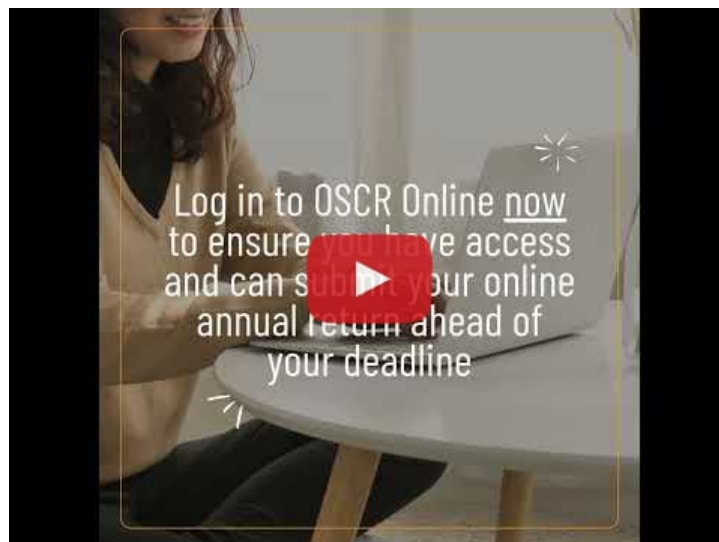


## OSCR Reporter - December 2024

Welcome to the OSCR Reporter newsletter, your regular update of the latest charity sector news from the Scottish Charity Regulator.



### **Have you submitted your online annual return?**

Every year, each charity registered in Scotland must send us an online annual return, along with annual accounts, a Trustees' Annual Report and an external scrutiny report. This is a legal requirement, and charities must send this information to us within 9 months of their financial year-end date.

Almost 20% of Scottish charities have a deadline in December. If your charity's deadline is coming up soon, please ensure you are ready to submit your online annual return.

Read our [guidance and tips on submitting your online annual return](#).

Read our guidance

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## Sign up for our webinar - Getting it right: your online annual return and accounts

It's really important to submit your annual information on time so you can report transparently and build trust and confidence in your charity with OSCR, the public and others, such as funders.

To help you get it right, join OSCR's accounting experts for a free online webinar which explains more about your annual duties, how to submit, and what your online annual return and accounts should include.

The webinar will be held on **Wednesday 11 December 2024** from **1pm-2pm**, and you can [sign up for free now](#).

Sign up for the webinar

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## Festive period opening hours

Our office will be [closed during the festive period between Christmas and New Year](#). Our phone lines will close at 12 noon on Tuesday 24 December 2024. The office will then be closed for the holidays, and the office and phone lines will reopen at 9.30am on Friday 3 January 2024.

If you have an online annual return deadline of 31 December 2024, please log in to OSCR Online **now** to ensure you have access, and submit well ahead of the deadline if possible. We will not be able to assist with any queries during the holiday period.

[Read more about the opening hours](#)



## Revitalising Trusts project recovers Scotland's missing millions

The Revitalising Trusts project, a collaboration between the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and major funder, Foundation Scotland, has so far released over £5 million of dormant funds for public benefit since the project launched in 2021.

The project has to date identified over 300 inactive charitable trusts of varying sizes and purposes, with forgotten funds often lying dormant in accounts for several decades and in some cases well over a century.

Read more about [how these funds are being released for public good](#).

[Read more about the project](#)

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## More Scottish charity sector news

- The Disclosure Act will improve the disclosure system in Scotland by removing unnecessary barriers for people with convictions as they seek employment or other opportunities and enhance the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme. Upcoming changes will be introduced in 1 April 2025 and charities, particularly those who work with vulnerable adults or children, should be aware of what's changing. You can read more on the [Volunteer Scotland website](#) or by subscribing to their [VSDS Newsletter](#).
  - We have published [new notices and alerts about Scottish charities](#) on the OSCR website.
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