

Trustees' Report for ESU Scotland AGM Wednesday 20th November 2024

In February 2017 the Board of ESU Scotland determined that ESU Scotland, an unincorporated charity, should change status to become an incorporated charity (SCIO) in line with new charity legislation that had been introduced.

Young Speakers Scotland was established on 23 November 2020 as a SCIO by ESU Scotland explicitly to enact the 2017 resolution for the operations of ESU Scotland to be delivered by a SCIO.

The decision was made at the time to retain ESU Scotland as a separate charity on the Scottish charity register to:

- retain use of the name 'ESU' in Scotland and thereby retain links with the worldwide ESU organisation.
- maintain an entity which could receive any legacies left for ESU Scotland;

It was not intended that ESU Scotland would continue to deliver any programmes following the transfer of assets, nor that ESU Scotland would use its resources to fund debating or public speaking programmes run by any organisation other than Young Speakers Scotland.

ESU Scotland engaged the services of Lindsays solicitors to formally document the transfer of assets from ESU to YSS. The Transfer was completed on 23 November 2023.

ESU and YSS agreed they would review annually the viability of maintaining ESU as a legacy charity. The purpose of such review is to reduce overall costs and liabilities and consider the necessity of administering two charities.

ESU Scotland has now reached a stage where no monies are being processed through the bank account but as a charity, we are obliged to purchase management liability insurance at a cost of roughly £600 per annum and produce annual accounts for OSCR. The cost of the last set of accounts was £2,520.

Our intention is now to close the charity but retain the name of ESU by continuing to purchase the domain name, maintain a limited website (which links into YSS) and continue our communication with the international network of ESUs.

Finally, the Trustees would like to thank the staff and Trustees of Young Speakers Scotland, as successor charity to ESU Scotland, for pursuing ESU goals and doing a wonderful job delivering the operations long established by ESU. The Speak Up Scotland programme continues to grow as we reach schools in the north of Scotland and the Highlands and Islands. The traditional competitions – Schools' Mace, Public Speaking and St Andrew's Debate – continue their success and popularity with a wide range of schools throughout Scotland.

Last, but not least, many thanks to all the Trustees and staff, ESU and YSS, for their time and advice during the long process of transfer which has finally been achieved. Speak Up Scotland! Success for Scottish debating.

J M Broadley
Trustee and Hon Secretary
ESU Scotland SC000653 and Young Speakers Scotland SC050590