

#### **UKRAINE FUNDRAISING APPEALS REACH NEARLY £200M IN DONATIONS**

The Charity Commission and Fundraising Regulator continue to urge the public to 'give safely' to registered charities helping and supporting those affected by the invasion of Ukraine.

The Disasters Emergency Committee, a coalition of 15 aid charities, which comes together in times of crisis, has seen a huge response to its emergency appeal. As of the middle of March, it had raised £175m, including £25m from the UK government.

Members of the public initiating their own informal fundraising appeals, that are not linked to established registered charities, should be aware of the ongoing responsibilities associated with overseeing and managing funds, and ensure they are applied in line with the donors' wishes.



## THE CHARITY COMMISSION HAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE ON CHARITIES' ROLE IN IMPROVING DATA

The Commission states that the years ahead are expected to be dominated by data. How we collect, use, and share data, is a crucial theme of the Commission's work. In the past, the thinking has been concentrated narrowly on regulation. However, the Commission is now thinking more widely about the purpose and value of data, considering the needs of charities and of the public in a more deliberate way. Namely, a better service for trustees and more relevant information for the public.

This project will also include a consultation on the annual return, improving communications from the Commission and evolving the accounting framework.

## COMMISSION CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT CHARITY TRUSTEES CONTINUES WITH ROLL OUT OF NEW VIDEOS

The Charity Commission has launched the next phase of its ongoing campaign to help trustees be 'certain in uncertain times' including new materials on safeguarding. The aim of <a href="these-videos">these-videos</a> is to bring the existing 5-minute guides to life.



#### **CYBER THREAT HEIGHTENED**

The government is warning institutions, including charities, to be on the lookout for potential cyber-attacks. The National Cyber Security Centre is not aware of any specific cyber threats to UK charities in relation to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. However, while the situation in Ukraine remains volatile, charities are strongly encouraged to follow the actionable steps in the National Cyber Security Centre's guidance that reduce the risk of falling victim to an attack.

#### HMRC TAX INVESTIGATIONS HIT 137,000 IN SECOND HALF OF 2021

As the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) winds downs, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will now shift its focus and reallocate staff and resources to investigations. This is a result of the loss of revenue due to the pandemic. HMRC have also been given extra funding for staff and IT. For support with any Employment Tax queries, contact our <u>dedicated team</u> who will be able to assist you.



#### **SPRING STATEMENT 2022**

The Chancellor <u>delivered</u> a <u>Spring Statement</u> that aimed to ease the effects that inflation is having on the cost of living. The key announcements include:

- National Insurance starting thresholds will rise to £12,570 from July
- Fuel duty for petrol and diesel will be cut by 5p per litre as of 6pm on 23 March
- VAT reduction on energy saving materials such as solar panels, heating pumps and roof insulation, from 5% to zero for five years
- Increased the Employment Allowance a relief which allows smaller businesses to reduce their employers National Insurance contributions bills each year – from £4,000 to £5,000
- Targeted business rates exemptions for eligible plant and machinery used in onsite renewable energy generation and storage, and a 100% relief for eligible low-carbon heat networks
- Committing to lower income tax to 19% by the end of this Parliament (2024), including a three-year transition period for Gift Aid relief

Katharine Arthur, Partner and Head Private Client, explains further the changes and impacts of the Spring Statement. You can read the full article <a href="here">here</a>, or reach out to our <a href="private client">private client</a> team for more information.

#### **ECONOMIC CRIME ACT PASSED**

Following an accelerated passage through Parliament, the Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement)

Act (the Act) received Royal Assent on 15 March. In addition to facilitating government action against oligarchs, the Act will introduce a Register of Overseas Entities which will require those behind foreign companies that own UK property to reveal their identities. The Act also strengthens the Unexplained Wealth Orders (UWO) regime by reducing the benchmark for the granting of a UWO, allowing responsible officers of a company to receive a UWO and allowing enforcement authorities to apply for interim freezing orders.



### MONEY LAUNDERING 'BLOCKBUSTER' RELEASED

HMRC and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) have combined to release a short film, <u>All Too Familiar</u>, to highlight the ease by which accountants and businesses can be unwittingly entrapped in assisting money launderers. It explores how trust in personal and professional relationships can be misplaced. The film is available to all ICAEW and HMRC supervised firms, and insolvency practitioners free of charge.

#### **SMALL CHARITIES COALITION CLOSURE**

We mentioned in February's eNews that the Small Charities Coalition (SCC) closed on 31 March 2022. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and the Foundation for Social Improvement (FSI) have partnered to take on the <u>SCC helpdesk</u> and some other services for small organisations at the end of this month.

NCVO and FSI plan to create a small charities advisory group that ensures charities' voices are heard during the transfer of SCC services to the infrastructure bodies.

According to NCVO, 82% of the charities in the UK are small charities. Some 92% of NCVO's members are small charities, which emphasises the demand for these services. FSI and NCVO will offer more support for these organisations during its Small Charity Week campaign this year.



## BRITISH PEOPLE DIG DEEP RAISING OVER £42M FOR RED NOSE DAY

The British public has once again shown overwhelming kindness and generosity as a staggering £42,790,147 has been raised for Red Nose Day 2022, with money still coming in, taking Comic Relief fundraising past the extraordinary milestone of £1.5 billion raised since the charity began.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## Bi-annual independent schools update

28 April 2022 16:00 - 17:30 Online

## NFP VAT and Tax Exchange

28 April 2022 10:30 - 11:30 Online

## **Quarterly Charities Update**

7 June 2022 16:00 - 17:30 Online

## **Quarterly Charities Update**

14 September 2022 16:00 - 17:30 Online

## **Quarterly Charities Update**

06 December 2022 16:00 - 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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