OSCR
Scottish Charity Regulator

Apply online to become a charity

On 05 March 2019, the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) **launched its online application** to become a charity.

We have had lots of applicants using the service since then and we would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to give us feedback so far.

For the first few weeks after the launch of the online application, we left the older pdf version of the 'Application to become a charity' form on our website as an alternative option. However, from 02 April 2019 that option has been withdrawn. We know that some potential applicants and advisors will have applications in progress using the pdf form, and we will continue to accept these applications until 30 April 2019.

OSCR strongly recommends that you get **advice** if you are thinking about setting up a charity. The new **Thinking about becoming a charity** section of our website takes potential applicants through the steps they need to think about before they start on application.

If you need help navigating the online application to become a charity, we also have **new guidance** that details how to log in to the online form and how to navigate it. For further questions about the form that the guidance does not answer, please contact us.

Meet the Scottish Charity Regulator

Every year, OSCR holds events across the country to give charity trustees and staff the opportunity to hear about our latest developments, meet our staff and board and have a chance to ask us questions.

In our 2019 round of events we will be visiting Strathpeffer, Aberdeen, Troon, Dunfermline, Glasgow and Fort William.

We will discuss a range of topics, including:

- who we are and what we do
- key updates for charity trustees

- trustee recruitment
- our latest guidance.

The events are FREE to attend. However, we do ask that you should only book a place if you are making your attendance a priority due to the limited spaces available.

To book a place please click here.

Video: Trustee recruitment and succession planning

Trustee recruitment can be a challenge for some charities, but is a vital exercise that all charities must undertake at some point in their lifetime.

In our latest video, OSCR Head of Engagement Jude Turbyne talks about the best practices when recruiting a new charity trustee and provides some further sources of help and advice.

The video was filmed at The Gathering 2019.

Watch our presentation on trustee recruitment here.

New OSCR Board Chair appointed

The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, Aileen Campbell recently announced the appointment of Lindsay Montgomery as Chair of OSCR.

Lindsay Montgomery CBE has many years' experience of leadership and governance roles in the public sector. Lindsay was a Board member of OSCR from its inception and as Deputy Chair from 2008 until 2014. He also has many years' experience as a charity trustee including since 2015 as Chair of the environmental charity, Keep Scotland Beautiful. Other current roles include visiting Professor at University of Strathclyde School of Law, Vice Chair of the International Legal Aid Group and Chair of the Scottish Government Digital Transformation Board.

The appointment will be for four years and will run from 1 March 2019 to 28 February 2023.

Preparing for Brexit

It is currently planned that the United Kingdom will soon leave the European Union (EU). This event is commonly known as 'Brexit'.

Leaving the EU means a number of changes that will affect businesses and individual citizens.

Although there are still many unknowns regarding Brexit, charities should prepare themselves as best they can.

Our **Planning for Brexit** page has some important links to information that charity trustees may find useful.

BLOG: How OSCR is using risk

If you have been following our progress over the past few years, you may remember that some time ago we consulted on a range of proposals designed to help us become more risk-based in our work – we called this **Targeted Regulation**.

OSCR's Head of Professional Advice and Intelligence, Laura Anderson, provides an update on OSCR's latest developments in this area.

Read Laura's blog here.

Up to £1,000 available to charities to help defend against cyber attacks

A cyber fund is available to help charities and small and medium-sized businesses protect against the most common forms of internet-borne cyber attacks.

Charities that are eligible can apply for up to £1,000, which will support them to achieve the National Cyber Security Centre's Cyber Essentials or Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation.

Managed by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) on behalf of the Scottish Government, the Cyber Essentials Voucher Scheme is available on a first come first served basis to organisations who meet the criteria. This is the second application round for the scheme following a successful round in November 2018. The deadline is Friday 26 April at 5pm.

BLOG: 5 Excuses for Not Having Young Trustees

Research shows that many charities have something in common - they don't have trustees under 27.

In our latest guest blog, Cordelia Sampson - Chair of Trustees at Edinburgh Students' Charities Appeal, talks about why charities don't have young trustees.

Read '5 Excuses for Not Having Young Trustees' here.

Consultation on charity law

The Scottish Government's consultation on charity law has now ended.

There was a lot of interest in the consultation with over 300 responses being submitted. You can read the **published responses here**.

OSCR's response to the consultation has been published on our website **here**.

You could feature in our Annual Review!

Every year, OSCR publishes an Annual Review that highlights parts of our work throughout the year. This year, we want to demonstrate the wide range of activity that goes on in the sector, and the difference that charities make. Ideally, what we're looking for are informal 'fly on the wall' type images showing charities at work, rather than staged or corporate images.

We'd love some fantastic photos from a wide range of charities providing some great snapshots of what charity means to people in Scotland.

If you want the chance for your charity to feature in OSCR's Annual Review, send an email attaching an image showing your charity at

work to **communications@oscr.org.uk** with:

· your charity's name, Scottish Charity number and contact
· telephone number
· a few sentences about what your charity does and how it makes a difference
· confirmation that you hold the copyright or have the photographer's permission for our use of the image as well as the permission of the any individuals in any image.
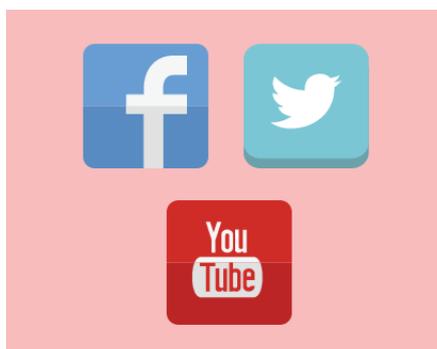
Our aim is to choose a selection that provides a representative profile of Scotland's charity sector, including geographical location, charitable purposes and beneficiaries. But at this stage, let's see what we get – it depends on what you send us, so please don't be shy!

Unfortunately, we don't have the resources to answer every email or to take calls on this matter, but we will consider all the images sent in to us.

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**, **Linkedin** and **Twitter** channels.

Why not give us a follow?