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Trading guidance for charity trustees

The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) has published its 'Charities and Trading Guide'.



The guide contains information on:

- the different types of charity trading
- trading subsidiaries
- charity trustee duties in relation to trading.

It is aimed at charity trustees, and people working with trustees. It will also be useful to those applying to become a charity which intends to carry out trading.

[Read our trading guidance here.](#)

OSCR publishes fundraising guidance for charity trustees



We have published guidance that sets out the rules that a charity must follow when carrying out their fundraising activities.

'Fundraising Guidance for Charity Trustees' highlights the duties of all charity trustees under the Charities

and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and how these duties can apply to fundraising.

It contains information on:

- Scotland's system of fundraising self-regulation
- charity trustee duties
- fundraising with third-party organisations
- public collections and exempt promoters.

[Read our fundraising guidance for charity trustees here.](#)

Meet the Scottish Charity Regulator

Every year, we hold events across the country to give charity trustees and staff the opportunity to hear about our latest developments, meet OSCR staff and ask questions.



In our 2018 round of events we will discuss a range of topics, including:

- who we are and what we do
- the role of the charity trustee
- our guidance on safeguarding
- our latest guidance.

The events are FREE to attend. However, we do ask that you should only book a place if you are making your attendance a priority due to the limited spaces available.

[To book a place at one of our events, please click here.](#)

Safeguarding and Notifiable Events - two key points for your next meeting



The recent reports of abuses connected to some charities working in the international aid sector are deeply troubling and as a regulator we take such matters extremely seriously.

There are two key points that we would like to remind charities of in light of the reports.

- Safeguarding (keeping vulnerable beneficiaries safe)
- Notifiable Events

Due to the importance of both, we are asking charity trustees to make sure that these topics are Agenda Items at their next meeting.

[Read more about Safeguarding and Notifiable Events here.](#)

Video: An update on safeguarding

In this video, Jude Turbyne (OSCR's Head of Engagement) provides an update on safeguarding.



Jude discusses:

- why safeguarding should be a priority for Scottish charities
- what steps charity trustees can take
- the upcoming summit on safeguarding and beyond
- when further guidance will be available.

[View the April 2018 safeguarding update here.](#)

Video: The role of the charity trustee



Charity trustees are our secret superheroes. They are the volunteers who run our charities – their commitment and passion is what drives the third sector and makes a real difference in our society. While it is a rewarding position, it is not

always an easy job and running a charity comes with great responsibility.

During The Gathering 2018, we held a session explaining more about the charity trustee role, what they must do and the principle of collective responsibility.

[You can view a video of our presentation here.](#)

Charities should use the regulated financial sector

The UK's three independent regulators of charities, the Charity Commission for England and Wales, OSCR and the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, have issued an alert to charities. It applies to a charity when it receives, holds, moves or uses money, particularly those moving funds internationally.



The alert is being published so as to raise awareness amongst charities – including their trustees, employees and volunteers – of the need to use bank accounts in the regulated financial sector and the benefits of doing so.

[Read more about why charities should use the regulated](#)

financial sector.

Charitable companies – what accounts format to use



With the changes introduced in financial reporting for companies in recent years, we have seen a number of cases where charitable companies have submitted the wrong form of accounts to us. We thought it would be good to remind charity

trustees and those working with charitable companies of the requirements.

[Read more about the accounts requirements for charitable companies here.](#)

Your most common queries – where to find the answers

OSCR's website and OSCR Online are available 24/7 should you have a question that needs answering. We have specific guidance and also a wide range of FAQ's that should help to answer any questions you have.



So far in 2017/2018 we have taken over 6,000 calls and had over 11,500 emails. We are happy to respond to any queries but most of the requested information is already available on our website.

[Click here to view some of the most common queries we receive with hints and tips on how to resolve them.](#)

Publicising that you are a charity



All charities registered in Scotland must publicise the fact that they are a charity. Charity trustees must make sure that certain charity details are on specific external documents.

These rules also apply to any third parties who publish documents on behalf of your charity, for example legal advisors, accountants, or organisations working on your behalf.

[Learn more about how to publicise your charitable status here.](#)

New OSCR Board members

OSCR has welcomed the appointment of two new Board members.

Our incoming Board members are Stephanie Fraser (Chief Executive of Bobath Scotland Cerebral Palsy Centre and a trustee of Horsecross Arts in Perth) and Jill Vickerman (National Director of the British Medical Association in Scotland).



The positions were advertised in October 2017 and there were over 140 applicants for the roles.

[Read more about the new OSCR Board members here.](#)

Help us develop our first British Sign Language Plan



OSCR is starting work on the development of our first British Sign Language (BSL) Plan. This plan follows on from the Scottish Government's British Sign Language Plan that was published in October 2017.

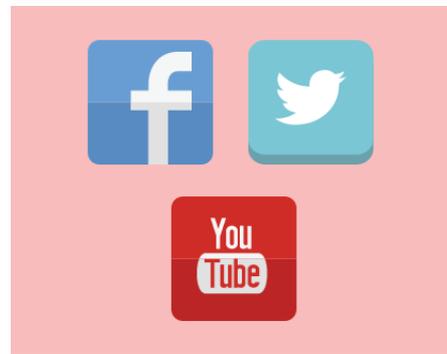
The plan will examine OSCR's functions and set out what measures we will take in relation to the use of BSL within these. To ensure our plan meets the needs of those directly affected we want to engage individuals who use BSL or work with BSL users. Therefore we are looking for volunteers to join a small reference group that would meet twice; once in April 2018 and in late August 2018.

[To find out how to be a part of our BSL Plan reference group, click 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?

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

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OSCR Online makes it easier for charities to report to OSCR, and improves transparency for the public. For more information, or to register, visit www.oscr.org.uk

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