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ANNUAL REPORT

December 2025

Miscarriages of Justice Organisation MOJO (Scotland)

MOJO

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 30 December 2024, with great sadness we shared the news that our founder and director, Paddy Hill died peacefully. We would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to send us words of condolence and support.

Our organisation MOJO, started by Paddy with his own compensation (itself never adequate reparation for his experience, a miscarriage of justice of the most egregious kind) exists for no other reason than to struggle to put right the consequences of other wrongful convictions.

As a survivor of the first of the most far-reaching injustices to Irishmen in English courts, Paddy refused either to capitulate with a confession in the face of extreme physical police brutality, fuelled by false forensic science, or ever to passively accept 16 years of wrongful imprisonment.

We share the belief of his lawyer and friend Gareth Peirce that Paddy was quite simply, the bravest of the brave.

We have all been profoundly affected by the privilege of encountering the extraordinary strength and determination of Paddy's life and spirit and are proud to carry on his legacy.

Paddy Hill: 'I was taken out of prison. But prison wasn't taken out of me'

Upon his release from prison, Paddy made a pledge to campaign for those he had left behind, to bring a voice to the voiceless. At that time he thought he might have to take a year out, campaigning on their behalf, before trying to build a life for himself outside of prison. In the event he tirelessly campaigned until his death, 33 years later. Our aim at MOJO is to carry on his work in the following ways:

1 Aftercare

1.1 Whether as a result of a successful appeal or on completion of sentence, our clients' needs on release from prison are significant, often extreme, and ongoing. Individuals commonly suffering from severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder are confronted with an environment, both physical and mental, of which they have had no recent experience, for which they have had little or no preparation, and in which they receive from the state assistance and support which ranges from the wholly inadequate to the non-existent. Our clients simply do not receive, on release, the counselling and other psychological care that they need. One of the UK's leading clinical psychologists has provided, through our organisation, some such assistance on a pro bono basis and we are currently working to extend the range and scope of this. Our own in-house, professionally qualified and highly experienced healthcare and welfare rights specialists provide practical support in the arranging of housing, health and mental health care and welfare benefits as an initial service. We also facilitate opportunities for education and in the development of social skills as a means to ease, and to render successful, the process of re-integration to society. Support is also offered to our clients' families throughout.

2 Legal Casework

2.1 Legal: Our casework team assists and supports our clients in the formulation, development and pursuit of appeals against conviction. The team consists of qualified lawyers, qualified criminologists and law students, each of whom gives their time and expertise on a voluntary basis. We work in partnership with our clients' solicitors and counsel, where the client has the good fortune to have such professional support. Due to the restricted availability of Legal Aid, however, such clients are increasingly the exception rather than the rule. We are, in practice, providing a service that simply would not otherwise be available.

3 Education

3.1 We currently have 36 students and continue to enjoy ongoing relationships with five Scottish Universities. In working with our students we are helping to educate the next generation of legal practitioners. The experience they gain with us is hands-on and in-depth, it's authentic, and it raises their awareness of systemic weaknesses they wouldn't otherwise encounter. Their time and experience with us will make them better lawyers.

We hope - and are confident - that when they inherit the legal profession they will have the courage and the commitment to change the system for the better. They will certainly be better equipped to avoid, and to prevent, the mistakes that underlie so many of today's miscarriages of justice.

4 Campaigning

4.1 Since we first opened our doors we have campaigned to raise awareness of the issues surrounding miscarriage of justice, its causes, its effects and its wider consequences. We have campaigned for the rights of the wrongfully convicted, before as well as after exoneration. We will always continue to do so. We support many individual campaigns, and we are actively engaged in broader efforts both to bring the issues to public attention, and to bring about necessary change in the law and in the administration of justice.

5 Funding and Governance

5.1 We are delighted to report that we have secured a large grant of £96,900 over a two-year period. This will not only increase our capacity as an organisation across the board to achieve our aims in objectives, through allowing us to re-employ a dedicated Aftercare and Reintegration Officer but will fund in part, essential elements of our service, such as client activities, resilience and skills-based courses and emergency grants for our service users at their most vulnerable.

5.2 We have also achieved a further organisational short-term goal in strengthening our board of directors, having appointed Dr Faye Skelton, alongside a primary and secondary service user to our Board of Trustees. These appointments will allow for Dr Skelton's academic expertise in studying the effects of wrongful imprisonment and for necessary lived-experience in steering the aims and objectives of our service.

Scott Jenkins

Chief Executive Officer
September 2025

6 New Enquiries

6.1 From 1 January - 15 December 2025, both dates inclusive, MOJO has received 375 new enquiries for support and assistance. This is a monthly average of 31 new enquiries, up from our previous average of 25.

Month	New Enquiries
January	43
February	44
March	38
April	22
May	16
June	20
July	34
August	30
September	25
October	35
November	47
Up to and Including 15 December	21

The busy start to the year we attribute, in part, to the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission, who have begun signposting their potential applicants, in the first instance, to our service. The Scottish Prison Service and Justice Directorate of the Scottish Government also continue to do so.

6.2 We believe a further cause of the marked increase in the first quarter is due to reaching more people who identify as victims of miscarriages of justice as a consequence of the increased publicity following Paddy's passing and an article referencing our work featuring in the January edition of prison newspaper, Inside Time.

6.3 There is however, a clear demonstrable and increasing demand for our service. This we have been able to adequately control through continuing the piloted role of a dedicated Stage 1 Casework Manager. A further additional benefit of this role has been high student volunteer engagement resulting in an increased retention of our more experienced volunteers.

6.4 Those who do not meet our remit continued to be offered limited advice and, where appropriate, signposted elsewhere for support.

7 Strategic Fundraising

7.1 In 2023/24 we secured a one-off £5,000 grant from the Roddick Foundation to increase our strategic fundraising capacity. Due to the change in Chief Executive Officer, this grant was carried over into the present year.

7.2 In the first instance, we used this money to employ a Fundraising Administrator, a former senior volunteer and trainee solicitor to work alongside the Chief Executive in:

- i) Bid writing, assistance with drafting and proof-reading grant applications.
- ii) Research into potential funders.
- iii) Assistance with the development of fundraising plans and tools.

7.3 In consultation with the Board of Trustees the Chief Executive set the target of raising a further £48,000 per year, this target was met with a successful large grant application that was recently issued by the Big Lottery, which is to spread across two years.

7.4 In 2024 MOJO submitted 2 grant applications, both of which were large grant applications for £48,000, each of which was unsuccessful. The increased capacity this year, and new systems put in place has meant we have applied for the following grants to date:

POTENTIAL FUNDER	REQUESTED	OUTCOME
[REDACTED]	£96,900	Successful
AB Trust	£10,000	Submitted
Paristamen Charity	£1500	Successful
Hilden Trust	£5,000	Successful
Volant Trust	£15,000	£10,000
John Ellerman Foundation	£148,750	Submitted
[REDACTED]	£10,000	Submitted

Delmere Dairy Foundation	£5,000	Submitted
Matrix Causes Fund	£9,000	Submitted
	£15,000	Submitted
	£5000	Submitted
Oak Trust	£4,000	Submitted
Gamma Trust	£29,750	Submitted
Ducan C Leggat Charitable	£29,750	Submitted
	Branch Specific	£130 + £30 per month
Charles Hayward Foundation	£15,000	Unsuccessful
The Fore	Applicants are asked to enter a lottery to apply.	Unsuccessful Round 1, Reregistered.
People's Postcode Lottery	£96,900	Unsuccessful

We have drafted a further 7 bids and are awaiting funding calls. Our new targeted, well-researched fundraising programme has proved to be effective.

8 Legal Casework

8.1 Stage 1 Assessments – Report prepared by Casework Manager

8.1.1 Active Casework

The total number of caseworkers currently volunteering at the organisation stands at thirty-three. There is capacity to recruit additional volunteers particularly across Wednesday/Thursday, and it is my understanding that Euan is in the process of inviting and training a new cohort of caseworkers from our partner universities. We are getting close to maximum capacity in the office during busy periods and this is excellent to see.

Unfortunately, we have lost several *senior* caseworkers who had been specifically identified to facilitate the transition from our Stage One to Stage Two assessment process, with the aim of providing continuity to the applicant, and support to Euan. In the interim, and prior to the finalising the Stage Two breakout groups, I have compiled a separate list

of Stage Two applications who are without a designated caseworker, ensuring that the relevant synopses are up to date.

8.1.2 Recovery of Defence Paperwork

With the appointment of a former *senior* legal caseworker, Karen Konkon, to the role of casework administrator we have observed a sharp improvement in the operation of obtaining defence paperwork. Between us, we are using a separate *Casework Management* folder on the server which contains a document labelled *New and Pending Defence Paperwork 2025* which utilises a traffic light system for pursuing firms in relation to this undertaking. As I have now transitioned into a part-time schedule, we handover by email each week. Karen has fed-back that she finds this system streamlines her tasks and it is clearly working well.

As it stands, we are waiting on thirty-four defence files from solicitors' firms across Scotland. Since March, when I put this system into place, we have been able to recover thirty-six defence files and since appointing an administrator to oversee this process over 1/3 of these have been recovered since September. It is evident that having a dedicated person for this role is worthwhile.

The waiting list - which includes all applications with a fully recovered defence file - has thirteen applicants awaiting a caseworker. We anticipate this being fully cleared after the most recent cohort of volunteers finish their training in January.

8.1.3 Client facing interview(s) and prison visits

In the year to date, I have undertaken sixty-one client facing interviews in prisons across Scotland and a further thirteen interviews in the HUB. The in-house meetings have mainly involved interviewing witnesses and family members at the request of the applicant.

It is worth noting that, to date, I have not maintained a consistent record of attendances at HMP Barlinnie due to its proximity to our office and the absence of a formalised booking process. Going forward into next year, and after discussion with our staff, I will add these into the list.

8.1.4 Casework Decision making Committees

There have been forty-one committee meetings prepared by caseworkers since the last report. Ten of these cases were accepted to Stage 2 and are now awaiting support and assistance in preparing and pursuing a potential appeal. It is my understanding that our new aftercare coordinator, Julie, will be meeting with these applicants with Scott this coming year. The remaining thirty-one cases have not met our criteria for assistance. In a limited number of cases, we have had tosist cases where there is no clear route forward. This often occurs when a solicitor's practice obtempers our mandate, or a client instructs a firm of solicitors, or self-submits an application to the SCCRC.

8.1.5 Misc

On Monday 4 August I was invited to present a lecture at the International Relations Oxbridge summer school in Barcelona. I had the opportunity to present a guest lecture on the intersection of issues of contemporary Human Rights law and international relations within the context of our Organisation.

In late August, at the request of an applicant who could not communicate in English, we have now received confirmation from the only language services accepted by prisons, Global Language Services, a fee structure applicable to the charity. It is likely to cost approximately £62 to have an interpreter join our meeting. This has been a persistent, and recurring issue for the charity this year, and thankfully we now have a clear route forward that is also affordable; should it be necessary.

As of 17 November, this year, we actioned a service and conduct complaint to the Scottish Legal Complaint Commission (SLCC) against a firm of solicitors for an applicant at Stage One. This is in response to the firm having neglected to respond to our mandate for 37 months. We expect engagement from the SLCC soon.

In the context of separate investigation at Stage One, we are awaiting a response from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). Correspondence with the Productions Unit at St Leonards Police Station confirmed that, of the applicant's property lodged as production, only his mobile telephones were instructed to be destroyed.

The applicant maintains that both devices contained potentially exculpatory material that was neither disclosed nor relied upon at trial, and that he was, in any case, never notified of the intention to destroy his property. We have sought clarification from the Crown regarding the rationale for the destruction of the mobile telephones alone and whether any data was retained prior to their destruction.



8.2 Stage 2 Casework Report Prepared by Legal Officer

8.2.1 Overview

A marked increase in the efficiency of our “stage 1” operation has resulted in a significantly faster progression of individual applications from initial enquiry to acceptance, or rejection, by our “factual innocence” committees. The splitting of the “stage 1” and “stage 2” management roles, and the appointment of a dedicated “stage 1” casework manager to oversee the more labour-intensive initial assessment stage, has been the driver of this. It has enabled the management of a larger volunteer staff and, consequently, of greater volumes of work. But it has also allowed for the greater availability of volunteer staff to undertake the “stage 2” work of formulating, and pursuing, appeals.

8.2.2 Recruitment and Retention

The recruitment and training of our student volunteers we recognise as an end in itself, and an important one at that. It is central to our mission that we educate the lawyers and criminal justice professionals of tomorrow in the realities of our criminal justice system, so that the mistakes of today might be avoided in the future and, let us dare to dream, the system itself improved. Beyond that, however, the intrinsic value in our volunteers is in the work they do for us in the delivery of our advocacy service. In simple terms, we cannot operate without them. In recognition of these separate but complementary factors we have

maintained, and extended, the relationships built over recent years with the university law, criminology and criminal justice faculties. Placements with us have proven popular with the students themselves, so that we are being asked to accommodate increasing numbers of students year-on-year. In the coming academic year we anticipate hosting around 40 student volunteers in total. Retention of that talent is also important to us. Students come to us on a formal placement that normally requires the individual student's attendance for a specified minimum number of hours - usually 80. We happily train each student on this understanding, and will continue to do so. But it is clearly to our advantage to retain staff whom we have trained and who have gained experience in our work. We have been fortunate in that around one third of those whom we engage on placements have chosen to extend their time with us, notwithstanding that they do not gain further course credit for doing so. We are grateful to them all. This retention of seasoned staff has assisted us in meeting the increasing demands of stage 2 casework resulting, in part, from the faster through-put of stage 1 applications.

8.2.3 Stage 2 Casework

The objective, at stage 2, is to formulate on the individual client's behalf a cogent, persuasive appeal against conviction, for submission on the client's behalf to the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission ("SCCRC"), with a view to having that appeal, after due assessment by the SCCRC, referred to the High Court of Justiciary Criminal Appeal Court, for determination. Within that admittedly lengthy sentence I hope to convey the totality of a process that is apparently designed to flow, smoothly, towards justice. For our own part in that process, we are directly concerned only with the initial stage - ie the formulation and submission of the grounds of appeal. Once received from us, the application is subjected by the SCCRC to a two-stage process. In the first of those stages the Commission is tasked to determine whether (a) cogent, arguable grounds for appeal have been identified; and, where the answer to that is positive, (b) whether it is in the interests of justice for the appeal to proceed. Where the answer to that is also positive, the application passes to second-stage scrutiny as to the factual and legal legitimacy of the arguments deployed in support of the appeal. In recent years the proportion of applications deemed by the SCCRC to merit referral to the court has been around 2%. The most recent available statistics, to 2024, also reveal that only 15% of applications to the SCCRC pass the first stage tests. This is relevant to us because our own agency on behalf of an applicant can be aimed only at achieving passage from the first stage to the second. Our skills can be deployed in persuasively arguing a point of law, but we have no control over the underlying facts and circumstances of a case against which that argument

will be tested by the Commission, at stage 2. Our own performance in the year to March 2025, measured against that metric, has been relatively good. Of 7 SCCRC applications lodged by us during that period, 5 were accepted into second stage review. Thereafter, however, the figures are less encouraging. Of those 5 cases, all have been refused at the second stage.

In light of concerns surrounding the reasoning offered by the SCCRC specifically for the refusal of two of the four rejections, we deferred the submission of further applications to the SCCRC pending a judicial review of those decisions. That process remains, at the time of writing, ongoing. Given the passage of time, however, we have continued in the preparation of further applications to the SCCRC, for submission immediately the issues underlying the judicial review are resolved, either way.

8.2.4 Current Status

We currently have 30 ongoing cases which have passed to our stage 2, and for which appeals are to be formulated (where possible). Our intention is to have each of our caseworkers actively engaged in stage 2 casework, in addition to their stage 1 activities. In addition to increasing our stage 2 capacity, which will allow us to keep pace with what is an increased demand, in this way we will broaden the caseworkers' exposure across the spectrum of the work that we do, adding value to their experience with us. To enable this, every caseworker has now had eight weeks of training specifically in the highly technical law and procedures relevant to criminal appeals. This additional training will be provided to each new intake of caseworkers, on a rolling basis.

In the calendar year to date I have made 67 prison visits to clients, throughout Scotland.

9 Aftercare and Reintegration

9.1 MOJO's Aftercare and Reintegration function continues to support 48 primary service users in the community and up to 116 secondary users, typically the principal client's loved ones and their families.

9.2 We continue to provide practical support, advice and assistance in relation to all issues that our service users are not equipped to deal with on their own upon release from prison and engage with them in the following ways:

- Meeting the needs of the client upon release from prison, including advice, support and assistance on matters relating to housing and welfare rights advice
- Ongoing psychosocial support plans with a continued emphasis on reintegration into their families, health lives and their communities.
- Crisis intervention for our clients when they are at their most vulnerable.

9.3 The “MOJO Community”

9.3.1 The MOJO Community Project continues in the form of regular, well-attended group meeting for our service users in the community travelling from all over Scotland to attend the meetings in the MOJO office in Glasgow.

9.3.2 When asked what benefits service users receive from the group work, many report feelings of agency and purpose through helping others facing a situation in which they have themselves have gone through. A great strength of the group is that though all our service users suffer parallel, ongoing mental health problems each have different sets of skills and coping mechanisms that can be shared.

9.3.3 Access to Psychiatric Care - The “Monthly Clinic”

All service users in the community have had access to our partner psychiatric care provider, Dr Jeremy Stirling in the last 12 months. Dr Stirling continues to hold a monthly clinic at the MOJO office, sees up to 4 service users in his clinic. Dr Stirling also speaks with service users who require additional support outwith the clinic. Dr Stirling liaises with staff after the sessions to update him as to how the service user is coping and to advise what, if any additional support the organisation can provide.

Relationship Wealth

MOJO is seeking further funding to support and assist our secondary service users. Our experience shows that supporting those who

Welfare Rights Advice

Our in-house accredited welfare rights advisor continues to provide advice and

know and can assist the client best and investing in relationship wealth is an effective and efficient means to assist our clients in living with their trauma.

Participation in the Arts

Through our ongoing relationships with organisations such as the Galery of Modern Arts we facilitate participation in the arts as a means to reintegrate our clients into healthy, fulfilling lives.

“I have so much to thank MOJO for. When my brother was convicted of the murder of Jill Dando, in 2000, we entered a living nightmare. I’m not sure how I would have managed to navigate the confusing world of the judicial system and prison service without their help. There is the need for someone with a road-map for miscarriages of justice to help the next person or family who have to travel this way. MOJO have one.”

assistance to every service user on new claims, medical assessments, mandatory reconsiderations, and reviews. This year we have appeared for three clients in First-tier tribunals and has successfully overturning three decisions. We have also recently worked with mental health staff at NHS Forth Valley with training in issues relating to welfare rights and the staff have kindly provided resources and exercise to assist the service users in respect of living with depression and coping with stress.

Moving Forward

We are looking forward to putting our increased funding to good use. We are in a position to re-employ a dedicated Aftercare Officer. Which will free up further capacity for the Chief Executive to drive improvements across the delivery of the service as a whole.

- Michelle Bates, author.

Client Situation Report

ID	SERVICE START	SERVICES RECEIVED IN 2024/2025
1	2012	F, SP, WR, P/S, PC, W, H
3	2017	P/S, F
4	2005	WR, P/S
5	2016	H, SP, WR, P/S, PC, Med/GP, F
6	2002	WR, H, P/S, PC, Med/GP, W
7	2011	WR, P/S
8	2001	WR, Med/GP, P/S
9	2016	SP, WR, H, P/S, PC, F
10	2016	SP, WR, H, P/S
11	2009	SP, WR, P/S, PC, F
12	2013	WR, P/S
13	2013	WR, P/S, PC, Med/GP, F
14	2002	P/S
16	2002	F, P/S
19	2001	WR, P/S, PC, Med/GP, F, W, H
21	2014	SP, WR, H, P/S, PC, Med/GP, F
22	2010	P/S
24	2016	SP, WR, H, P/S, PC, Med/GP, W
27	2019	SP, P/S, PC, F, W
28	2020	SP, WR, H, P/S, PC, F
29	2020	SP, WR, P/S, PC, H, F
30	2020	SP, WR, P/S, PC, F
31	2021	H, SP, WR, P/S, MED/GP, PC, F
32	2021	F, (P/S), WR
33	2021	WR, P/S, F
34	2022	WR, H, SP, P/S, PC, Med/GP, F

35	2022	WR, F
36 (reengaged 2022)		P/S, F
37	2022	PC, WR, F
38	2022	WR, F, P/S
39	2022	P/S F
40 (reengaged 2022)		P/S
41	2022	H, SP, WR, P/S, PC, Med/GP, F
42	2022	SP, WR, P/S, PC, W, H, F
43	2022	P/S, H
45 (reengaged 2022)		PC, P/S, WR, F
47 (reengaged 2022)		WR, PC, H, P/S, SP
48	2023	H, SP, WR, P/S, MED/GP, PC, F

Key:

SP – Support Plan – Each client with ongoing support needs can engage with a bespoke support plan designed to identify each client's unique set of needs and difficulties at present and their targets, goals, and ambitions for the future. The aim of each programme is to render each client's reintegration back into their own lives, families, communities, and careers where possible, as free from issue as possible by addressing and unpacking difficulties they are facing from the outset. By focusing on meeting small targets shows our clients that their goals are achievable as a means of increasing their independence and the level of ongoing support that they require moving forward. Each support plan is monitored every three months, to monitor changes and receive feedback from the client on how the organisation can improve the support they receive.

WR – Welfare Rights – Our in-house Welfare Rights Officer carries out an entitlement check for each client, oversees each claim by dealing with the

Department of Work and Pensions on their behalf and ensures that each client receives meaningful advice and assistance and gets what they are entitled to.

H – Housing Advocacy – This service aims to ensure each of our clients are housed in safe and appropriate premises by dealing directly with criminal justice social workers, local authorities, and housing associations on behalf of the clients. This also includes dealing with landlords or factors for clients when problems arise within their home that they do not know how to address.

P/S – Psychosocial Support – Our relationships with our clients are built on trust. Each client receives regular contact from their support worker to discuss their lives and their well-being. We aim to use the ability to build a professional relationship and communicate with their support workers at MOJO to learn how to trust others and prevent clients who would otherwise isolate themselves from the rest of the world from doing so.

PC – Psychiatric Care – We are fortunate to have the ability to utilise the time of a consultant psychiatrist who works with our clients on a pro bono basis. Clients who require regular sessions either monthly or fortnightly receive regular access to sessions, and a monthly clinic of three sessions allows each client access to the support available as needed throughout the year. The sessions can take the form of 1:1 counselling, eye-movement desensitisation and reprogramming and developing coping strategies for our clients ongoing, and often severe, mental health problems. This service has meant that previously undiagnosed problems have been addressed and that specialist, appropriate support catered for our client's specific needs are now available and has been universally well received by the clients.

Med/GP – Medical Advocacy – Including the above support the organisation engages with the clients GP's, occupation therapist professionals, reviewing client's medication, trauma centres and local community mental health teams.

F – Families – Where clients have family or an extended support network around them, their families and extended support network will receive secondary support from the organisation.

W – Welfare Check – Our most vulnerable clients, or any client when they are at their most vulnerable in times of crisis, health and wellbeing is regularly monitored.