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George Walker appointed as Interim Chair of the Scottish Charity Regulator

The Scottish Government has announced that George Walker has been appointed as the interim Chair of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). This appointment will be for one year in order to allow the organisation to appoint a permanent replacement for Lindsay Montgomery CBE, who stood down as OSCR Chair in March this year.



Speaking as he took up the post, Mr Walker said:

“I am grateful and excited to take up this role with the Scottish Charity Regulator as this very important time. As someone who has been involved a range of charities in the UK and overseas, I’m well aware of the need to ensure that charities are well regulated. Good and effective regulation can support this key sector and importantly help to deliver stronger outcomes for those we seek to support.

“I know that despite the exceptional circumstances that we have all faced over the past twelve months the staff and board here have continued to carry out our duties with care and professionalism, and so I look forward to joining this successful team as we prepare to effectively meet the challenges ahead.”

Further details of this Ministerial appointment can be found on the Scottish Government’s public appointment’s website at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-appointments-news-releases/>.

Video: Maureen Mallon at Mercia Scottish Charities Conference



On 25 March 2021, Mercia held their [Scottish Charities Conference 2021](#). This was specifically designed for their partners and senior managers with responsibility for a number of charity clients.

As part of the virtual event, OSCR Chief Executive Maureen Mallon provided key updates and highlighted the latest guidance from the regulator to attendees. A recording of [this segment is now available to view on our YouTube channel](#). To be kept up-to-date with OSCR's video content, [you can subscribe to the channel here](#).

Restarting fundraising activities - short guidance

One of the key impacts of COVID-19 on charities has been the way in which it has affected certain types of fundraising activity. In our most [recent surveys](#), over 50% of charities reported that their fundraising had been negatively affected by COVID-19 and the associated restrictions.



Now that restrictions are beginning to ease in Scotland, it will be a priority for many charities to look at how they can restart these fundraising activities. For these charities, we have produced some [short guidance on restarting fundraising](#), which also has links to other useful sources of support.

Small Charity Accounts Survey



Research is being carried out into the experience that small charities have of accounting regulation and guidance which you might find of interest. We are drawing this to your attention because the findings of this research - which also

includes a survey of independent examiners/accountants and some focus group discussions - will be used to inform the current [Charities SORP](#) (Statement of Recommended Practice) Engagement Process. The results will influence the next Charities SORP, now expected to take effect from 1 Jan 2024.

The new research survey aiming to understand how small charities experience accounting regulation and guidance has been commissioned by [Power to Change](#), the [Charities Aid Foundation](#) and the [Lloyds Bank Foundation](#).

They want to understand your charity's experience of preparing your annual report and accounts, and how the rules and guidance might be improved to better serve small charities (up to £500,000 income). If you are interested, they are asking you to complete a short survey at <https://brawdadata.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/charity-accounts> which should take no more than 20 minutes. The closing date is 11 June 2021.

The survey should be completed by the person (charity trustee, staff or volunteer) in your charity who usually gathers the information that goes into your year-end accounts (even if the detailed work is done by an external accountant).

For more information about the survey you can contact the Research Director, Diarmuid McDonnell by emailing diarmuid@brawdadata.com.

Support for Charities

The [TSI Scotland Network](#) is a body of charities that support the third sector across Scotland. There are 32 TSIs – or Third Sector Interfaces, in Scotland one for each local authority area. Some are partnerships working across large urban and geographical areas and some combine all the functions of the TSIs' work under one roof. Whilst each of the TSIs



might be a bit different in their set up they all are available to offer support to charities and you can [find your local TSI here](#).

The [Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations \(SCVO\)](#) is another great source of support. Their website contains helpful information as well as model documents and interesting articles. They are a membership organisation which opens up further support (such as HR or legal support) but the materials on their website are free to all.

If you are a charity trustee looking to make changes to your charity, or its governing document then one or both of these organisations should be able to assist you.

Volunteers' Week Scotland 2021



Volunteers' Week is a UK wide campaign that takes place from 1-7 June every year.

It's a time when volunteering involving organisations are encouraged to thank and celebrate their volunteers, past and present. The Volunteers' Week campaign started in 1984, which means this year marks the 37th year of formally saying 'thank you' to volunteers.

The contribution of volunteers is often unseen and unrecognised by many, visible only through the incredible impact of their volunteering. However, the coronavirus pandemic has rightly raised the profile of volunteering and more people than ever are aware of the immense contribution being made every single day by the UK's volunteers.

[You can find out more and get involved here.](#)

Revitalising Trusts Project

In February of this year we reported that OSCR was planning to embark on a new two-year project in collaboration with Foundation Scotland to make contact with charitable trusts that appear to be inactive and to offer support



to their charity trustees with plans for breathing new life into their dormant or underused funds.

We are very pleased to announce that the Revitalising Trusts Project has now started with the appointment by Foundation Scotland of a part-time Project Advisor, Steff Bell. Steff will be working closely with OSCR colleagues over the next few months to identify trusts that match the Project criteria. We've created some [FAQs on our website](#) to introduce the project and more news about the Project will appear on this page as it progresses.

New Blog - Guide for reputation management after a cyber attack



In one of our latest blogs, Alison Stone from the Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC), talks about reputation management after a cyber attack, the tools organisations can use to inform your advance thinking

and what to do if you do become a victim of a cyber attack.

[Read the full blog here.](#)

Trustee Recruitment Cycle

The Trustee Recruitment Cycle has been developed by Reach Volunteering in collaboration with

Association of Chairs, Small Charities Coalition and Getting on Board. It supports boards to recruit trustees in an effective and inclusive way.



Trustees play an essential role for the charities they lead, setting the strategic direction, making key decisions and ensuring accountability. To do this well, trustees need to have a broad range of experiences, perspectives and skills, and they need to be representative of the communities they serve.

[Find out more about the Trustee Recruitment Cycle here.](#)

Blog: Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services and the New Online PVG Service



In this new blog, Ewen McMartin from Volunteer Scotland talks about Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services and in particular, the New Online PVG Service.

They also want to hear from anyone who has used the new online PVG service. If you have, tell them about your experiences through [this survey](#).

Free webinar: Updating your governing document - 22nd June 1-2pm

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. Join staff from the Scottish Charity Regulator in a short lunchtime session designed to help explain:

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

There will be an opportunity to ask questions, but we are not able to provide detailed, specific advice to charities on individual situations. However we can always point you in the direction of someone who can help. If you would like to attend please register by clicking [HERE](#).

Scottish Housing Regulator Board recruitment



**Scottish Housing
Regulator**

Scottish Ministers are recruiting two new members to the Scottish Housing Regulator's board.

The Scottish Housing Regulator is led by a Board of non-executives members appointed by Scottish Ministers. The Board sets the Regulator's strategic direction and has responsibility for governance and oversight of SHR. The closing date for applicants is midday, 28 June 2021.

Find out more information and how to apply on the [Scottish Housing Regulator's website](#) and also information on becoming a board member [HERE](#).

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

www.oscr.org.uk | info@oscr.org.uk | General enquiries: 01382 220446 | Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) 2nd Floor, Quadrant House, 9 Riverside Drive, Dundee, DD1 4NY |

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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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