OSCR
Scottish Charity Regulator

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Upcoming OSCR Webinars

We are hosting three lunchtime webinars in May. Please click on the links if you would like to register:

- **18 May – Applying for Charitable Status**
  This event is aimed organisations applying for charitable status, or those who assist others to apply. We will talk about how to apply and how to avoid the common mistakes to help make sure your application is Register Ready.

- **25 May – Support for Charity Trustees**
  Join OSCR and key partners to discuss the types of support that is available for charity trustees, and where to access it.

- **31 May – Independent Examination of Charity Accounts** This event is aimed at voluntary independent examiners who examine Receipts and Payments accounts for charities. Come to understand what is expected from the examination, and how to avoid common mistakes made.

Please follow us on **Eventbrite** for up-to-date information about OSCR's events.

Ukraine guidance for charity trustees and donors

When an event dominates the news cycle as the war in Ukraine has, it is understandable that we consider how it affects us however much that may pale in comparison to the effect on the people of Ukraine. This extends to charitable trustees considering if the war impacts on their charity in any way and if there is anything they can or should be doing in response.

We have published new guidance that covers three areas **charity trustees** should be considering in response to the war in Ukraine:

- **Supporting the Ukrainian people** – how charities can support Ukraine, considerations around charitable purposes and the importance of suitable financial controls.
- **Reviewing IT and cyber security arrangements** – the need to review IT systems based on guidance provided by the National Cyber Security Centre.
- **Awareness of the sanctions regime** – the importance of remaining aware of the UK sanctions regime if your charity has any interactions with Russian organisations or individuals.

View our 'Ukraine: What should charities do in response to the war?' guidance here.

OSCR has also produced new guidance to help the **public** provide support in a safe manner.

The key points from this guidance include:

- Donating to established charities
- Checking out charities someone intends to donate funds or goods to first
- Not travelling to Ukraine.

You can read our 'Ukraine: Safe methods of giving support' guidance here.

New OSCR Board Members announced

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, Ms Robison, has announced the appointment of **Lynn Bradley**, **Kirsten Howie**, **Neil Mackay**, **William Maxwell** and **Robin Strang** as Board Members of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

You can find out more information about our new Board Members here.

OSCR's Knowledge Management Strategy

We have recently published **Sharing knowledge for better charity regulation**, a Knowledge Management Strategy for the Scottish Charity Regulator.

The document sets out our framework for knowledge management within OSCR

and the key components that underpin the approach that OSCR will take to making the most of what we know.

Knowledge is a valuable resource and a critical asset for any organisation. Since taking up powers in 2006, OSCR has developed considerable knowledge through registering, monitoring, guiding and assisting Scotland's charities to meet the requirements of charity law. We are publishing the strategy to share our commitment to meeting the knowledge management goals set out in OSCR's **Corporate Plan 2020-2023**.

Vacancy: Digital and Communications Officer

OSCR is looking for a new Digital and Communications Officer to help deliver our digital and communications activity.

Reporting to the Senior Manager for Digital and Communications, the successful applicant will take responsibility for managing a range of digital and communications contracts, as well as planning and delivering quality content to a range of internal and external communications channels.

The starting salary for this full-time post is £31,542.00 and the closing date for applications is 21 April 2022.

Find out more and apply here.

People Strategy 2022-2025

In March, we published our **People Strategy 2022-2025**.

The purpose of this People Strategy is to set out how we as an organisation want to develop and adapt to the post COVID environment, and specifically the way we recruit, develop and retain our people, so that OSCR is not only an effective regulator, but also somewhere people want to be.

People are our greatest asset and this strategy sets out six strategic goals which will provide a focus for our growth and development as an organisation over the next three years. These are about supporting the wellbeing of our people; attracting the best talent; developing a flexible, high performing workforce; delivering effective leadership, and working together to embrace change and adapt to new ways of hybrid working.

We are publishing this strategy to share our commitment to meeting the people goals set out in OSCR's **Corporate Plan 2020-2023**.

Tech for Good Summit

On the 28 April 2022 the **Scottish Tech Army**, together with partners CodeClan, Inspiring Scotland and OpenUK, invite you to the Tech for Good Summit.

The summit's focus is on the power of collaboration and the role technology and the tech sector have to play in supporting a sector under increasing pressure. Greater reliance on fewer resources is highlighting the need for new thinking.

Join speakers and panellists from home and abroad to learn about tech for good done well, celebrate volunteers and explore new opportunities to develop the tech for good ecosystem.

Register and find out more here.

BLOG: How to check where you're at on your journey to good governance

Our website contains a **range of blogs** discussing different aspects of charity life.

In the latest one, Tracey Bird, SCVO Information Officer (Governance), discusses the new online Good Governance Checkup.

Read Tracey's blog here.

Notifiable events – seeking your views

We are reviewing our **notifiable events** system of reporting to help understand the impact of this work stream for both charities and OSCR, and to inform improvements to the current system.

We are keen to speak to anyone who has submitted a notifiable event to OSCR in the last two years to understand:

- what was your experience of OSCR when you submitted a notifiable event?
- were you satisfied with the response you received?

If you can give up around 20 minutes of your time to help us understand your experience then please contact communications@oscr.org.uk and our Sector Improvement Manager will arrange a short call at a time of your convenience.

Pre-register for the Gathering 2022!

We are pleased to announce we are sponsoring The Gathering in 2022.

Join us on 15 and 16 June for Scotland's biggest celebration of the voluntary sector when the Gathering returns to the SEC in Glasgow with a packed programme of over 80 workshops, seminars, and training sessions.

Pre-register now to keep up with the latest news about the Gathering, to be one of the first to see our biggest-ever programme of activities and to book your free place at events before anyone else! When you pre-register, SCVO will send everything you need to know straight to your inbox when they open up bookings in May.

ACOSVO Leadership Exchange Programme

Previously only available to cross sector middle, senior and executive leaders. **ACOSVO** is now inviting voluntary sector Chairs and Vice-Chairs to take part in their highly regarded Leadership Exchange Programme.

The exchange pairs individual Chairs or Vice-Chairs to share knowledge and insights, reflect on governance practices and challenges, consider post-COVID recovery planning, develop new networks and areas for collaboration, and more.

If you are interested, you must apply before 06 May 2022. **Apply here**.

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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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