11.58
12/09/2023	£11.62
12/09/2023	£8.66
12/09/2023	£4.72
12/09/2023	£9.65
12/09/2023	£1.57
19/09/2023	£1.77
26/09/2023	£29.35
26/09/2023	£14.57
30/09/2023	£4.55

### 2.1.3. Q3 (October - December) - Total £696.35

Date	Amount
02/10/2023	£9.41
03/10/2023	£10.81
03/10/2023	£51.20
04/10/2023	£20.58
06/10/2023	£11.07
06/10/2023	£32.99
07/10/2023	£9.65
10/10/2023	£8.66
10/10/2023	£19.50
10/10/2023	£14.57
10/10/2023	£9.65
17/10/2023	£4.72
17/10/2023	£1.77
17/10/2023	£11.62
24/10/2023	£58.90
24/10/2023	£21.31
24/10/2023	£29.35
02/11/2023	£48.25
07/11/2023	£14.57
07/11/2023	£11.07
07/11/2023	£9.65
07/11/2023	£11.07
07/11/2023	£8.66
07/11/2023	£11.07
14/11/2023	£8.66
14/11/2023	£11.62
14/11/2023	£1.77
21/11/2023	£4.72
21/11/2023	£8.66
22/11/2023	£11.35
22/11/2023	£4.55
23/11/2023	£34.66
28/11/2023	£58.90
28/11/2023	£10.56
29/11/2023	£10.81
05/12/2023	£9.65
05/12/2023	£11.62
12/12/2023	£19.50
12/12/2023	£1.77
12/12/2023	£19.50
19/12/2023	£8.66
26/12/2023	£4.72

26/12/2023	£14.57
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#### 2.1.4. Q4 (January - March) - Total £1,185.24

Date	Amount
02/01/2024	£10.81
09/01/2024	£1.77
09/01/2024	£9.65
12/01/2024	£19.50
15/01/2024	£19.50
16/01/2024	£8.66
23/01/2024	£51.02
23/01/2024	£11.07
29/01/2024	£29.35
30/01/2024	£8.66
30/01/2024	£4.72
01/02/2024	£33.24
03/02/2024	£19.50
06/02/2024	£29.35
06/02/2024	£14.57
06/02/2024	£19.50
06/02/2024	£1.77
06/02/2024	£11.62
06/02/2024	£11.07
06/02/2024	£9.65
06/02/2024	£11.07
06/02/2024	£8.66
06/02/2024	£11.07
13/02/2024	£11.07
16/02/2024	£19.12
16/02/2024	£9.65
16/02/2024	£10.81
16/02/2024	£9.41
16/02/2024	£2.26
16/02/2024	£14.26
16/02/2024	£42.82
16/02/2024	£19.50
16/02/2024	£9.65
18/02/2024	£9.41
20/02/2024	£8.66
20/02/2024	£49.05
20/02/2024	£19.50
22/02/2024	£44.36
23/02/2024	£9.65
27/02/2024	£1.77





05/03/2024	£51.02
05/03/2024	£4.72
05/03/2024	£9.65
09/03/2024	£39.20
09/03/2024	£47.08
12/03/2024	£44.12
12/03/2024	£51.02
12/03/2024	£43.34
12/03/2024	£58.90
12/03/2024	£2.26
19/03/2024	£8.66
19/03/2024	£24.42
19/03/2024	£9.65
19/03/2024	£9.65
24/03/2024	£57.60
26/03/2024	£11.07
26/03/2024	£10.81
26/03/2024	£1.77
26/03/2024	£29.35
26/03/2024	£14.57
27/03/2024	£9.65

## 2.2. Liberapay Donation Notes

Liberapay donations were down 29% compared to the previous year. Donations were concentrated in Q1 (37%) due to the local elections and Q4 (31%) likely due to the fact these cover the months either side of typical election times, and thus regular donors who have set up an annually recurring donation will renew it at that time.

The number of individual donations decreased to 220 (24% decrease), and the average value of a donation to £17.21 (down 6%). Due to the nature of how donations are logged, it isn't possible to determine how many individual donors there were, as some donors may have contributed multiple times via recurring payments. In addition, this does not reflect the "spread" of donations as tracked via Liberapay - for example, a £20 donation may be an up-front payment for four months of £5.

The fees collected by Paypal and Stripe are not included in the donation figures here, as I never see that money! If you're looking for your own donation here, you won't find the nice round figure you paid.

### 2.3. Other Income - Total £201.49

Date	Amount	Source
22/05/2023	£61.61	AdSense
30/08/2023	£65.00	BBC Scotland
23/11/2023	£74.88	AdSense

### 2.4. Other Income Notes

Only a limited proportion of BBS income came from sources apart from donations this year, at approximately 5% of gross income versus 12% last year. The majority of this income (68%) came from the very limited number of Google AdSense adverts that run on the BBS website, whilst the only other payment came from my appearance on an episode of BBC Scotland's Podlitical podcast.

### 3. Expenditure - Total £352.2

#### 3.1. Q1 - Total £107.82

Date	Amount	Description	Recipient
27/04/2023	£48.00	Domain Renewal	1&1 Ionos
27/04/2023	£8.39	Web Hosting	1&1 Ionos
27/05/2023	£8.39	Web Hosting	1&1 Ionos

#### 3.2. Q2 - Total £38.11

Date	Amount	Description	Recipient
27/06/2023	£8.39	Web Hosting	1&1 Ionos
30/06/2023	£34.65	Liberapay Donation	Liberapay
27/07/2023	£8.39	Web Hosting	1&1 Ionos
27/08/2023	£8.39	Web Hosting	1&1 Ionos
27/09/2023	£8.39	Web Hosting	1&1 Ionos
30/09/2023	£12.94	Liberapay Donation	Liberapay

#### 3.3. Q3 - Total £121.46

Date	Amount	Description	Recipient
24/10/2023	£33.50	100x Badges	Glasgow Badges
27/10/2023	£8.39	Web Hosting	1&1 Ionos
27/11/2023	£8.39	Web Hosting	1&1 Ionos
14/12/2023	£45.38	Theme Licence	MH Themes
27/12/2023	£8.39	Web Hosting	1&1 Ionos
31/12/2023	£17.41	Liberapay Donation	Liberapay

#### 3.4. Q4 - Total £84.80

Date	Amount	Description	Recipient
18/01/2024	£30.00	Office Renewal	Microsoft
27/01/2024	£8.39	Web Hosting	1&1 Ionos
27/02/2024	£8.39	Web Hosting	1&1 Ionos
27/03/2024	£8.39	Web Hosting	1&1 Ionos
31/03/2023	£29.63	Liberapay Donation	Liberapay

#### 3.5. Expenditure Notes

Expenditure this year was significantly lower than last year, as I did not incur any expenses beyond the usual costs of running the website, and my matter of principle donation to support the free platform I use for collecting donations.

Quarterly Liberapay donations are approximately 2.5% of that quarter's donation income. That payment is voluntary, to support the free platform provided for collecting donations. Donations sometimes fell haphazardly depending on whether I remembered to send one in for the right quarter!

## 4. Hours Worked on Ballot Box Scotland

### 4.1. Background

I put a lot of my time and energy into Ballot Box Scotland, and it occurred to me it might be worth keeping a very rough estimate of exactly how much that amounts to over the year. Once I know how much time I've spent on BBS, I can also estimate how much I've earned per hour worked.

This isn't intended to suggest that I expect people to contribute any more to BBS than they already do. The extremely generous support I receive has absolutely blown me away, and when I started accepting donations in 2019 I had expected to cover my costs, if I was lucky.

That BBS has become an additional source of income for me was a surprise - but a very welcome one. My earnings from BBS really help to cover my costs and work towards big life expenses, especially as I plan ahead for the next few years. I am indescribably thankful to everyone who has so kindly donated any amount of money to BBS at any point.

For the past couple of years I have come up with a rough estimate of my hours committed to BBS, and I've done the same this year. Emphasises here is on rough - I don't clock in and out of doing BBS work and often do little bits and pieces as I watch TV or on my lunch break at work, so this may be a slightly conservative estimate.

### 4.2. Hours Worked - Total 281 (40.1 Days)

Piece of Work	Hours per Iteration	Iterations	Total
Poll Analysis	5	24	120
By-Election Preview	3	13	39
By-Election Result	2	11	22
Boundary Review (SP)	12	1	12
Annual Reviews	4	3	12
SNP Summer Polling Article	5	1	5
Green Constituencies	5	1	5
Boundary Review (WM)	6	1	6
RHW	10	1	10
GE24 Prep	50	1	50
<b>Total (Days FTE)</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>Total (Hours)</b>	<b>281</b>

Over the course of this year, I've spend approximately 281 hours on Ballot Box Scotland work. Taking my current full-time workday of 7 hours as a baseline, I've therefore worked the equivalent of 40.1 full-time days on BBS, or 8 working weeks.

### 4.3. Earnings per Hour - £14.19

Based on my net income from BBS this year and the hours spent on the project, my earnings equate to roughly £14.19/hr. For comparison, the minimum wage for the year was £10.42 (49.8 MWE days), and the Living Wage was £12.00 (43.3 LWE days). Due to spending much less time on BBS this year, as I did not have to painstaking collate extremely detailed local government election data, I therefore comfortably made more than the Living Wage for my work, with my earnings per hour 41% higher than last year.

## 5. Ballot Box Scotland Poll Fund - £1,958.21

### 5.1. Background

When I first started taking donations for Ballot Box Scotland, I was unemployed. For the following two financial years, I'd spent most of the year at the first rung on a new career path and so the additional income from BBS was an extremely helpful supplement that enabled me to pay rent and bills.

Last financial year however, I was fortunate enough to have been on the next step up in my job. Despite the cost of living crisis, I was therefore in a position for the first time not to just use my BBS donations, beyond those used for dedicated purposes, as much-needed supplemental income. Starting in the 2022/23 financial year, I have started putting aside a certain proportion of money I've received to fund BBS-commissioned polling. Based on the cost of my one commissioned so far and allowing for likely increased costs, I'm working on the basis that roughly £4,000 will be needed for any future poll.

As outlined on the donations page of the BBS website, up to a certain threshold of overall income (both my anticipated day-job income for the year plus donations so far), BBS income just forms part of my general income stream. From that, all of the usual and essential costs of running BBS are met.

After I reach my threshold, 75% of post-tax BBS income (from all sources) will go straight towards the poll fund. Given I'm not yet anywhere near the 42% tax band and haven't yet been at a level of needing to make additional National Insurance contributions, that effectively means the split of BBS income above the threshold is 52.5% to the poll fund, 21% to HMRC, 9% to the Student Loans Company, and the remaining 17.5% still just into my general income stream.

I don't take it for granted that I will reach the threshold each year, but hopefully it's reassuring to supporters to know that so long as I'm confident of financial security, money can get directly re-invested into exciting stuff for BBS.

### 5.2. Funds added this year - £324.82

Due to the overall lower level of income compared to last year, I only crossed the threshold to begin adding to the poll fund in Q4, limiting the amount that was added to the fund. I finished the year with 49% of the funds necessary for a poll.

Source	Amount
Initial Value	£1633.39
Funds added in 2022/23	£324.82
<b>Final Value</b>	<b>£1958.21</b>