

## NFP eNews 12 MAY 2023

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

### Charity Commission updates guidance on internal financial controls

In April 2023, the Charity Commission refreshed its guidance on internal financial controls, which had not been updated since July 2012. The refreshed guidance covers several areas which either did not exist or were not in widespread use in 2012. For example, there is guidance on the use of mobile payment systems such as Google Pay and Apple Pay, and additionally guidance on the use of cryptoassets, cryptocurrency and NFTs. Secondly, there are updates to a number of existing areas and a refreshed checklist which charities can use to benchmark their own systems and processes. The new guidance can be found [here](#).

We recommend that all trustees and members of senior management of charities should read the new guidance, and an exercise should be undertaken to work through the revised checklist to identify any potential areas where the charity may not have adequate controls or processes in place.



### The Big Help Out

The Charity Commission is supporting the [Big Help Out](#) campaign, alongside [Getting On Board](#), to encourage people to take part in volunteering for charitable work. They report that there are currently 100,000 vacancies for charity trustee positions and the campaign is helping to explain what trustees are, what they do, and how you can become a trustee. Getting On Board have released some [useful webinars and guidance](#) to support those interested in becoming a trustee.

### Road testing new investment guidance

There has been much discussion over the past few years around the Charity Commission updating its guidance on investments, with a consultation on the guidance undertaken a couple of years ago. The proposed guidance has taken into account comments from the consultation, and has been significantly reduced to make it easier for trustees to use when making investment decisions for charities. The Charity Commission has also taken on board previous comments regarding complex language and ambiguous definitions such as "ethical" and "responsible" investing, and is now road testing the new guidance to ensure this is suitable for trustees. This isn't a new consultation but instead around 1,000 charities, that have recorded investment income, have been invited to participate. This invitation has been sent to charities via the designated contact for the Charity Commission, and it would be worthwhile checking to see whether you have been invited to participate, as any feedback will be used to make the guidance more accessible for trustees and those working with charities. Further information can be found [here](#).



## Charities Act 2023

There has been much discussion around the Charities Act 2023, which amends the Charities Act 2011 since it was announced. The first changes are due to come into effect in Spring 2023, with the remainder of the changes coming into force in October 2023.

Spring 2023 key changes:

- Selling, leasing or otherwise disposing of charity land
- Using permanent endowment
- Charity names
- Updated definition of a connected person

October 2023 key changes:

- Paying trustees for providing services or goods to the charity
- Fundraising appeals that do not raise enough or raise too much
- Power to amend Royal Charters

More information can be found [here](#).

## NCVO Time Well Spent

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) have released the latest Time Well Spent report which looks at volunteers and their experience. At the end of 2022, 7,000 people participated in the NCVO survey, with the results compared to the previous survey conducted four years prior in 2018.

Key findings included:

- A decline in some volunteering activities, reflecting the changes since the pandemic and the time people have available to dedicate to volunteering
- Whilst the majority of volunteers are satisfied with their experience, overall satisfaction levels have declined slightly since 2018
- Equality, diversity, and inclusion needs to be a focus to ensure “volunteering opportunities are inclusive and meet the needs of a diverse range of people”
- The changes adopted during COVID-19 where operations were moved online overnight continue to be popular, and virtual volunteering looks to have a firm place in the “new normal”
- Practical barriers to volunteering, such as associated out-of-pocket expenses, need to be reviewed especially as we are in the midst of a cost of living crisis

For those charities that rely on volunteers, the report is well worth a read and further details can be found [here](#).



## Retail Gift Aid – Simplified letters

Each year, charities using the Retail Gift Aid scheme are required to send year-end letters to donors where total donations for an individual across the year is greater than £20 (or in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed by the donor). HM Revenue & Customs have simplified the letter and significantly reduced the mandatory wording required for both methods A and B. Whilst for 2023, the new or old letter can be used, the new simplified letter will be compulsory from next year. Further details provided by the Charity Tax Group, along with a copy of the new format letter, can be found [here](#). Remember all letters must be sent to donors by 31 May 2023. Please contact [Alice Palmer](#), Senior Manager, if you require any further assistance with this.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [Quarterly Charities Update](#)

6 June 2023

15:30 - 17:30

Online

### [Quarterly Charities Update](#)

5 September 2023

15:30 - 17:30

Online

### [Quarterly Charities Update](#)

6 December 2023

15:30 - 17:30

Online

For further details on our not for profit upcoming events and to register, visit [www.haysmacintyre.com/events](http://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 [Siobhan Holmes](#), Director and Head of Grant-Making, with any comments.

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