



Charity Commission CEO delivers keynote speech at ICAEW Charity Conference

Reflecting on his first few months in post, David Holdsworth, Charity Commission Chief Executive, discussed the challenges and opportunities faced by the charity sector. The key themes of his speech revolved around the essential role of accountancy professionals in supporting and guiding charities, their challenges, and the importance of good governance and financial stewardship. He touched on innovation and adaptability, public support for charities, and emphasised the need for setting future goals. You can read his full speech [here](#).

Upcoming 'failure to prevent fraud' offence

On the back of a change in law, the Charity Commission has issued an alert regarding a new offence for "failure to prevent fraud" which will come into effect on 1 September 2025. This law targets large charities who meet at least two of the below criteria:

- ◆ More than 250 employees
- ◆ £36m in income
- ◆ £18m in total assets

The Charity Commission goes on to advise affected charities to read Home Office guidance, enhance fraud prevention measures, and seek professional legal advice where necessary. Click [here](#) to review the full alert.



New fraud reimbursement scheme for small charities

Small charities are being urged to reclaim lost funds through a new reimbursement scheme, introduced on 7 October 2024. Very few charities, and small charities in particular who may have fallen victim to fraud, are unaware of the scheme. Set up by the Payments Systems Regulator (PSR), it states that banks and payment service providers must reimburse victims of authorised push payment (APP) fraud, up to £85,000, for charities with an annual income under £1m. If your charity has experienced fraud, you can find out more about what options may be available to you by reading [here](#).

Surge in high earning charity bosses

The Telegraph has reported a surge in so called “super-sized salaries” within the charity sector, with an analysis of the Charity Commission data showing an increase of 35.7% of charities paying staff more than £400k in salary in the past five years. The Charity Commission confirmed that it is not taking any regulatory action over any of the 19 charities named in [the article](#), stating that it is not a pay regulator and expects charities to manage executive pay themselves.



Charity Tax Group is seeking trustees

After recently gaining charitable status, the Charity Tax Group which exists as the authoritative voice for charities regarding tax matters, and claims to have saved over £8.3billion in tax since its inception 40 years ago, is seeking to appoint a number of trustees to its board. Citing diversification behind its board expansion, Charity Tax Group are looking for applicants with technical skills and knowledge with charity tax, and more. If you are interested in becoming a trustee, find out how to apply [here](#).

Abrupt closure of USAID funding expected to impact many charities

Donald Trump has shut down the USAID agency and halted all funding immediately. In 2023, the agency allocated \$40billion across more than 130 countries, and this sudden stop of funding for both new and existing projects is expected to cause significant issues and challenges for many charities. Read more on the Trump administration decision [here](#).



And finally... The Charity Commission launches inquiry into Community Accountancy Self Help

A repeated pattern of failures regarding accounting submissions highlighted concerns to the Charity Commission, resulting in a [statutory inquiry](#) being launched against Community Accountancy Self Help. The regulator stated issues surrounding the trustees’ continued failure to submit accounting information over several years. The Charity Commission is set to examine the trustees’ compliance with their legal responsibilities regarding the charity’s administration, governance, and management.

Upcoming Events

Trustee Training: Introduction to charity finance and reporting

18 February 2025
13:30 – 15:30
Online

Trustee Training: Roles and responsibilities

6 March 2025
09:30 – 13:30
Online

Quarterly Charities Update

11 March 2025
15:30 – 17:30
Online

AGBIS: Annual Conference

19 March 2025
09:00 – 17:30
QEII Centre

Trustee training: Charity law update

25 March 2025
13:30 – 15:30
Online

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Steve Harper at sharper@haysmac.com



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Winner: Large Firm
of the Year 2023



An eprivateclient
top accountancy firm 2024



Top 10 auditor to quoted companies
in Adviser Ranking Listing