

# Scottish Young Liberal Democrats Budget Report

We have, unfortunately, faced quite a difficult year with regards to our finances.

## The Bank account:

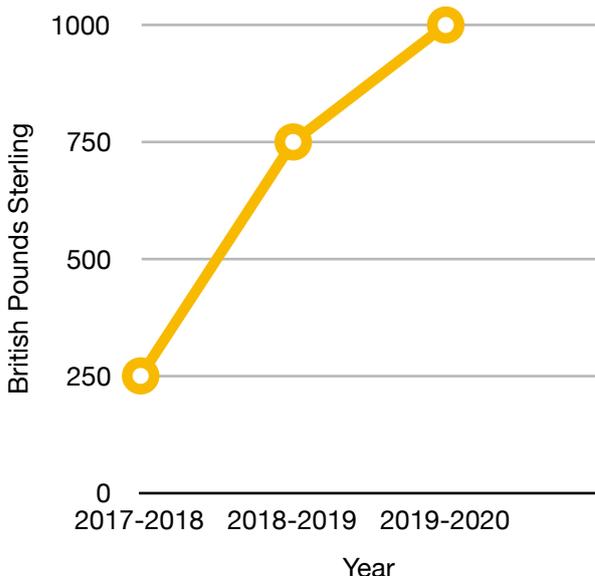
Whilst we possess money, accessing it has been very difficult. Despite signing the appropriate paperwork to add myself and Rebecca as signatories, I've spent most of the year either waiting for or chasing up SLD officials to do the same and finish processing it prior to submission. It was only recently that we received confirmation that the paperwork has been submitted and we are now signatories. However, my emails to SLD regarding the need to acquire the details of the bank account, because nothing was provided in the handover have been met with a similar lengthy process.

Whilst I respect that SLD officials are very busy, especially considering we are currently undertaking preparations for the European Elections and campaigning for a by-election in Leith, the time it has taken for such preparations to be made are disappointing. We've been told that online banking will be set up soon, but the time to do so is entirely dependent on the willingness of SLD officials.

## The Budget:

On a brighter note, we have secured substantial increases to our budgetary allowance from the Young Liberals. Our total budget consists of £750, which as far as I am aware is an increase of 300%. I'm confident that should we allocate the money as planned, we could apply for an increased fund in the September budget.

○ SYL Budget



The budget is split into:

**£150 - Freshers Material** - It's vital that we support the expansion and maintenance of University societies. Societies already face monetary and time-based start-up costs that are associated with putting on events, applying to the Students Union. I firmly believe that we should continue to supply freshers materials to University societies free of charge. Doing so not only incentivises the establishment of Liberal Democrat societies across Scotland, it increases our exposure.

**£250 - Conference Access Fund** - With Hamilton Conference now past, it's very important that we seek to

offer transport and accommodation costs to those who seek to attend conferences. Our biggest barrier to utilising this fund properly is communication. Without effective communication links to both university societies and our wider membership base, we will struggle to reach people who wish to attend conference. Moving forward, I wish to work with Jack, who is currently responsible for the purview of the Communications officer, to reach out to said societies and members in order to offer the financial aid that we can. This fund has not been split into how much we might offer an individual because this is dependent on how many people apply to the fund. That being said, I don't think we should offer one individual anymore than £100 because our financial ability does not permit us to offer large offers to many people.

**£200 - By-election Fund** - This fund is to offer to people travelling to and from by-election and campaigning events. Again, this is very dependent on communication. We also have to be conscious of the issues surrounding spending regulations. I've been in contact with SLD Officials, specifically Paul Moat who handles campaigning, and they've said that we can offer travel expenses in the event of a Referendum or European Election, provided it is cleared with SLD first. With regards to a General Election, I've been asked to develop some costings, which will not exceed our fund, and I will continue talking to SLD about how we can accommodate such spending to ensure that it does not infringe upon electoral spending regulations, specifically a candidate's declarable expenses.

**£150 - Other/Misc** This fund is to pay for travel expenses of the executive to meetings that are not hosted online and other minor expenses that might crop up. I know this fund has not been used thus far due to concerns about spending money that is entirely reliant on YL paying for it. However, again, once we have access to our bank account, I hope to open this fund confident in the knowledge that we can back any payment that YL might take