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A message from OSCR's CEO, David Robb:



Our latest blog comes from the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) Chief Executive David Robb.

In it, he sends out season's greetings from all at OSCR and highlights some key topics that charity trustees

need to be aware of.

[To read David Robb's latest blog click here.](#)

Fundraising guidance consultation extended to 08 December

OSCR is seeking your views on its draft Fundraising Guidance.

To ensure that our guidance is as robust as possible, we require sector input.

Consultation is an essential part of our policy making

process. It gives us the opportunity to seek your opinions.



The consultation on our draft Fundraising Guidance opened on 07 September and will now end on 08 December 2017.

[To read our draft Fundraising Guidance and submit your response please click here.](#)

OSCR encourages more charities to come

forward with Notifiable Events



OSCR would like to remind charities to report significant incidents when they occur.

We aim to support public confidence in charities and their work. Part of our role is to try and prevent problems from happening by providing

guidance to charities. From April 2016, charities were asked to report Notifiable Events to us as part of this 'prevention'. A Notifiable Event is when something serious has happened or is happening to the charity.

[Read more about Notifiable Events and how to report them here.](#)

Would you like to join the Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel?

The Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel is looking for new members who are committed to supporting the enhanced self-regulatory system of fundraising in Scotland and who will contribute to its strategic thinking.



The formal time commitment would include attending 4 meetings a year, participating in engagement events throughout the year and contributing to policy and consultations as they arise. This is anticipated to be no more than 1.5 days per month.

You can apply from 27 November until 15 December.

[For more information on the position click here.](#)

OSCR opening hours during the festive season



Our office will be closed from 25 to 26 December and from 01 to 02 January. We will also have reduced opening hours on 22, 27, 28 and 29 of December.

A significant number of Scottish charities have an annual return submission deadline during this period. **If your annual return is due between 22 December and 07 January and you are posting paper documentation, we need to have the documents with us by 21 December at the latest** - otherwise it will be difficult for us to process them all before New Year. However, if you are completing your annual return and attaching documents at the same time in OSCR Online, you have your full 9 months to complete the process.

[Read more about our festive opening times here.](#)

SCIO names to go on Registrar's Index of Company Names

From 1 January 2018, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIOs) and Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) will appear in the Registrar's Index of Company Names, which is maintained by Companies House. Charities that are incorporated as companies already appear on the index.



[Read more about SCIO names going on the Registrar's Index of Company Names here.](#)

Auditors & independent examiners urged to be more proactive in reporting concerns



UK charity regulators are encouraging auditors and independent examiners to be more forthcoming with concerns they come across in charity finances or governance during the course of their work.

Reporting of relevant matters of interest to UK charity regulators

is a joint publication from the Charity Commission for England and Wales, OSCAR and the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. This is the first time the regulators have provided examples on where reporting would be helpful by auditors and independent examiners when these matters are relevant but not a legal reporting requirement.

[Read more about reporting of relevant matters of interest here.](#)

New data protection advice service from ICO

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) launched a dedicated advice line on Wednesday 1 November to help small organisations prepare for the new data protection law.



The phone service is aimed at people running small businesses or charities and recognises the particular problems they face getting ready for the new law, called the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The GDPR replaces the current Data Protection Act and comes into force on 25 May 2018. Regulated by the ICO, the GDPR strengthens the rules around personal data and requires organisations to be more accountable and transparent. It also gives people greater control over their own personal data.

[Read more about the data protection advice service here.](#)

BLOG: GDPR Overview



What does the GDPR mean for organisations? And what's going to happen on 25 May 2018 when it comes into force?

In the first in a series of 6 blogs, Alison Johnston from the Information

Commissioner's Office gives a brief overview of GDPR.

[Read the GDPR Overview blog here.](#)

IFA added to list of Independent Examiners

For charities that produce fully accrued accounts, an independent examination must be carried out by an individual who is appropriately qualified in matters of accounting and financial administration on the basis that the accounts to be examined are more complex.



The Regulations have now been amended to allow members of The Institute of Financial Accountants (IFA) to provide independent examination services to charities preparing fully accrued accounts.

[Read more about the IFA being added to the list of Independent Examiners here.](#)

Sending documentation to OSCR – remember your file size



When you are uploading a file using OSCR Online, it cannot be larger than 8mb in total. These limits also apply to many email providers, who have similar levels of restriction.

Most of the documentation you are required to submit requires a signature. In these instances, you should scan the signed document so it becomes a PDF file and

then send it to us.

You can avoid having documents that are too large by scanning them with a lower 'dots per inch' (dpi) setting. A document should still be legible if it is scanned between 300-600 dpi. When you are scanning at a lower dpi, remember to check the document on your computer screen to make sure that the text can be read easily. Also, you should scan it in as a greyscale document, as this will reduce file size. If you are not sure how to select these settings on your scanner, please refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

[Read more about reducing the size of your files here.](#)

We're on social media!

Do you or your charity use social media?

Following us is a great way to be kept up-to-date with our latest news. It's also a good opportunity for you to share your experiences and views with the regulator and, through us, the wider sector.



In addition to our ever growing library of **YouTube videos**, we put regular updates out on our **Facebook** and **Twitter** channels.

Why not give us a follow?

Scotland's charity regulator: OSCR is the independent registrar and regulator of Scotland's 23,000 charities

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Follow us on twitter **@ScotCharityReg**

Find us on facebook **OSCR**

OSCR Online makes it easier for charities to report to OSCR, and improves transparency for the public. For more information, or to register, visit www.oscr.org.uk

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