haysmacintyre

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Welcome to haysmacintyre's regular 'e-news alert' for charities and not for profit organisations.

Regulators urge safe giving to support Turkey-Syria earthquake relief efforts in the month of Ramadan

As British Muslims enter Ramadan, it is expected The Charity Commission (the Commission) and Fundraising Regulator (the Regulator) will continue to urge the public to 'give safely' when supporting international aid efforts in response to earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

Ramadan is a time of huge generosity among British Muslims. The recent earthquake coupled with the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, make it especially important that their charitable contributions support good causes through registered charities. Regulators are therefore issuing advice to remind British Muslims to make checks, ensuring their donations reach registered charities.



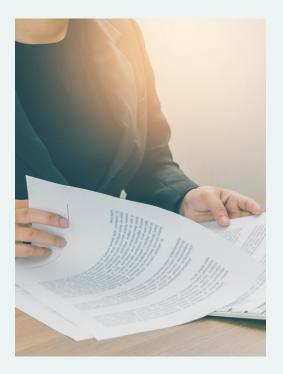
The Commission Chair discusses charities' responsibilities when tackling migration and refugee crisis

Orlando Fraser KC has recently <u>published his thoughts</u> on how charities can model a better kind of discourse when talking about the migration and refugee crisis. Orlando goes on to say he will continue to stand up for the right of charities to lawfully campaign, with an emphasis on the importance of keeping the law on their side. The subject of the general election is also discussed, as is the sensitive nature of campaigning responsibly and with measure in reaction to government proposals in this area.

Head of Casework at the Regulator discusses regulatory remit and assessing complaints

Catherine Orr, Head of Casework at the Regulator, has written an <u>insightful and informative article</u> as to how Catherine and her team handle complaints and the rigorous process they are required to comply with. The article also includes a quick overview of the types of questions they ask to help understand some of the complexities. This overview includes:

- Is it a personal cause that needs fundraising?
- Is it charitable, benevolent or philanthropic?
- Is it reasonable for the organisation to be held liable?



Fundraising complaints are up a quarter since November

Speaking at the Regulator's annual event at the British Museum, Chief Executive Gerald Oppenheim said that there had been a "marked increase" in complaints to the Regulator.

The Regulator's casework volumes have steadily increased since 2019-20, from 836 that year to 1,035 in 2020-21 and 1,056 in 2021-22.

Jenny Williams, Chair of the Complaints and Investigations Committee at the Regulator, said the <u>main complaints charities</u> receive are about misleading information, the behaviour of fundraisers, and their attitude towards vulnerable people. The article goes on to focus on the fundraising levy and their opinion of the responsibilities of larger charities to contribute proportionately in the future.

Spring Budget 2023

On 15 March 2023, the Chancellor delivered his first Budget against an economic backdrop that was better than expected compared to his Autumn Statement in November 2022. Described as a "Budget for Growth", it focused on three of the Prime Minister's five priorities: halving inflation, growing the economy and reducing debt. Measures included confirming the increase in Corporation Tax to 25% from 1 April 2023 and full relief for capital expenditure. haysmacintyre produced a <u>comprehensive summary</u> of the Budget. Please contact Katharine Arthur, Partner, Head of Private Client if you require further advice.



Impact of the Spring Budget on charities

The Chancellor announced more than £100m for charities in this year's spring budget. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) said the government will provide £101.5m of support to charities and community organisations in England over the next two years.

DCMS said around three quarters of the funding will be used to deliver grants in 2023-24, targeted at those frontline charities and community organisations most impacted by increased demand for their services from vulnerable people, and increased delivery costs. The remaining quarter will be used to fund measures over the next two years to increase the energy efficiency and sustainability of voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

Changes to filing accounts online

Following on from our news about the Commission's annual return in last month's eNews, this month, Companies House has confirmed that when the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill 2022 is passed, it expects to have the power to mandate how companies file their accounts. With Companies House's strategic commitment to become a fully digital filing service, it is expected that all companies will eventually need to file their accounts online. This change will also see a wider tagging of accounts data which should improve access, analysis and searchability of accounts data.



Statement from NVCO

Following the recent closure of the Small Charities Coalition, the small charity sector has been dealt a further blow with the <u>closure</u> of The Foundation for Social Improvement (FSI).

The FSI has been a trusted partner to NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) for several years, delivering our popular shared e-learning course, and more recently partnering to deliver the legacy of the Small Charities Coalition.

Upcoming events

Bi-annual Schools Update

Wednesday 26 April

15:30-17:00

Online

Catholic Charity Conference 2023

Wednesday 10 May

10:30-16:00

Church House Westminster

Quarterly Charities Update

Tuesday 6 June

15:30-17:30

Online

For further details on our not for profit upcoming events and to register, visit www.haysmacintyre.com/events.

We welcome your feedback on this update and would be pleased to hear about any areas you would like to see covered in future editions. Please email <u>Vikram Sandhu</u>, Director, with any comments.

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