**Report of the trustees of the Law Society of Scotland Education Foundation (“The Lawscot Foundation”) SCIO Registered Scottish charity number SC046547**

**Annual General Meeting – 2021**

The Law Society of Scotland established the Lawscot Foundation as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in 2016 and donated an initial £261,000 arising from the proceeds of the sale of Legal Post. The aim of the Foundation is to support students from less advantaged backgrounds through their route to qualification by provision of an annual £2500 bursary for each of the five years of study and a mentoring relationship with a solicitor. The Foundation has a board of ten trustees who determine its strategy, decide which applicants should be supported, and oversee fundraising.

Twenty-nine students are currently being supported across four years of study. Over the first four years of operation, a total of 225 applications have been received; due to the level of funds available, trustees have been unable to support 196 of them.

Financial review

The Foundation’s total income for the period was £77,000 and £72,500 was paid in bursaries to 29 current students.

The Trustees monitor reserves in relation to commitments given. For this purpose, the Trustees aim to maintain cash and investments of at least £100,000 after commitments have been deducted. This is made with reference to future projections of donations and funding commitments and would support eight students for the duration of their course.

Activity

Twelve sponsor firms and organisations have generously either continued or joined as major donors, contributing the majority of funds raised during the period. However, Covid 19 has had and continues to have a major impact on fundraising for the Lawscot Foundation as it has not been possible to hold any face to face events. The regular quiz nights became virtual, but raised a fraction of the sum raised at a live event. An innovative and inclusive online law fair was held, open to students from all accredited LLB providers and raised almost £10,000 for the Foundation.

Online training took place for new mentors and existing mentoring relationships are continuing. A successful “legal city challenge” for Foundation students was hosted at sponsor firms.

In the summer we are launching a 5th Anniversary Appeal to try to attract regular donations from members of the legal profession. The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic has been disproportionately high on those living in poverty. The hope is that going forward we will be able to support more of the deserving young people who apply for support.