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OSCR produces new fraud guidance

The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) has produced new guidance for Scottish charities about how to reduce the risk of fraud in their charity.



The risk of fraud is a concern in every part of society, charities included.

This guidance, *Fraud: how to reduce the risks in your charity*, highlights some of the risks of fraud to which charities are vulnerable and provides practical advice for trustees on how to tackle it.

The guidance tells trustees:

- what their legal duties are
- how they can reduce the risk of fraud; and
- how OSCR will consider instances of fraud in charities.

[You can read our new fraud guidance here.](#)

13% rise in charity registrations: OSCR's Annual Review 2017-18



We have recently published our latest Annual Review, covering the financial year 2017-18. Figures show that OSCR approved 961 applications for charitable status, a 13% increase on the previous year.

Drawing on information from OSCR's Annual Report and Accounts, this new document is designed as an easy to read reference highlighting key facts and figures on our role and impact in the past year.

Key highlights include:

- assessing 1,184 applications for charitable status
- 11,275 downloads of OSCR's charity registration logo
- handling 506 concerns about charities from external sources, and
- producing 10 new guidance publications.

In addition to these key highlights, we have also worked with other public and charity sector bodies to support charities in meeting their legal duties and in ensuring continued efficiency and effectiveness.

[Read OSCR's 2017-18 Annual Review here.](#)

Have your say on OSCR's BSL Plan

OSCR is currently seeking views on its draft British Sign Language (BSL) Plan.

This plan closely follows the Scottish Government's BSL National Plan and sets out the actions we intend to take to promote and support BSL users (including tactile BSL) over the period covering 2018 to 2024. It has been developed with the help of a BSL Reference Group that was made up of representatives from the BSL community.



[You can read a copy of our draft BSL plan here.](#) The draft plan is also available in a BSL video format.

The consultation runs until 31 August 2018.

Meet the Scottish Charity Regulator



We are currently travelling across Scotland 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 are discussing a range of topics, including:

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

We've already been to Perth, Peterhead and Stirling with Edinburgh

being our next destination on 28 August. There are still some very limited spaces left in our upcoming Edinburgh, Motherwell and Oban events, and they 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 remaining events, please click here.](#)

OSCR holds open Board Meeting

OSCR held its first open Board Meeting on 12 June 2018.

The meeting was held in Quadrant House, Dundee and gave attendees a chance to see our Board make decisions on OSCR's direction of travel.



The step is part of OSCR's commitment to being as transparent as possible about its operations.

Our next open Board Meeting will be on 12 September 2018. If you are interested in attending the meeting please contact us first. You can do this by emailing info@oscr.org.uk, putting 'Open Board Meeting' in the subject line. We will then send you further details. Due to the size of our Board room, there is limited space available at these meetings. However, we will do our best to accommodate as many people as possible and there are a number of opportunities throughout the year.

Find out about Scotland's new digital health and care strategy



Does your charity work in health or social care? Scotland has a new digital health and care strategy, setting out the key areas of work that will change the approach of the sector, supporting the integration of services and the development

of person-centred care.

Organised by The Health and Social Care Alliance, SCVO, CCPS and VHS, there will be a free of charge event that will highlight the key steps for the Strategy's implementation and discuss what actions your organisation – and the Third Sector generally – can take to support its successful delivery. The event will be particularly useful to third sector staff working in policy, operations, digital and data.

[Find out more about the digital health and care strategy event](#)

here.

ACIE Annual Conference Scotland 2018

The Association of Charity Independent Examiners (ACIE) are holding their annual conference on 23 August 2018 at the Perth Concert Hall.



OSCR's Laura Anderson will provide an update from the regulator as well as a key workshop session on fraud and reporting matters of interest.

This conference provides participants with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and understanding of charity accounting, independent examination as well as a broad range of topics to help understand and support the charity sector. For more information see www.acie.org.uk

Charities SORP-making body expanded to promote high quality financial reporting across UK and Ireland



The four charity regulators of the UK and Ireland will, for the first time, work together to develop the charity accounting framework for use across all four charity law jurisdictions.

The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) has approved the addition of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and the Charities Regulatory Authority for the Republic of Ireland as joint members of the SORP-making body with the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). The inclusion of the Charities Regulatory Authority is subject to the SORP being formally adopted by way of regulations for use in the Republic of Ireland.

Statements of Recommended Practice (SORPs) are sector-driven recommendations on financial reporting, auditing practices and actuarial practices for specialised sectors. The FRC's decision recognises that the charity regulators have agreed to jointly develop a sector-specific framework for accounting and reporting by charities in accordance with the policy on developing SORPs.

The enlarged SORP-making body will work towards a new charities SORP, building on the foundation of the existing SORP to promote a common approach to high quality reporting by charities whilst

respecting local differences and legal requirements.

[Find out more about the SORP-making body expansion here.](#)

Action on cyber-resilience

Scotland's businesses and charities will be supported to put in place better protections against cyber-attacks.

The private and third sector action plans on cyber resilience aim to increase awareness of cyber threats and to promote good practice to defend against them, with a strong focus on practical steps to support smaller organisations.



The Scottish Government will work with leading third and private sector organisations to help make Scotland a world leading nation in cyber resilience.

Half a million pounds will also be available from the autumn to help organisations achieve the National Cyber Security Centre's Cyber Essentials certification, which helps protect against the most common forms of internet-borne cyber-attacks.

[Find out more about the Third Sector Action Plan on Cyber Resilience here.](#)

Have you read our interim safeguarding guidance?



Safeguarding is the action that an organisation takes to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults to protect them from harm. This includes making sure that the appropriate policies and procedures are put in place. Safeguarding includes

child protection but goes further and extends to all vulnerable beneficiaries.

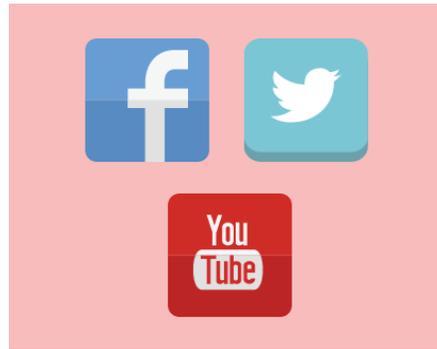
Our guidance, *Safeguarding Guidance: Keeping vulnerable beneficiaries safe*, explains what is meant by safeguarding and highlights key steps charity trustees can take to make sure that it is considered in an appropriate way. The guidance also looks at how charity trustee duties set out in the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 relate to safeguarding issues.

[Read our interim safeguarding guidance 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](#), [Linkedin](#) 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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