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OSCR publishes COVID-19 guidance for charities



The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) has published **COVID-19 guidance for charities**.

This guidance brings together information you need to know during this time and highlights other

organisations who may be able to offer support.

It is split into the different parts below to help you find the information you need easily.

1. Contacting OSCR
2. Funding and finance
3. Charity meetings and governance
4. Reporting to OSCR and making changes
5. Registering a charity
6. Information for cross-border charities
7. Fraud
8. Safer giving
9. Volunteering
10. Sources of help and advice

We've based this structure on the most common queries we have received during the COVID-19 pandemic and the information will be regularly updated as the situation develops. If you feel something is missing from this guidance, please contact info@oscr.org.uk.

If you are looking for general frequently asked questions for charities, they can be found here.

Contacting OSCR during the COVID-19 pandemic

In line with Scottish and UK Government guidelines, the OSCR office is now closed, with staff working remotely.

The best way to contact us is to complete our [online contact form](#). This allows you to give us all of the



information we need and we will respond back to you as soon as we can. Just check the 'Do you still need to contact us?' box once you have chosen your topic if you can't find the answer you need.

You can also email any queries to info@oscr.org.uk.

Post

Mail is not being collected, so if you have sent us something in the post and it is urgent please email info@oscr.org.uk. If you want to talk to someone, please put your phone number in the email.

If you have posted your annual report and accounts to us please see the [Reporting to OSCR section](#) in our COVID-19 guidance.

Phone

If you are unable to send an email and really need to get a question answered, you can still call our office number and leave a message - 01382 220446.

If you call us, please include your phone number and we will get back to you. It may take longer than usual for us to answer queries and process any applications.

Third Sector Resilience Fund Launched



Applications are now open for the Third Sector Resilience Fund (TRSF).

Part of a £350m support package by the Scottish Government for the sector in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Third Sector Resilience Fund will support

organisations across the third sector who are at risk of closure due to a sharp decrease in income or that are unable to deliver their services directly as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The fund's primary intention is to help these organisations to stabilise and manage cash-flows over this difficult period.

The TRSF is delivered by Firstport, Social Investment Scotland and Corra Foundation and it offers charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises grants of £5,000-£100,000. In addition, there will be up to a further £5m available in fully flexible, 0% interest loans starting at £50,000.

Charities can find out more information and apply by visiting SCVO's [Coronavirus Third Sector Information Hub](#), which has lots of useful information on funding for voluntary sector organisations during the coronavirus pandemic.

Scotland Cares volunteer campaign

A new 'Scotland Cares' campaign has been launched to encourage people to volunteer during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



While the most important ask for the public remains to stay at home and follow the essential public health guidance, people who are healthy and not at risk can volunteer to provide practical or emotional help to those most in need, via the [Ready Scotland website](#):

- returning NHS workers will be directed to existing voluntary arrangements in [NHS Scotland](#)
- people wishing to offer their support to our public services, including the NHS and local authorities, will be directed to a site co-ordinated by the [British Red Cross](#)
- those looking for opportunities with other charities or community groups in their area will be directed to [Volunteer Scotland](#) for information.

Charity accounting webinars



We've recently added to our ongoing series of charity accounting webinars.

The webinars are presented by OSCR's Head of Professional Advice and Intelligence Laura Anderson.

You can view the episodes below:

1. [Overview of charity accounting rules](#)
2. [Receipts and Payments Accounts](#)
3. [Accrued \(SORP\) Accounts](#)
4. [External scrutiny of accounts](#)

Information from Disclosure Scotland

Disclosure Scotland is making a temporary change to how applications are processed.



They have been working closely with the Scottish Government and key stakeholders on their response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

In addition to their prioritisation of checks for those who have the most vital roles supporting the country during this time, as of Monday

30 March they will no longer be accepting paper applications.

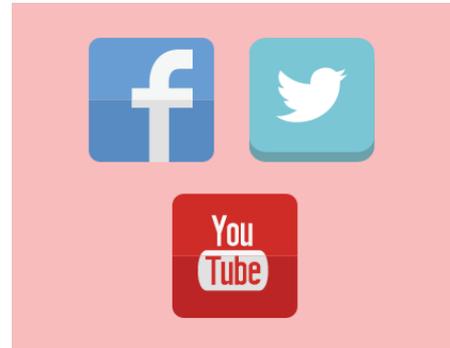
A new page is live on the [Disclosure Scotland website](#) with all the materials you need to continue to submit applications.

You can also find out more information about PVG and coronavirus (COVID-19) on the [Volunteer Scotland website](#).

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

www.oscr.org.uk | 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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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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