

Scotland Branch Newsletter

Issue 23



TACKLING THE CHALLENGES OF KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OUR MEMBERS

Meet our new Branch Chair Alistair Marquis MBE

I have been a member of the CSPA since I retired from HM Inspectorate of Education in 2011. For many years, I was the Inspectorate's union representative on the FDA National Executive Committee.

Upon retirement, I was involved in education consultancy work across the world. This restricted my ability to attend Branch meetings.

Having closed my consultancy business, I have been able to attend Branch meetings and to take an active interest in all that the CSPA does for its members.

I am as determined as other leaders to ensure we maintain our autonomy

At the Branch AGM in April 2026, I stood for and was successful in being appointed Scotland Branch Chair. Since then, it has been something of a whirlwind introduction to Branch and CSPA Executive Council affairs. Particularly so, as the possibility of the CSPA becoming an incorporated company limited by guarantee is proving to be time-consuming.

I am as determined as other Branch leaders are to ensure that we maintain our Branch's autonomy and that any agreed outcome takes full account of Scots law.

In my spare time, I enjoy foreign holidays with my wife, engaging with our two grandsons, gardening, the Rotary Club and reading.

I look forward to continuing to



work as part of the Branch team, dedicated to protecting members' interests, particularly our hard-earned civil service pensions.



Should the CSPA become an incorporated company limited by guarantee?

Members may recall articles in the Autumn and Winter 2025 and Spring and Summer 2026 editions of the *The Pensioner* magazine on a successful motion at the October 2025 AGM. This asked that the Executive Council investigate the costs, risks and benefits of changing the CSPA's legal status. Nationally, consideration is being given to the CSPA becoming incorporated as a company limited by guarantee.

This matters to each member. Groups and branches have been consulted and individual members asked to respond to a questionnaire.

The pace of developments has been frenetic. Scotland Branch officers have been working hard on behalf of Scottish members to ensure their interests are served well

and not compromised in any way. We have ensured that any changes proposed will be checked out by a lawyer qualified in Scots law.

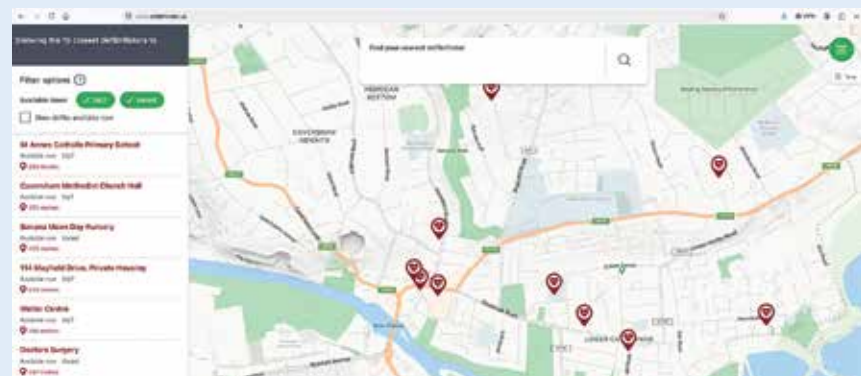
The Scotland Branch officers very much wish the Branch to remain within the national CSPA. We also want to ensure that the autonomous nature of the Branch remains intact.

This will mean we can focus on meeting the needs of local members and take matters directly to MSPs and the Scottish Parliament. Our other Branch friends in Northern Ireland are like-minded.

Please help us inform discussions and the decisions to be made

Your Branch officers will be making important decisions over the coming months on the suggested move to become an incorporated company. We would be very pleased to hear from our Scottish members.

• Please inform discussions and the decisions to be made by sharing your thoughts with us – email alistair.marquis@cspa.co.uk. Thank you.



Defibrillators: a quick guide

After attending a first-aid course, I thought I would pass on how easy it is to find and use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

First, type 'defib finder' into your search engine (Google, Edge etc) and click on 'Where is my nearest defibrillator'. Click 'Find a defib' and a red box appears at the top asking:

'Is this an emergency?' If not, click the green box 'otherwise continue'. A map of the UK appears. In the top box enter your location, then the map shows where the nearest 10 defibrillators are located.

If you need to use the defibrillator, the AED machine talks you through how to use it once you have switched it on.

Keeping your details up to date

Membership Secretary Michael Kirby (details at the bottom of each page) is the man to contact regarding any alterations to your personal data held on the Scotland Branch section of the CSPA database – change of address, email or telephone number, for example – or for any other membership matter you require assistance with. Should any branch members prefer to receive future newsletters by email, please contact Michael Kirby with your email address.



Want to re-open your group?

Sadly, no groups are now operating in Scotland. Should any members wish to re-open either the Glasgow or Edinburgh Groups, please contact Branch Administrator Christine McGiveron. Email Christine.McGiveron@cspa.co.uk or telephone 07506 315826.



Future members meetings

Meetings continue to be held in the Maldron Hotel, 50 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G2 3BW. The next will be on Thursday 3 September at 1.30pm, when we hope to discuss the CSPA's plans for incorporation.

Representatives from the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity will be invited to attend the meeting on

Thursday 5 November to bring us up to date with their valuable work. They always bring Christmas cards and gifts, which are not available in high-street shops.

Please come along to our meetings, or to attend via MS Teams contact Michael Kirby (details at the bottom of each page).

Branch website

The website for Scotland Branch members is regularly updated with news and items relevant to Scotland. It also includes a link to the national website, which will enable non-members to join the CSPA. The website has been created to present a more corporate image, as it is now identical to the national one.



We hope that you like it and encourage everyone to have a look. It is easy to navigate and there is also a facility to provide feedback. Simply enter www.cspascotland.org.uk in your browser to get to the home page.



Branch Christmas Lunch 2026

This is advance notice that this very popular event will be held again in the Maldron Hotel, 50 Renfrew Street, Glasgow, on Thursday 10 December at 12.30pm for 1pm. It is a short walk to Buchanan Street bus station and a 10-minute walk from both Central and Queen Street train stations.

This event is mainly funded by the Branch Treasurer, but we ask for attending members to pay £25 per head towards the total cost. Non-CSPA members may also attend and the cost for them is £30 per person. This should be paid on the day. Menu choices will also be made on the day.

Please contact Michael Kirby to book your place – no later than Friday 28 November. Any member with special dietary requirements should also please inform Michael Kirby by this date.

SP Energy Networks Priority Services Register

In the event of a power cut, our teams work around the clock to restore your electricity as quickly as possible.

To enquire about being placed on this register – phone 0330 1010 167

Any feedback regarding this newsletter would be very much appreciated.



Remember: do not leave *The Pensioner* magazine in doctors' or dentists' surgeries or any public places as it contains names and addresses of CSPA officers.

The CSPA is committed to ensuring that your information and privacy are protected.

Accidents on holiday



Advice from Thompsons Solicitors

Holidays are a chance to relax, spend time with the family, visit new places or enjoy a well-earned break. Unfortunately, accidents can happen, and when they do, the consequences can be serious, particularly if it affects your mobility or ability to enjoy retirement.

At Thompsons Solicitors, we know members may be unsure what to do if they are injured on holiday. This article explains the key points.

What types of holiday accidents can lead to a claim?

Claims can arise in many situations:

- Slips, trips and falls in hotels, restaurants, airports or excursions
- Unsafe hotel facilities – broken stairs, wet floors, poor lighting
- Swimming pool accidents
- Illness caused by poor hygiene
- Road traffic accidents
- Accidents during trips or activities
- Cruise ship accidents
- Injuries due to poor assistance.

Not every accident will result in a successful claim. It is usually necessary to show that someone else was at fault and failed to take reasonable care for your safety.

Does it matter whether I booked a package holiday?

Yes. If you booked flights and hotel through a tour operator, you may be able to claim against the tour operator in the UK. This can be important as it may avoid having to deal directly with a foreign hotel,

insurer or court system. Package holiday rules can apply where you bought a combination of services for the same trip. Each case depends on how the holiday was booked and what was included.

If you booked everything separately, the claim may be more complex. It may still be possible to claim, but local law may be relevant.

What if I am injured on holiday?

The steps you take at the time can make a big difference later. Try to:

1. Report the accident immediately. Tell the hotel, tour representative, cruise operator, airline, excursion provider or relevant authority. Ask for it to be recorded in writing.
2. Seek medical attention, even if you think the injury is minor. Medical records are important evidence.
3. Take photos or videos. Capture the place where the accident happened, what caused it, your injuries and any warning signs.
4. Get witness details – names, phone numbers, email addresses.
5. Keep booking confirmations, travel documents, insurance details, receipts, medical bills, taxi costs, correspondence with the hotel.
6. Do not be rushed into signing forms, statements or settlement documents abroad. Take care if they are not in English or you are unsure what they mean.
7. Get legal advice early as holiday claims can involve strict time limits and different rules.

How long do I have to claim?

In Scotland, many personal injury claims have a three-year limit. Holiday claims can be more complex and the time limit may depend on the country. Cruise or aviation claims or those involving transport can have shorter time limits. So get advice as soon as possible.

What can compensation cover?

Compensation is intended to put you back in the position you'd have been in if the accident had not happened. A claim may include: pain and suffering; loss of enjoyment; medical expenses; care and assistance from family or paid carers; travel expenses; lost income; rehabilitation or treatment costs; and cost of aids, adaptations or mobility support.

For retired members, a claim is not just about lost earnings. An injury can affect independence, hobbies, caring duties and confidence.

What about travel insurance?

Travel insurers may cover immediate costs, but a personal injury claim looks at whether someone was legally responsible for the accident and compensation should be paid. Notify your travel insurer at once, but perhaps seek separate legal advice about a compensation claim.

Practical tips before you travel

- Get travel insurance, including for pre-existing medical conditions.
- Keep digital and paper copies of all booking documents.
- Share policy details with family.
- Pre-arrange mobility assistance.
- Keep emergency numbers handy.
- Use reputable providers.

A holiday accident can be upsetting, painful and disruptive, especially when it happens far from home. As the CSPA's panel solicitor, Thompsons can advise members on whether they have a claim, what evidence is needed, which time limits apply and the best way to proceed.

• Call our team on 0131 473 6445 or visit TalkToThompsons.com