

## NFP eNews 14 June 2024

Welcome to haysmacintyre's regular 'e-news alert' for charities and not for profit organisations.

### The upcoming general election

The general election has been announced to take place on Thursday 4 July. For NFP and charity organisations this is an important opportunity to highlight the issues faced by their beneficiaries, but charities must follow the law when doing so.

As a reminder:

- Charities are expected to follow the relevant guidance on Charities, Elections and Referendums which can be found [here](#).
- Charities are required to be independent and cannot have political purposes.
- Charities must never promote, or be seen to promote, a political party or candidate.
- This does not mean avoiding criticism of political parties' policies, and it does not mean that you have to avoid passionate, emotive or direct messaging – but you should remain focused on the issues relevant to your charity and avoid character attacks.

Some useful resources to support you during this period can be found in the links below:

- Charity Commission: Campaigning and political activity – what do charities need to consider ahead of a general election? Blog [here](#).
- Charity Commission: Charity campaigning in a general election period. Guide [here](#).
- Charity Commission: 5 minute guide Political activity and campaigning by charities. Guide [here](#).



## Updating the Charity Governance Code

The steering group for the Charity Governance Code has announced a public consultation to refresh and reshape the [code](#). Running until 11 August, you can complete an [online form](#) to have your say on a range of areas, including potential new topics for inclusion in the Charity Governance Code.

## Volunteers' Week 2024

Last week we celebrated the 40th Volunteers' Week which acknowledges the amazing contributions volunteers make to communities across the UK. Well done to all of those who took part this year.

Coinciding was [The Big Help Out](#) which is a campaign supported by NCVO and aims to showcase the benefits of volunteering and was celebrated by hosting the biggest mass volunteering event of the year.



## Helen Stevenson: Seven Reflections from her seven years at the Charity Commission

Helen Stevenson has stepped down as the CEO of the Charity Commission after seven years. In one of her last speeches, she has shared seven reflections, one for each year that she was in post.

- The key points address:
- The role of charity in our society;
- No right number of charities;
- The Charity Commission's resources versus expectation creep;
- The balance of regulation;
- Scrutiny of charity leaders;
- Volunteer trusteeship must remain attractive proposition; and
- Purpose-ride or die.

There are many areas covered which will resonate and highlight the importance of the sector within society.

Full details can be found [here](#).

## haysmacintyre's Quarterly Charities Update

Last week, we hosted our quarterly charities update covering various topics and insights for the sector. We were joined by guest speakers [Carla Whalen](#), Partner, Russell-Cooke and [Simon Bulleyment](#), Director, Sibrossa who shared insightful updates across volunteering and cyber security. If you missed the session, you can view the recording [here](#).

Our next session will take place in September, so don't forget to register overleaf.



### And finally... waiting since just after Magna Carta

A [report from the National Audit Office \(NAO\)](#) has found that taxpayers spent the equivalent of 798 years in 2022-23 waiting to speak to HMRC, more than double the time in 2019-20. HMRC also answered 22% fewer calls in 2022-23 compared to 2019-20 which the NAO attributed to more complex queries, chasing for updates and increased sickness by HMRC staff.

The NAO estimated that 72% of the calls received were caused by failings, such as HMRC processing errors or delays, taxpayers chasing progress and taxpayer errors. Although HMRC has been trying to deflect queries to online guidance, the NAO found that when it tested HMRC's digital assistant, half of the tax queries it sampled required the help of an adviser.

## Upcoming events

### Quarterly Charities Update

5 September 2024

15:30-17:30

Online

NFP VAT and Tax Exchange

October 2024

Online

Trustee Training: Roles and responsibilities

October 2024

Online

### Quarterly Charities Update

5 December 2024

15:30-17:30

Online

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

We welcome your feedback on this update and would be pleased to hear about any areas you would like to see covered in future editions. Please email [Siobhan.Holmes](mailto:Siobhan.Holmes), Director, with any comments.

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