# Police and OSCR investigate financial irregularities at Dalgety Bay charity That Place in the Bay



Police Scotland, alongside the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), has initiated an investigation into alleged financial irregularities at a charity based in Dalgety Bay, known as That Place in the Bay. The charity abruptly closed its doors last month, leaving many in the community puzzled and concerned.

The closure was first hinted at through multiple postings across various Facebook groups, although these posts were later retracted. Fife Voluntary Action confirmed the charity's closure, emphasising the remaining trustees' commitment to restoring services as swiftly as possible. The unexpected halt to operations has raised significant questions about the charity's management and financial practices.

Investigations are presently centering on former chairman Peter Collins, who has publicly denied any wrongdoing. In a statement to The Courier, Collins remarked, “The truth will come out. It’s all a pack of lies.” His comments come in the wake of a report received by Police Scotland on April 2 concerning “managerial and financial irregularities” associated with his tenure at the charity. Authorities have noted that, while inquiries are ongoing, no charges have yet been filed against Collins or any other individuals.

Kenny Murphy, chief executive of Fife Voluntary Action, confirmed the seriousness of the situation, stating that the trustees had reported several concerns not only to the police but also to OSCR and local authorities. According to Murphy, this underscores the gravity of the financial oversight challenges that charities like That Place in the Bay face.

The OSCR plays a critical role in ensuring charities operate within legal guidelines and standards, established in 2003 to maintain the integrity of the Scottish Charity Register. Investigations conducted by OSCR are generally initiated based on public complaints or referrals, focusing on financial misconduct or threats to charitable assets. Though not every investigation prompts regulatory action, the ongoing assessment into That Place in the Bay suggests a thorough scrutiny of its operations.

Charitable organisations in Scotland are not immune to issues of financial mismanagement. For instance, a similar case arose in 2018 when Elaine Fox, formerly head of the East Neuk Recovery Group Initiative, admitted to embezzling over £34,000 from the charity. Such instances underline the potential vulnerabilities present within the sector and the necessity for stringent oversight.

As the investigation unfolds, the implications for the local community remain uncertain. Dalgety Bay, already grappling with environmental concerns stemming from radioactive contamination, now faces another layer of complexity with the fate of its community hub hanging in the balance. With the Scottish Environment Protection Agency recently announcing the successful removal of pollutants in the area, the community had begun to look forward to revitalising its public spaces, which makes the current uncertainty surrounding That Place in the Bay particularly poignant.

In summary, the ongoing enquiry into That Place in the Bay reflects broader issues of governance and accountability within the charity sector, raising important questions about how community trust can be maintained amidst allegations of misconduct. As this case develops, the impact on both the charity and the community it serves remains to be seen.

### Reference Map

* Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5241096/police-probe-dalgety-bay-charity/)
* Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5241096/police-probe-dalgety-bay-charity/)
* Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5241096/police-probe-dalgety-bay-charity/)
* Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5241096/police-probe-dalgety-bay-charity/), [[4]](https://thedetectiveshandbook.wordpress.com/2017/06/05/the-determinants-of-charity-misconduct/)
* Paragraph 5: [[4]](https://thedetectiveshandbook.wordpress.com/2017/06/05/the-determinants-of-charity-misconduct/)
* Paragraph 6: [[2]](https://www.scottishfinancialnews.com/articles/charity-boss-admits-34000-embezzlement)
* Paragraph 7: [[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dalgety_Bay)
* Paragraph 8: [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5241096/police-probe-dalgety-bay-charity/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5241096/police-probe-dalgety-bay-charity/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.scottishfinancialnews.com/articles/charity-boss-admits-34000-embezzlement> - In October 2018, Elaine Fox, the former head of the East Neuk Recovery Group Initiative (Energi), pleaded guilty to embezzling £34,136 from the charity between January 2013 and July 2017. Fox, who had managed the charity for over 15 years, was responsible for writing cheques to cover payroll. The theft was discovered when the group's finance officer noticed discrepancies in the account. Fox admitted to taking 'advances on her wages' and offered to repay the stolen amount through a £25,000 loan. She had repaid £15,900 by the time police intervened. A sheriff deferred sentencing pending social work background reports. ([scottishfinancialnews.com](https://www.scottishfinancialnews.com/articles/charity-boss-admits-34000-embezzlement?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.scotland.police.uk/police-stations/fife-police-stations/dalgety-bay-police-station/> - Dalgety Bay Police Station, located at Regents Way, Dalgety Bay, KY11 9UY, has limited public access. The station serves the Dalgety Bay area in Fife, Scotland. ([scotland.police.uk](https://www.scotland.police.uk/police-stations/fife-police-stations/dalgety-bay-police-station/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://thedetectiveshandbook.wordpress.com/2017/06/05/the-determinants-of-charity-misconduct/> - This article discusses the role of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) in investigating charity misconduct. OSCR, established in 2003, is responsible for maintaining the Scottish Charity Register and ensuring charities operate in line with legal requirements. The article outlines how OSCR initiates investigations based on public complaints or referrals, focusing on issues like damage to charitable assets, misconduct, or misrepresentation. It also describes the possible outcomes of such investigations, including no action, advice given, or regulatory intervention. ([thedetectiveshandbook.wordpress.com](https://thedetectiveshandbook.wordpress.com/2017/06/05/the-determinants-of-charity-misconduct/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dalgety_Bay> - Dalgety Bay is a coastal town in Fife, Scotland. In 2013, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) determined that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) was solely responsible for radioactive contamination in the area. By September 2023, SEPA announced the successful removal of contamination, making the shoreline safe for public access for the first time since 2011. The cleanup project cost £10.5 million and removed approximately 6,500 radioactive particles, mostly of low activity. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dalgety_Bay?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/perth-kinross/1691341/police-launch-probe-into-financial-irregularities-at-loch-rannoch-holiday-resort/> - In April 2020, Police Scotland launched an investigation into financial irregularities at the Loch Rannoch Highland Club in Kinloch Rannoch, Perthshire. The probe followed the dismissal of the general manager during the COVID-19 lockdown. Tensions had escalated between timeshare owners and senior committee members, leading to redundancies and the recruitment of contract workers. The committee chairman confirmed the police investigation, stating that Perth CID had conducted interviews and were reviewing evidence related to financial irregularities. ([thecourier.co.uk](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/perth-kinross/1691341/police-launch-probe-into-financial-irregularities-at-loch-rannoch-holiday-resort/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/disclosure-log-2024/march/> - The March 2024 Disclosure Log from Police Scotland includes various incident statistics and information requests. Notably, it includes incident statistics for the Eva Burrows Centre in Cambuslang, Operation Cerrar related to child exploitation in Glasgow, and crime statistics for speeding on Moray Way North in Dalgety Bay for 2022 and 2023. The log provides transparency on the types of information requested and incidents reported to the police during that period. ([scotland.police.uk](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/disclosure-log-2024/march/?utm_source=openai))