

## Case Studies – publicising your charitable status

We received concerns from an anonymous complainant that a charity was failing to publish its charity number on its website. The complainant had been carrying out research on charities and noticed this omission.

### What happened?

We examined the home page of the charity's website and found no reference to its charitable status or its charity number, in breach of section 15 of the 2005 Act. We contacted the charity's principal contact to make them aware of the breach, and allowing them a period of three weeks to amend the website. The charity advised us that maintenance work was already under way, as the site had been recently hacked. However, the correct information was added and displayed on the site's home page within the required timescale, which the charity confirmed to us by email.

### What can you do to protect your charity?

Charity law and supporting Regulations set out what charities must do in order to publicise charitable status. Many of the breaches we find or have reported to us are oversights on the part of the charities concerned and are quickly addressed. However, you must take certain steps to prevent your charity making similar mistakes.

- You can consult our guidance and view the Regulations below and make sure that your trustees have read and complied with them.
- Essentially, your charity must publish its name, charity number and the fact that it is a charity on a range of documents, including the home page of your charity's website. These items are listed in our guidance for reference.
- The aim is to inform the public that they are dealing with a registered charity, providing transparency and reassurance – aside from legal requirements; it is in your charity's interest to do so.
- While the majority of such cases are dealt with by us contacting the charity, complying with these requirements saves time and hassle for you – and avoids you potentially misleading the public or raising questions about your organisation.

### Guidance and support

- You can [find out more here](#) and [read section 15 of the 2005 Act](#).
- You can [read our guidance on publicising your charitable status](#)
- You can find help and support from [your local Third Sector Interface](#).

- [Download our Registration logo](#) and use it on your website – ideally linking to your Register entry. This shows the public clearly that you are a registered charity.