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## Upcoming OSCR events

The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) has two FREE upcoming online events that you can sign up for:



### 1. Meet the Charity Regulator 2021 - 23 September 2021

Come along to our annual event to hear about the work of the OSCR, and to ask us any questions you might have on our activities. We will be joined by members of our Board and members of the OSCR staff team.

[Register for 'Meet the Charity Regulator' here.](#)

### 2. Transparency and Trust - 27 October 2021

Staff from OSCR will set out the findings of our most recent charity survey in relation to trust and transparency, and give advice on how charities can improve their performance in these areas, including:

- Displaying your charity number
- Better communications
- Trustees' Annual Report
- Safeguarding and checks

The event will consist of a presentation and an opportunity to raise questions, and is aimed at charity trustees, staff members and advisors to charities.

[Register for 'Transparency and Trust' here.](#)

**Reminder to charities to submit your annual information on time**



Up to March 2020 and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, charities had 9 months after their 'year-end' date to submit their annual information to OSCR.

Because of the additional pressures that organisations came under at the beginning of this crisis, OSCR allowed charities extra time – a 'grace period' - to submit annual reports and accounts. This grace period extended a charity's annual information deadline by an additional 9 months if their deadline date fell between 01 March 2020 and 31 March 2021.

From the 1 April, we returned to our regular timescale for charities' submissions. This means that charities with deadlines for submitting their annual information from 01 April 2021 onwards no longer receive additional time to do so, and so should submit within 9 months of their year-end date.

Although the majority of charities have been submitting on time since the end of grace period, we would like to remind charities that they must submit annual information on time.

We use the information to update each charity's entry on the Scottish Charity Register. A charity's register entry will highlight when they have failed to provide us with the information on time. Anyone, such as funders or members of the public, will be able to see that the annual information has not been submitted.

**Please read this news article on our website that includes FAQs on submitting your charity's online annual return to OSCR.**

## Changing your charity's governing document

It is good governance practice to review your charity's governing document regularly to make sure it is still fit for purpose, and to remind your charity trustees of the rules.

Sometimes it is necessary to make changes to help the charity operate better, or to modernise to move with the times.



The pandemic has impacted on the governance of charities and introduced a need (for some) to make change to the governing document to allow for virtual meetings.

FAQs on changing your governing document to allow for virtual meetings can be found [here](#).

To support you further, we have put out a recording of our recent webinar, presented by staff from OSCR, that is designed to help explain:

- What is a governing document

- Reviewing the governing document
- Virtual meetings
- How to change the document
- Where to seek help

[View our 'Updating your governing document' webinar recording here.](#)

### Amending governing documents for Charitable Companies

If your charity is also a company and you are making these changes, you also must send your amended Articles of Association to Companies House within 15 days of the resolution being passed. This is a legal requirement and we're finding that a significant number of charitable companies who have notified OSCR, have yet to notify Companies House.

More information about making changes to your charity and advising OSCR of changes can be found [here](#) and FAQs for changing your governing document to allow for virtual meetings can be found [here](#).

### Volunteering Support Fund 2021-24



The Scottish Government's Volunteering Support Fund is now open for applications. The £3.3 million Fund will be delivered on its behalf by Impact Funding Partners over the next 3 years. Organisations can apply for up to £30,000 to March 2024.

The fund is geared towards organisations in Scotland with an annual income of under £250,000. It will enable Scotland's small to medium sized third sector organisations to recruit additional volunteers who will contribute towards delivering a new volunteering project, or extending/expanding an existing one, and improve how volunteers are supported in their role.

The fund will support organisations to deliver on four key outcomes:

- Increase diversity in the third sector's volunteer pool, to particularly include people who experience disadvantage or would traditionally experience barriers to volunteering
- Improve governance, leadership and financial knowledge of organisations through the recruitment of skilled volunteers to enhance the third sector's capacity
- Improve organisational capacity to provide opportunities for skills and personal development through volunteering
- Enhance services delivered by organisations to better meet the needs of the communities they serve

A full overview of the fund plus information on how to apply can be found on [Impact Funding Partners website](#).

## UK Government Research on Cyber Skills and Cyber Security Breaches

The UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is carrying out research looking at cyber skills in the UK labour market and cyber security breaches. The research is being carried out on their behalf by Ipsos MORI. A very small number of Scottish charities may be contacted to take part in the studies.



The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport told us:

*'Cyber Skills in the UK Labour Market is a random probability survey looking at the UK cyber security labour market, carried out on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). The research explores the nature and extent of cyber security skills gaps (people lacking appropriate skills) and skills shortages (a lack of people available to work in cyber security job roles). It is a mixed method study, with approximately 1,500 organisations interviewed (including 200 charities across all regions of the UK) via telephone and online, with a further 20 qualitative interviews with participants that aim to get more depth on topics covered in the survey. Fieldwork takes place from July to September 2021, with the aim to publish findings in Spring 2022.'*

*Cyber Security Breaches Survey is a random probability survey looking at organisations' cyber security practices and experience of breaches. It is a mixed method study, with 2,250 organisations interviewed (including 450 charities) via telephone, and then a follow-up qualitative element of 30 interviews expanding on topics discussed in the survey. Fieldwork takes place from October until February, with findings published at the end of March 2022.'*

Previous research reports on Cyber Skills in the UK Labour Market research can be found [here](#) and previous reports on Cyber Security Breaches research [here](#).

If you are contacted about the research and wish to know more you can email Olha Homonchuk on the research team [olha.homonchuk@ipsos.com](mailto:olha.homonchuk@ipsos.com).

## Social Enterprise Intermediary Survey



Scottish Government have developed a plan, informed by partners, to fund an enhanced single intermediary body with responsibility for representing the social enterprise sector across Scotland. It will bring

together the very best of a sector that has enabled social enterprises

in Scotland to flourish domestically and be recognised internationally. This survey is an opportunity for those within the sector to help to shape the purpose and objectives of the single intermediary body.

The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete and **can be found here**. The closing date for responses is **08 August 2021** at 11 pm.

## Cyber Resilience and Accessible Formats Project from LEAD Scotland

In the past couple of years, LEAD Scotland have directly supported over a thousand people to feel safer and more confident online through free in-person (before COVID-19) classes and online webinars.



Their new project, supported by the Scottish Government Cyber Resilience Unit, aims to provide free, public resources and training about online security and safety with accessibility in mind. They will be providing:

- At least 13 alternative formats of the National Cyber Security Centre's 6 actions for cyber awareness
- Free webinars for members of the public on different aspects of online security and accessibility
- Free 'Training for Trainers' – for practitioners and staff looking to train others in online safety methods

**Find out more on the LEAD Scotland website here.**

## Scottish Third Sector Tracker



SCVO has decided to partner with a range of stakeholders to build a Scotland-focused third sector research community called the Scottish Third Sector Tracker.

SCVO is looking for 800 representatives from third sector organisations based across Scotland who are willing to share their experiences, views, and concerns, as the sector emerges from the pandemic.

The information gathered from members of the Scottish Third Sector Tracker will inform and direct the way SCVO, and many other organisations, including the Scottish Government, provide support to third sector organisations in the coming years.



The findings will also be used to produce regular reports and insights that will be shared widely across Scotland's third sector to help policy makers and funders shape their own policies and support for the sector.

This community will allow Scottish third sector organisations the opportunity to contribute to a high-profile survey that will reach decision makers across the country.

**Register your interest on the Scottish Third Sector Tracker here or find out more from SCVO.**

## **NEW BLOG: Charities, climate change and good governance**

Our website contains a number of **blogs** written by specialists covering different aspects of charity life.



In the latest blog, Julie Hutchison (Charities Specialist at Aberdeen Standard Capital) asks charities to reflect on the way climate change will, and may already be, affecting your beneficiaries, staff, volunteers, trustees and other stakeholders.

**Read 'Charities, climate change and good governance' here.**

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

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