



Welcome to haysmacintyre's regular email update for charities and not for profit organisations.

Keeping you up to date with compliance matters, legislative developments and financial best practice.

## New Charities SORP (FRS 102)

A new [Statement of Recommended Practice \("SORP"\)](#) applicable to Charities when preparing their financial statements has been released. There are no significant changes to what we have seen previously, but additional bulletins have now been combined within the one document to provide clarity around charity accounting.

From 2020, there will be changes to the way the SORP is developed with the SORP Committee looking for more representation from smaller charities and a greater focus on the users of the accounts. New members are being sought to work with the SORP Committee as one of eight new engagement strands that looks at the development of the SORP. [Applications close on 31 January 2020.](#)



## NCVO – safeguarding resources

Safeguarding and keeping beneficiaries safe is one of the key principles for charities. NCVO have updated their [safeguarding guidance](#) and provided a range of resources to suit the different needs of charities. The resources vary from if you are new to safeguarding through to safeguarding for trustees. NCVO also provides [useful guidance](#) on planning your safeguarding training which will help ensure that your charity regularly revisits this topic.

## Election – rules for charities

With the general election taking place on 12 December 2019, charities need to remain aware of the rules on campaigning. The Charity Commission has published [guidance for campaigning during the general election period](#) and a blog detailing its [guidance for charities](#). The rules shouldn't deter charities from campaigning but the key is for charities to make sure any activity focuses on an issues, and is not influenced or considered to be party political.



## Government backs down on probate fees increase

The long-running threat of significant increases in the cost of applying for probate appears to have receded after the Government withdrew its plans. The changes would have seen the flat rate of £215 for a probate application replaced with a cost structure based on the size of the estate, with larger estates paying up to £6,000. Mark Pattenden, Tax Partner, welcomed the move, commenting: “this was a stealth tax rise which would have hit families and beneficiaries at a vulnerable time”. If you would like to speak to someone about inheritance tax or estates, please email [Mark Pattenden](#) or your usual [haysmacintyre](#) contact.

## Going Concern auditing

The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) have issued a [revised Going Concern auditing standard](#) as a result of recent high profile corporate failures where the audit report did not highlight concerns over the entities’ ability to continue operating. The new standard requires auditors to: more robustly challenge management’s going concern assessment; provide a clear, positive conclusion on management’s assessment on public interest, listed and large companies; and to consider all evidence, both corroborative and contradictory, when forming their conclusion on going concern. Charities may well find that their auditors are now probing going concern assessments in more detail.



## Charity Commission guidance all in one place

The [Charity Commission website](#) has been updated to show all Charity Commission guidance in one place. Don't forget there are lots of useful tools for Charities to use, with key guidance on:

- Reporting to the Commission
- Managing your information
- Charity trustees
- Running your charity
- Financial reporting and accounts
- Change what your charity does
- Land, property and assets
- Work with other organisations
- Public benefit and charitable purposes

## Code of Fundraising Practice – now live

The updated [Code of Fundraising Practice](#) came into effect last month superseding the previous version. The Code sets out standards that Charities and Third Parties should follow in the UK. Whilst the content remains similar to the previous version, the Code has been enhanced by consolidating the former Code, rulebooks and legal appendices into one place along with providing clearer navigation and more transparent language.



## Upcoming Events

### **PARN Financial Benchmarking Report Launch**

Tuesday 26 November 2019

16:30 – 19:30

haysmacintyre offices

Our annual event reviewing the Professional Association Research Network (PARN)'s Financial Benchmarking report. The event is an opportunity for Professional Associations to measure their organisations against others in the sector.

### **Cathedrals update seminar**

Thursday 28 November 2019

10:30 – 15:00

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An event for Anglican Cathedrals to be briefed and share information on financial management and governance issues, together with an update on relevant tax and VAT matters.

### **Independent Schools' Conference 2020**

Monday 3 February 2020

09:30 – 16:30

Institute of Engineering and Technology, London

Our annual Independent Schools Conference providing Bursars, Head Teachers and Governors with the essential information on new developments and topical issues affecting the sector.

### **Topical update seminar for INGOs**

Tuesday 4 February 2020

13:00 – 18:00

haysmacintyre offices

A topical seminar update on the latest developments within the sector relevant to international not for profit organisations (INGOs).

### **Training courses for charity trustees: Charity law update**

Tuesday 18 February 2020

13:30 – 17:00

Cazenove Capital, London

At this event for charity trustees, we will look at Charity Commission cases and guidance, the latest developments in charity law, and other legal developments of interest to the sector.

### **VAT and Tax Exchange seminar**

Wednesday 19 February 2020

16:45 – 19:00

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Our bi-annual seminar series will be hosted in the Spring, providing an update on topical VAT and tax issues relating to charities and not for profit organisations.

### **Training courses for charity trustees: Introduction to charity finance and reporting**

Tuesday 3 March 2020

13:30 – 17:00

haysmacintyre offices

At this event aimed at charity trustees, we will look at finance, reporting, and important updates to trustee responsibilities in charity and not for profit organisations.

#### Charity update seminar

Thursday 12 March 2020  
AM session: 09:00 - 12:30  
PM session: 14:00 - 17:30  
haysmacintyre offices

As part of this bi-annual seminar series, our experts will be hosting two sessions in Spring covering finance, compliance, governance and other topical issues for charity and not for profit organisations.

#### Training courses for charity trustees: What every trustee should know

Thursday 19 March 2020  
09:30 – 17:00  
Cazenove Capital, London

This event, for both new and experienced trustees, will provide a comprehensive summary of trustees' duties and responsibilities.

#### Catholic Charity Conference

Wednesday 6 May 2020  
16:15 – 19:00  
Westminster, London

The 30th anniversary of our annual conference, held in association with Stone King, featuring inspired discussion and lively debates on a range of relevant topics affecting Catholic charities.

For further details on our not for profit upcoming events and to book your place, visit [www.haysmacintyre.com/events](http://www.haysmacintyre.com/events)

We welcome your feedback on this update and would love to hear about any areas you would like to see covered in future editions. Please email **Anna Bennett**, Charities Partner, with any comments.

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