

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- OSCR Corporate Plan 2020-23
- Upcoming webinar: Meet the Charity Regulator
- Impact of COVID-19 on Scottish Charities
- New protocols launched by Scottish Land Commission for trusts and charities that own land
- Convenors of SORP engagement discussions announced
- Inquiry Report: the University of Aberdeen
- UK Government Cyber Skills Research
- We're on social media!

OSCR Corporate Plan 2020-23

The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) has published its Corporate Plan for 2020-23.



Our **Corporate Plan 2020-23** sets out our strategic direction of business for the next three years.

It introduces our new vision for 'a trusted and respected Scottish charity sector which positively contributes to society' and includes information on:

- who we are and what we do
- our funding
- strategic actions, outcomes, outputs and indicators
- how we will report on our progress.

Our Corporate Plan starts at a time of unprecedented and unpredictable challenge for us all with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting every walk of life. For that reason, this Corporate Plan will be implemented with some flexibility, reflecting how our actions and priorities may be required to change in response to the pandemic.

OSCR has also published an **annual business plan** detailing our priorities and activities for the year ahead on our four strategic outcomes set out in this corporate plan. These outcomes support our vision and values, and positively contribute and promote delivery of the national outcomes as set out in the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework.

Upcoming webinar: Meet the Charity Regulator



You can now sign up for our next 'Meet the Charity Regulator 2020' online event.

The webinar is FREE and will take place on 15 September 2020 at 10am until 12pm.

It will include:

- an introduction from OSCR Chair, Lindsay Montgomery CBE
- information about OSCR from Maureen Mallon, our Chief Executive
- a question and answer session
- virtual breakout rooms for networking and discussion.

You will need to register before the start time to be issued with a link that will allow you to participate.

[Click here to register for Meet the Charity Regulator.](#)

Impact of COVID-19 on Scottish Charities

We have updated our [surveys page](#) to show the overall findings from our survey on the impact of COVID-19 on Scottish charities.



The survey was carried out between 5 and 15 May and almost 5,000 charities responded. A [summary of the key findings](#) was originally published on 5 June. They told us that:

- charities have been active in countering the impact of COVID-19 on their organisation, with 95% having taken some type of action
- cancelling or postponing planned work or events was the single most common impact of COVID-19 and the associated lockdown upon charities, with 78% affected in this way
- over half of the charities (51%) had lost income from fundraising. Two in five (42%) had lost income from other sources such as trading
- nearly a third (29%) of charities had seen a decrease in the number of volunteers with which they engaged
- one in five (20%) reported a critical threat to their financial viability in the next 12 months
- one in five (20%) Scottish charities predicted that they would be unable to do the work they were set up to do at some point in the next 12 months.

These findings will be used to inform OSCR's work, as well as to help local and national government, funders, public bodies and others in supporting the Scottish charity sector.

OSCR's Policy and Research Engagement Manager Louise Meikleham has produced a blog for our website where she reflects on the full data tables from the survey. [Read Louise's blog here.](#)

New protocols launched by Scottish Land Commission for trusts and charities that own land



SCOTTISH LAND COMMISSION
COIMISEAN FEARAINN NA H-ALBA

Two new protocols that set out practical expectations for private trusts and charities owning land in Scotland, have been published by the **Scottish Land Commission**.

Designed to ensure that the way land is owned, managed and used, benefits everyone in Scotland, the protocols set out expectations on trustees and land managers to manage land in a way that:

- Is fair and considers the needs and priorities of the local community
- Encourages positive behaviour by all parties
- Actively engages local communities in decisions on land use and land management.

They are the latest in a series produced by the Land Commission to encourage practical implementation of **Scottish Government's Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement (LRRS)**.

Specific expectations set out in both protocols, include:

- That there should be up-to-date, publicly available information about who the trustees are and readily available contact information for the landholding
- Where there are plans to make significant changes that will impact a local community, trustees should follow the procedures set out in the Commission's **Protocol on Community Engagement**
- If possible, trustees are appointed from the local area where the land is held.

Convenors of SORP engagement discussions announced

The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) sets out the framework for how larger charities prepare their annual report and accounts.



Following a governance review of the SORP development process in 2018-19, a new approach has been initiated which has greater engagement at its heart. To support the SORP-making body and the advisory SORP Committee in this work, volunteer engagement partners have been recruited through an open recruitment process. These partners each have a particular interest in one or more specific areas (known as engagement strands) which cover the key users of charity annual reports and accounts and the SORP itself.

To support the engagement work, each engagement strand has a convenor. These convenors have been drawn from SORP engagement partners following expressions of interest in the role.

Details of each of the convenors and the strands they have been appointed to are provided [here](#).

Inquiry Report: the University of Aberdeen



The Scottish Charity Regulator has published the findings of its inquiry into the University of Aberdeen (SC013863).

We opened an inquiry into the University of Aberdeen ('the University') on 10 July

2019 following liaison with the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Our concerns related to statements in the University's 2018 Annual Accounts regarding substantial settlement payments made to the former Principal in connection with his retirement.

[Read our inquiry report here.](#)

UK Government Cyber Skills Research

The UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is carrying out research looking at cyber skills in the UK labour market. 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 this study.



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 1,550 organisations interviewed (including 200 charities) via telephone, 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 October 2020, with the aim to publish findings in Spring 2021. Previous research findings and reports can be found [here](#)."

If you are contacted about the research and wish to know more you can call Darragh McHenry on 020 3059 4715 or email Darragh.Mchenry@ipsos.com.

We're on social media!

Do you or your charity use social media?

Following us is a great way to be kept up-to-date with our latest news. It's also a good opportunity for you to share your experiences and views with the regulator and, through us, the wider sector.



In addition to our ever growing library of **YouTube videos**, we put regular updates out on our **Facebook**, **LinkedIn** and **Twitter** channels.

Why not give us a follow?

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

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