

NFP eNews

9 August 2024

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



New guidance for online meetings

With hybrid working and online meetings being more popular than ever for most organisations, the Charity Commission has released new guidance on the use of online meetings. The key focus for this is to ensure that online meetings remain compliant with your governing document. There is also guidance to ensure rules around meetings are up to date and practical, and that the use of technology properly allows all participants to effectively contribute to the meeting. If you require further support for your online meetings, read the full guidance [here](#).

New guidance on charity banking

The Charity Commission has recently published [new guidance](#) for charity banking and the support available to charities trying to access banking services. The aim is to support charities and alleviate some of the ongoing concerns they have faced. This guidance also includes a link to a letter sent by the Charity Commission to all UK high street banks to highlight the issues currently being faced by the sector with their banking service.



Annual report and accounts 2023/24

The Charity Commission has released its annual report and accounts – this contains some information about their new five year strategy as well as an update on their income and spending for the year. Click [here](#) to view the Charity Commission annual report and accounts for the year 2023 to 2024.

Kings speech

The Kings speech, heard on 17 July, set out the legislative plans for the new Government following Labour's landslide victory in the 4 July General Election. This programme included various bills from Martyn's Law to Renters Reform, an Anti-smoking Bill as well as a Crime and Policing Bill. The change which will be of most interest and impact to the charity sector though is the plan to introduce VAT on school fees. Phil Salmon, Partner and Co-Head of VAT has written an article to explain what this may mean for your organisation, which can be read [here](#).

The Directory for Social Change also published an analysis of potential impacts [here](#).



Learning from OSCR's Inquiries

The UK engineering company, Arup, has confirmed that it was the victim earlier this year of a deepfake video call where a worker in Hong Kong was tricked into transferring HK\$200 million (£20m) to fraudsters. The video call involved fake voices and images of senior officers in Arup making requests to transfer money to various bank accounts. This is a worrying development in the use of AI and is a timely reminder of the need to keep payment protocols up to date and fit for purpose in an increasingly sophisticated digital world.

Appeals and giving with confidence

The [Charity Regulators issued advice](#) on 31 July on 'giving with confidence' to registered charities as new appeals to include The Southport Strong Together Appeal, are launched to support local communities. The advice includes:

- Checking the charity's name and registration number on the Charity Register at gov.uk/checkcharity – most charities with an annual income of £5,000 or more must be registered.
- Making sure the charity is genuine before giving any financial information.
- Being careful when responding to emails or clicking on links within them.
- Looking out for the Fundraising Badge – the logo that says 'registered with Fundraising Regulator' – and check the Fundraising Regulator's Directory of organisations which have committed to fundraise in line with the Code of Fundraising Practice.

This is useful guidance to consider for all short term and emergency appeals.



Charity Digital Skills Report

The 2024 [Charity Digital Skills Report](#) was released last month which provides an annual update of charity's digital skills, attitudes, and behaviours. The key findings highlight the importance of charities prioritising digital, with 50% of charities now having a strategy in place for digital and 76% of charities feeling they have made digital progress this year.

The report also highlights some key challenges for the sector, such as lack of suitable funding and small charities feeling digitally squeezed as a result of the organisations finances. Overall, the report found that whilst tech use has evolved over the past year, overall digital progress remains static.

Artificial intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly being discussed within the sector and following on from the Charity Digital Skills Report where 61% of charities are currently [using AI](#) in their day to day work or operations, this is more now than ever an area of focus. Another recent survey from the Charity Excellence has also collected views from trustees, CEOs and volunteers which found that the "Use of AI in charities has surged, with 60% of individuals now using AI" however only 5% felt "extremely well prepared" to use AI [[Charity Excellence AI Benchmarking Survey 2024](#)].

The NCSC has also released a new blog highlighting the [call for views on the Cyber Security of AI](#), with a closing deadline of Friday 9 August 2024.

As a reminder, the Charity Commission released some thoughts on AI earlier this year which can be found [here](#).



NCVO highlight Labour's priorities

Last month we saw a new Government installed with lots of new faces in Government positions, with [Probono Economics highlighting](#) that 242 MPs in the new parliament having a background in the charity sector. NCVO have released a helpful blog to highlight Labour's priorities focused on the charity sector. There is a useful "what charities can do now" section at the end of the article to encourage charities to start sharing key issues that charities are facing.

Upcoming events

VAT on school fees - an update

4 September 2024

15:30-17:00

Online

Quarterly Charities Update

5 September 2024

15:30-17:30

Online

Trustee Training: Roles and responsibilities

15 October 2024

09:30-13:30

Online

Quarterly Charities Update

5 December 2024

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 [Andrew Roberts](mailto:Andrew.Roberts@haysmacintyre.com), Senior Manager, with any comments.

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Winner: Large Firm of the Year 2023



An eprivateclient top accountancy firm 2023



Top 10 auditor to quoted companies in Adviser Ranking Listing