

Orkney Foodbank Annual Report of Activity

Year 2024/25

**Orkney
Foodbank**

working with



Executive Summary

At Orkney Foodbank, we continue our journey from the past year into another challenging year for the community we serve. The lasting effects of COVID-19, together with the ongoing cost-of-living and energy crises, continue to impact the lives of many of our clients, directly affecting their quality of life.

While our operational statistics show that the number of clients is slightly lower than in 2024, we are seeing an increase in the number and size of families seeking our support. Increasingly, the impact of mental health challenges is also being recognised by local agency referrers, reflecting the underlying difficulties many of our client's face.

We are grateful that, through strong work within the organisation, we have once again been able to secure significant grant funding. This will sustain us financially in the coming year and allow us to continue providing much-needed help and support to those in need.

It is our duty to continue standing alongside our island community in their times of need, and we are deeply encouraged by the care and generosity of those who support us. With God's grace, we believe we will continue to prevail in this mission.

I would also like to bring to your attention the decision of the Board this year to support a local charity, Orkney Fair Trade, by providing Fair Trade tea and coffee for our clients. These are being sourced locally from Westray, strengthening both our values and our community ties.

I take this opportunity to thank all the local businesses and individuals who so faithfully provide financial support and food donations. Your contributions make it possible for us to sustain our commitment to those who need us most.

I also wish to express my gratitude to our Board members and Operational Team; whose oversight and management are crucial to the running of Orkney Foodbank.

Finally, I must recognise and thank our dedicated team of volunteers, whose tireless efforts make our work possible. Without them, we simply could not fulfil our mission.


Chairperson, Orkney Foodbank

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The duties of Orkney Foodbank are carried out with a Christian ethos, supporting values and principles, which promote social inclusion and anti-discriminatory practices.

Objectives

2. The Orkney Foodbank objects are:

(a) The Prevention or relief of poverty.

(b) The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

Achievements and performance in summary

1. During the period the Orkney Foodbank team received 765 referral vouchers and gave support to 1538 clients – including 536 children
2. Clients were in 286 unique households with 142 referrals being first time referrals
3. THAW Orkney was the main referrer with 171 referrals; followed by CAB with 73 vouchers.
4. Stock in was 23,199.89Kgs (12,371.94 being purchased by Orkney Foodbank which is 53% on average)
5. Stock out was 20,125.87Kgs
6. We are very fortunate to have 21 volunteers who work hard to make sure we can meet all requests and that the Foodbank runs smoothly
7. We continue to have 2 paid members of staff working alongside our Foodbank Manager – our food resilience and support worker who provides invaluable support to clients and assesses how/if additional support is required and who best placed to provide it. Our office administrator/stock controller who leads on our purchasing and has achieved significant financial savings as a result. All 3 are essential team members who has ensured we can meet the significant increase in client activity.
8. Orkney Foodbank issues supermarket gift vouchers and electricity top ups to clients so additional items can be purchased and they can heat the items issued.
9. Our operational team also have a restricted hardship fund they can access as they determine appropriate
10. In December our clients receive a “Christmas bag” with extra treats and the contents of a Christmas dinner consisting of non perishable items.

Overview of 2024/25

The financial year 2024/25 has been another one of Orkney Foodbank's busiest years ever since being established in 2013 – with only last year being busier - as can be seen in the table below.

	24/25	23/24	22/23	21/22
Vouchers	765	850	646	468
Adults	1002	1119	859	568
Children	536	642	440	374
Total	1538	1761	1299	942

	24/25	23/24	22/23
	762	850 vouchers	646 vouchers
Unique Households	287	334	292
First time referral	143	187	156
Average frequency of visit	2.67	2.54	2.21
One voucher only	151	173	159
Two vouchers only	56	47	61
Three vouchers only	20	42	24
Single client with most vouchers	20	22 vouchers	15 vouchers

Underlying information for those referred	No Vouchers 24/25	No Clients 24/25	Number of vouchers 23/24	Number of clients affected
Earning , no benefits	48	79	91	187
Earning and benefits	95	233	115	296
Benefits, not earning	474	910	458	890
No income	29	41	33	42
Priority Debt	104	194	114	234
Non Priority Debt	72	125	72	147
Rising Cost of Essentials	328	642	411	888
Unexpected expense	77	176	72	215
Health related issue	237	456	290	516

Stock

	24/25	23/24
Stock in	23,199.89 Kgs	22,449.95 Kgs
Stock out	20,125.87	23,008.21
Donated	10,803.75	14,227.14
Purchased	12,371.94 (53%)	8150.66 (36%)

Referrers

Orkney Foodbank is extremely grateful to the local agencies who have agreed to act as referrers. Currently we have 58 registered referrers but this is being reviewed to ensure all want to remain as current referrers.

The table below shows the top 10 referring partners:-

	2024/25 Number of referrals (23/24 in brackets)	Adults	Children
THAW	171 (257)	249	125
CAB	73 (106)	98	35
Adult Social Services	60 (70)	105	24
Housing & Homelessness	63 (66)	67	19
Mental Health Team	32 (32)	65	49
Right There	39	40	3
Blide Trust	30 (46)	33	6
Children & Families	28 (14)	34	55
OHAL	20 (33)	28	18
Womens Aid	20 (30)	22	32

Orkney in comparison to Scotland

Ratio of adults to children

Orkney 35% of our clients are children – Scottish average is 32%

Households with children

Orkney data shows 31% whilst Scottish average is 33%

Households with 3+ children – Orkney data shows 12% of our households have more than 3 children with the Scottish Average being 9%

Stock purchased

Orkney purchases 53% whilst the Scottish average is 20%

Funding Streams

Orkney Foodbank is extremely fortunate to have so many generous supporters of its activity in the local community. Weekly we receive donations of food items, toiletries and cleaning products. In addition we have many supporters who make financial donations which enable us to continue the service needed by so many locally. We are extremely humbled and grateful and welcome every donation whether a few pounds or a few thousand pounds.

Having said that, we are now in a position that rising costs and significantly increased activity means we need to monitor our finances closely and be aware of any grant funding that we can apply for to bolster our accounts and ensure our service can continue as long as it is required.

During 23/24 and 24/25 we successfully received significant grant funding from Trussell Trust grants as well as Isles Cost of Living Crises and Orkney Money Matters.

We now have 2 funded projects in partnership with Trussell Trust to further support clients locally on a cash first basis.

Project 1 funds 1.26 wte Money Support workers as part of the wider financial support services CAB have the expertise in. This is a 3 year project and we are in year 2.

Project 2 is about to get off the ground and funds 2 days per week Foodbank Support worker and 3 days per week THAW Energy Support Advisor who will offer additional support to foodbank clients. This is a 2 year project.

We also secured grant funding in 24/25 via Bank of Scotland for 2 years so we can purchase food items.

Cash First – Orkney Foodbank was part of a collaboration with THAW Orkney and CAB referring clients for additional financial support through the Cash First Fund administered by THAW on behalf of the partnership. Whilst this brought significant financial gain to clients the administration was onerous and actually diverted staff attention from client support to administration of the fund. This was an 18 month project (due to end on Sept 25).

Volunteering and Staffing

We have an amazing group of staff and volunteers who keep the show on the road each week. There are 21 volunteers at the moment and 7 Board Members.

- Alan Scott is our Foodbank Manager and is a volunteer and Board member.
- Ray Kemp supports Alan with volunteers and also general fabric of the building and running of the service. He is Orkney Foodbank Chair and a volunteer/supervisor.
- Kate Brown is our paid part time Food Resilience Support worker supporting clients with their needs and linking with referrers. She also administers the electricity top up system
- Linda Nicolson is our paid stock manager and makes sure our stock levels are maintained as well as looking after wider financial and administrative aspects

Wider Organisation Involvement

Orkney Foodbank is represented on a variety of different groups including:-

- Orkney Money Matters Steering Group
- Orkney Money Matters Operational Group

- Cost of Living Task Force – covering Child Poverty, Food Poverty and Dignity and Fuel Poverty.
- Good Food Nation Strategy Development
- Building Food Security in Scotland (through University of Aberdeen)
- Northern Hub (meeting with other foodbanks in the north of Scotland)
- Cash First

Summary

Orkney Foodbank is doing well and gets positive feedback from clients and referrers alike on the dignified and supportive approach our service provides. We remain totally committed to supporting our clients and making sure our charity runs smoothly. Looking forward we have set our service priorities as:-

- Client support
- Volunteer support
- Financial governance
- Charity Governance
- Stock control – both in stock levels and issue

In addition we want to make sure we are involved in the local discussions about strategy and policy so we can highlight what our data is telling us so this can play into decisions made and priorities set that will affect those living in our communities.


Oct 2025

Orkney Foodbank
Trustees Annual report

2024/2025

Orkney Foodbank trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

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Achievements and performance

1. During the period the Orkney Foodbank team received 764 referral vouchers and gave support to 1537 clients – including 536 children.
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5. Stock out was 20,056.17Kgs
6. We are very fortunate to have 21 volunteers who work hard to make sure we can meet all requests and that the Foodbank runs smoothly.
7. We continue to have 2 part-time paid members of staff working alongside our Foodbank Manager – our food resilience and support worker who provides invaluable support to clients and assesses how/if additional support is required and who best placed to provide it. Our office administrator/stock controller who leads on our purchasing and has achieved significant financial savings as a result. All 3 are essential team members who have ensured we can meet the significant increase in client activity.
8. Orkney Foodbank issues supermarket gift vouchers and electricity top ups to clients so additional items can be purchased, and they can heat the items issued.
9. Our operational team also have a restricted hardship fund they can access as they determine appropriate.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

- Income - £183,071
- Donations - £48,462
- Expenditure - £148,118
- End of year balance - £190,554

We also receive gifts in kind from local companies including Orkney Insurance, Orkney Cheese, Orkney Cabs and Cooke Aquaculture.

Orkney Foodbank is extremely fortunate to have so many generous supporters of its activity in the local community. Weekly we receive donations of food items, toiletries and cleaning products.

In addition we have many supporters who make financial donations throughout the year which enables us to continue the service needed by so many locally. We are extremely humbled and grateful and welcome every donation whether a few pounds many thousand pounds.

Having said that we are supported admirably by the local community we are now in a position that rising costs and significantly increased activity means we need to monitor our finances closely and be aware of any grant funding that we can apply for to bolster our accounts and ensure our service can continue as long as it is required.

During 24/25 we successfully applied for and secured significant grant funding

- Trussell Trust grant
- Isles Cost of Living Crises from OIC
- Bank of Scotland
- Cooke Aquaculture

Project Funding

We now have 2 funded projects in partnership with Trussell Trust (TT) to further support clients locally on a cash first basis.

Project 1 funds 1.26 wte Money Support workers as part of the wider financial support services Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) have the expertise in. This is a 3-year project, and we are in year 2.

Project 2 funds 2 days per week Foodbank Support worker and 3 days per week THAW Energy Support Advisor who will offer additional support to foodbank clients. This is a 2-year project and commenced in October 24.

For both these projects the grant funding from TT is received into Orkney Foodbank bank accounts and will be paid to the respective organisations over the life of the projects on receipt of invoices.

Reserves policy

The accumulated reserves of £124,168 are sufficient to maintain the charity for its continued operation with careful monitoring of activity and expenditure. These reserves will be carried forward for use by the charity to achieve its stated aims and objectives during the next financial year.

Orkney Foodbank is run in partnership with local churches.

Orkney Foodbank is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) Registration No: SC046553

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

New members of the Trustee Board are either elected annually at the Annual General Meeting from the membership or appointed at any time by the Board members, those nominated by body with which the charity has close contact in the course of its activities or on the basis that they have relevant specialist skills or experience. Trustees retire automatically after three years but are eligible for re-election.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

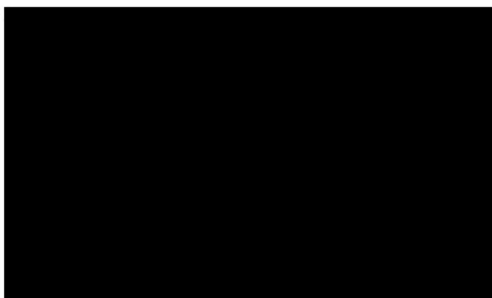
Registered Charity number SC046553

Principal address

Dunkirk
Shore Street
Kirkwall
KW15 1LG

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

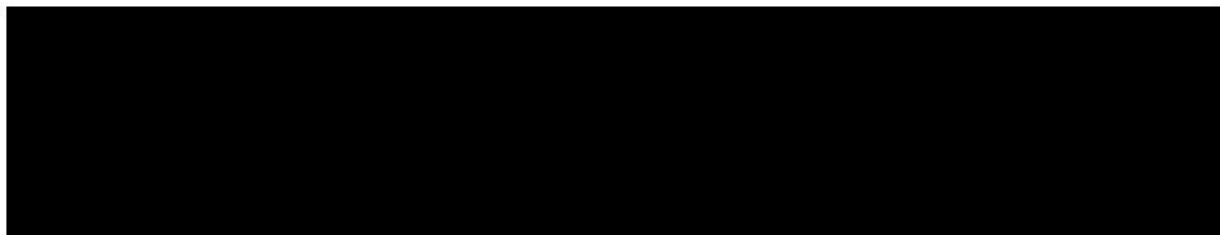


Independent examiner

VAO
Bridge Street
Kirkwall

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The charity commenced full trading activities May 2016 (having been established Nov 2013).



Independent Examiner's Report

For the Period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Orkney Foodbank

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 5 -8.

Respective Responsibilities of 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) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 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 2006 Regulations. 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 view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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 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

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

Date: 5/11/25

Statement of Receipts and Payments – For the Period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

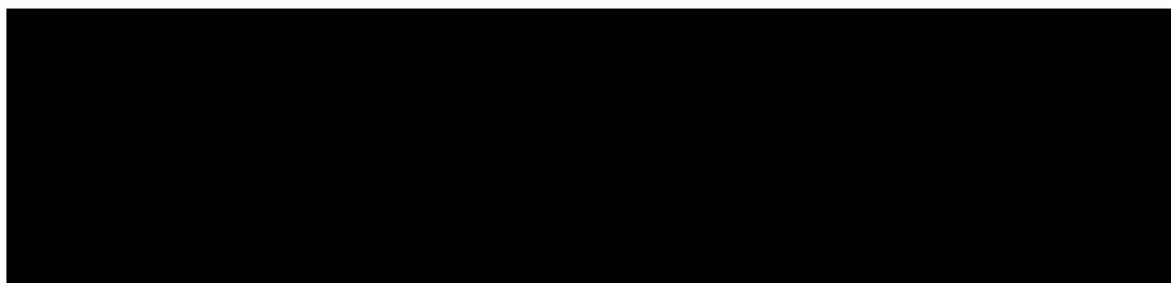
		Unrestricte d Funds	Restrict ed Funds	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
Receipts	Note				
Donations	4	33,257	15,205	48,462	69,650
Grants	5	32,228	99,675	131,903	53,000
Bank Interest		2,706	-	2,706	1,723
Miscellaneous		-	-	-	-
Total Receipts		68,191	114,880	183,071	128,208
Payments					
Purchase of equipment		30	-	30	156
Maintenance		643	-	643	715
Rent of Premises		7,700	-	7,700	7,400
Heating and consumables vouchers		-	-	-	12,954
Administration costs		1,826	-	1,826	2,637
CAB Advisor		-	44,869	44,869	51,494
Electricity vouchers/top-ups		-	15,375	15,375	10,203
Purchase of food and toiletries		5,059	39,183	44,242	26,116
Client Laundry		43	-	43	42
Carriage		193	-	193	371
Miscellaneous other costs		37	-	37	9
Wages		11,479	-	11,479	12,386
Corra		-	-	-	2,255
Donation		-	-	-	1,200
Bags for clients		-	-	-	1,044
Staff expenses		1,080	-	1,080	1,657
Hardship		1,785	-	1,785	2,000
THAW Energy Support Advisor		-	18,324	18,324	-
		29,875	117,751	147,626	132,639
Governance costs		492	-	492	323
Cost of Fundraising		-	-	-	26
Total Payments		30,367	117,751	148,118	132,988
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		37,824	(2,871)	34,953	(4,780)
Transfer between funds	2	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		37,824	(2,871)	34,953	(4,780)

Statement of Balances – as at 31 March 2025

	Unrestricte d Funds	Restrict ed Funds	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
Funds Reconciliation				
Cash at Bank & In Hand – 1/04/24	86,344	69,257	155,601	160,381
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	37,824	(2,871)	34,953	(4,780)
Cash at Bank & In Hand – 31/03/25	124,168	66,386	190,554	155,601

Bank and Cash Balances

Bank Account	190,293
Cash in Hand	261
	<hr/>
	190,554



Notes to the Accounts – for the Period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

1 Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2 Nature and purpose of funds

	As at 1/4/24	Receipts	Payments	Transfers in / (-) out	As at 31/3/25
Unrestricted funds	86,344	68,191	30,367	-	124,168
Restricted funds:					
Donations – electricity	24,257	15,205	-	-	39,462
Orkney Islands Council (OIC) – electricity	15,000	-	15,000	-	-
OIC – Food & associated costs	25,000	-	25,000	-	-
Voluntary Action Orkney - Vouchers	5,000	-	5,000	-	-
Trussell Trust – CAB Advisor	-	44,869	44,869	-	-
Tesco Groundworks - electricity	-	375	375	-	-
Tesco – PCP Top Up – food/toiletries	-	1,783	1,783	-	-
Cooke Aquaculture – Christmas food	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
Orkney Island Council – Cost Crisis Fund – food/toiletries	-	15,000	6,400	-	8,600
Trussell Trust – THAW Energy Support Advisor	-	36,648	18,324	-	18,324
Total Restricted funds	69,257	114,880	117,751	-	66,386
Totals	155,601	183,071	148,118	-	190,554

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day to day running of its service.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purpose

3 Related Party Transactions

No trustees received reimbursed expenses during the year (2024: R Walker £1,705, M Campbell £30)

4 Donations Received

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
Donations	28,981	15,205	44,186	62,502
Gift Aid	3,356	-	3,356	7,148
Tesco customer donations	920	-	920	-
	33,257	15,205	48,462	69,650

5 Grants received

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
Cooke Aquaculture – Christmas food	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Trussel Trust – Food	-	-	-	4,000
Trussel Trust – Hardship	-	-	-	2,000
Trussel Trust – Administration	-	-	-	1,000
Tesco Groundworks – Electricity	-	375	375	-
Orkney Islands Council – Electricity	-	-	-	15,000
Orkney Islands Council – Food	-	-	-	25,000
Voluntary Action Orkney – Vouchers	-	-	-	5,000
Trussel Trust – CAB Advisor	6,731	44,869	51,600	-
Trussel Trust – THAW Advisor	5,497	36,648	42,145	-
Tesco PCP Top Up	-	1,783	1,783	-
Bank of Scotland Foundation	20,000	-	20,000	-
Orkney Islands Council – Vouchers	-	15,000	15,000	-
Restricted donations incorrectly included in Grants note 4 p/y	-	-	-	11,125
	32,228	99,675	131,903	64,125

