



Glasgow  
Council  
for the  
Voluntary  
Sector

[www.gcvss.org.uk](http://www.gcvss.org.uk)  
@GlasgowCVS



The Right Honourable Rachel Reeves MP,  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
[HM Treasury](https://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk)

The Right Honourable Ian Murray MP  
Secretary of State for Scotland  
[enquiries@ukgovscotland.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ukgovscotland.gov.uk)

25 February 2025

Dear Chancellor and Secretary of State,

**The UK Spending Review, Government policy and the voluntary sector response in Glasgow – GCVS meeting with our local MPs**

On 14<sup>th</sup> February, newly elected MPs in Glasgow – Martin Rhodes and John Grady - met with GCVS members to discuss the current issues and challenges in the communities we support, and the issues affecting the future security of essential voluntary sector organisations in the City.

**About GCVS and the Voluntary Sector in Glasgow**

[Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector](#) (GCVS) supports the voluntary sector in its vital work with local communities. We do this by providing a wide range of services, training & opportunities for charities, voluntary organisations & social enterprises. We strongly focus on [poverty, participation and health & wellbeing](#) in our work with the voluntary sector across Glasgow.

Some of the organisations we work with are small and volunteer-led whilst others are part of larger charities. They deliver important public services and also have a strong focus on prevention – helping people to stay well, to develop social connections and reconnect with work or their local communities. Social enterprises provide jobs and stimulate the local economy, ploughing profits back into local areas. Every day, they help change and save lives in Glasgow.

**What we discussed with Martin Rhodes and John Grady**

When our members met with Martin and John earlier this month, we spent some time considering the Spending Review. We discussed our concerns about how the UK Government is tackling poverty and inequality, and some of the language used about marginalised groups such as disabled people, benefits claimants and asylum seekers and refugees. We've shared a summary of our discussions with this letter.

## **Employer National Insurance changes risk sector contribution to economic recovery**

Our sector will be hit hard by the Employer National Insurance changes. Many organisations are trying to find a way to plug the gap, in some of the most challenging operating conditions our sector has ever faced.

[Our recent survey of Glasgow organisations](#) laid out the likely impact of the Employer NIC changes. One organisation commented:

*“This has increased our costs, and unless we can increase our income, it will mean dipping into reserves, something we can't afford to do for very long. Ultimately, the ever-increasing costs of running our service versus the increasing difficulties in securing the required income may mean that we have to close.”*

More than most, our sector understands the economic and social challenges facing our country and local communities. Your Government's missions cannot be achieved without the many brilliant charities and community groups here in Glasgow. We therefore urge you to think again about how the Employer NIC costs for our sector can be mitigated.

### **Working with the Voluntary Sector in Glasgow**

We are at an important crossroads as we seek to recover the economy, in an increasingly unstable world. The voluntary sector is on the frontline, responding to the needs and concerns of people who have already been hit hard by past austerity, COVID and the cost of living crisis.

Even in these challenging times, voluntary organisations and communities are seeking hope and a signal that we have a path to a better life for all. We urge the Government to work with our sector to make that a reality.

We would like to extend an invitation to you both to come and meet with local charities as work continues on the UK Spending Review - to consider what this might mean for families and communities and how we as a sector can work with you to build a better, fairer future for everyone.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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