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## Applying online to be a charity – coming soon!



Our online application for charitable status will be launched later in 2018. It aims to make registration as simple as possible for the applicant while also allowing the streamlining of decision making processes within the Scottish Charity Regulator

(OSCR). We see this as an exciting development in our aim to improve our services.

We are also looking for people to test this new system – we really need the benefit of your views, whether you are someone who helps organisations apply for charitable status, have recent experience of applying for charitable status for your charity, are thinking of making an application or are just interested. Testing with real users helps us understand their needs, and create the best possible experience.

[Read more about the online application and how you can help test it.](#)

## Guidance on Trustees' Annual Reports

We have produced new guidance for Scottish charities about Trustees' Annual Reports.

'Trustees' Annual Reports: Good practice and guidance' is aimed at small and medium charities that usually prepare Receipts and Payments accounts. It lets charity trustees know their legal responsibilities when producing a TAR and how it can be used to tell the story of the charity.



[Read our Trustees' Annual Reports guidance here.](#)

## OSCR at The Gathering 2018



Organised every year by SCVO, The Gathering is the largest free third sector event in the UK, a place for all the amazing people working in the third sector to network, showcase what they do and learn from each other. It will be held on 21

and 22 February 2018 at the SEC in Glasgow.

We are holding a session on the first day where we will be talking to charity trustees and staff about the charity trustee role, what they must do and the principle of collective responsibility.

There are still some limited spaces left for our session if you want to come along. You can also come and visit us on stand two throughout the event.

[Find out more about The Gathering here.](#)

## We're gathering information for our latest survey

Between late-January and mid-March 2018 we are carrying out research to explore the issues facing Scottish charities and to gather feedback on OSCR. The research is being carried out on our behalf by Progressive Partnership Ltd, an independent market research organisation based in Edinburgh.



Progressive Partnership Ltd will be contacting a representative sample of Scottish charities on our behalf to ask for your assistance in completing either an online survey or paper questionnaire. A small number of charities will also be asked to take part in a telephone interview. If you are invited to take part your participation is greatly appreciated.

[Read more about our latest research.](#)

## GDPR FAQs for charities



General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a new, Europe-wide law that sets out requirements for how organisations will need to handle personal data from 25 May 2018.

To help you comply with your responsibilities, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has produced a package of tools aimed at small and micro organisations, including charities.

[Click here to view GDPR FAQs for charities.](#)

## We've changed our website

One of our key objectives is to continually improve the way we operate and deliver services to all of our stakeholders.

It is also very important to us that our website works as well as it can for you - and that is why we've listened to feedback from our web forms, our stakeholders and assessed our analytics to make some changes to [oscr.org.uk](http://oscr.org.uk).



The main difference is that our website highlights the 'Becoming' and 'Managing' a charity sections more, as well as making our 'Guidance and forms' section more prominent.

[Read more about the recent changes to our website.](#)

## BLOG: GDPR - legal basis for processing and transparency



In the second in a series of six blogs on GDPR, Alison Johnston from the Information Commissioner's Office talks about your organisation's purpose for processing personal data.

[You can read the second GDPR blog here.](#)

[You can read the second](#)

Remember, there are many more blogs covering different aspects of charity life on our [blog page](#).

## The Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 and what it means for your charity

Following considerable scrutiny and debate, the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 became law in April 2016. That debate recognised lobbying as a legitimate and valuable part of our democratic process, whilst agreeing that the creation of a public Lobbying Register was appropriate to enhance public transparency, for certain types of lobbying.



The Scottish Parliament was given the duty to develop and

implement the systems and guidance to operate the new Lobbying Register and committed to do so within 2 years of the Act being passed.

In a recent blog, Dougie Wands, Acting Lobbying Registrar, summarises what to expect for those involved in face-to-face lobbying of MSPs, members of the Scottish Government, junior Ministers, Special Advisers or the Permanent Secretary.

[Read the Acting Lobbying Registrar's blog here.](#)

## Scotland's fundraising standards Panel has new Chair



Valerie Surgenor has been appointed as the new Chair of the Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel. She takes over from Alison Elliot who stepped down at the quarterly Panel meeting which took place on 30 January 2018. Val was

unanimously elected as Chair at the same meeting.

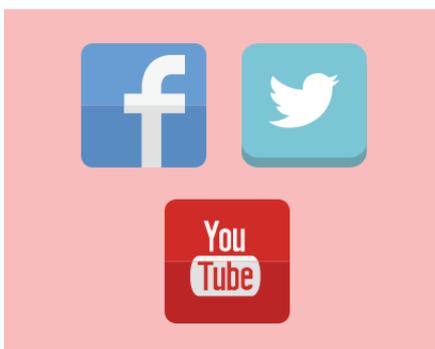
The Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel is the registered trading name of The Independent Fundraising Standards & Adjudication Panel for Scotland. The Panel's core functions are to oversee fundraising standards and adjudicate on fundraising complaints in relation to Scottish registered charities.

[Read more about the Panel's appointment here.](#)

## We're on social media!

Do you or your charity use social media?

Following us is a great way to be kept up-to-date with our latest news. It's also a good opportunity for you to share your experiences and views with the regulator and, through us, the wider sector.



In addition to our ever growing library of [YouTube videos](#), we put regular updates out on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) channels.

Why not give us a follow?

## SCIO names to go on Registrar's Index of Company Names



From 1 January 2018, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIOs) and Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) will appear in the Registrar's Index of Company Names, which is maintained by Companies

House. Charities that are incorporated as companies already appear on the index.

So, SCIO names will appear alongside the names of companies (and other entities) when a user makes a search through Companies House's CHS or WebCheck search. This will help protect SCIOs' names, for instance in the event of others looking to set up a company or CIO with the same name as a SCIO. We would recommend that everyone looking to set up a SCIO or any other kind of charity checks the index before settling on a name to ensure it is not already in use by another organisation.

**[Read more information about SCIO names here.](#)**

**Scotland's charity regulator:** OSCR is the independent registrar and regulator of Scotland's 23,000 charities

[www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk) | [info@oscr.org.uk](mailto:info@oscr.org.uk) | General enquiries: 01382 220446 | Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) 2nd Floor, Quadrant House, 9 Riverside Drive, Dundee, DD1 4NY |

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