



OSCR ANNUAL REVIEW 2015-16

Celebrating 10 years of Charity Regulation

At the end of the financial year, we were just reaching our 10th birthday making it a good time to reflect on what we have achieved over the first ten years.

Since 2006, we have had **12,130 applications** for charitable status with **9,120** new charities being added to the Scottish Charity Register. **2,660 concerns** have been dealt with, and we have given **consent to 8,450** changes proposed by charities. Through supporting the reorganisation of charities, we have managed to release **£40 million** back into the charity sector.

But how have we done on delivering on the key areas of our strategic plan?

A key area of our work is **helping the public to have more confidence in charities**. The charity survey results show that public confidence is pretty high. While many other factors can help build and maintain trust and confidence in charities, our surveys make it clear that there is a very definite link between trust and regulation with a great proportion of the public scoring trust highly if they know about OSCR. Over the ten years, we have developed our understanding of what it is that drives public trust and confidence, and this is allowing us to make sure that we are increasingly taking opportunities to contribute to this. In part we will do this by better targeting our resources at tackling issues that are most likely to undermine public trust and confidence in charities.



We also aim to help Scotland's 180,000 charity trustees understand and **comply with their legal duties**. From the very start of our journey we have looked to develop information and guidance that will help charities comply. During that time we have sought to improve the way we offer that information and guidance, trying to make it more accessible for all. A good example of the potential impact that guidance can have, is the independence referendum guidance that was written in 2013. This helped ensure that charities could get involved in the debate safely, without raising any concerns, or contravening any area of charity law.

Keeping registration and reporting straightforward and proportionate is essential because of the very nature of the sector in Scotland. Work done in 2006/2007 showed that, at that stage, over 67% of charities had an income of under £25,000. It remains the case today that there is a proportionality challenge, with 54% of charities still having incomes under £25,000. We therefore try to ensure that reporting is as easy as possible for smaller charities, and that we make sure they have information and guidance that is accessible for them.

We are also trying to **continually improve the way we operate and deliver services**. The proportionality challenge has been instrumental in pushing us to make sure that the services we offer are appropriate and as accessible as possible. In 2012 OSCR Online was created, allowing charities to submit their annual returns on line. This has made it simpler both for charities and ourselves to manage the information and has generally made communication easier. By the end of March 2016, 92% of charities were actively using OSCR Online, with the policy now being that all new users are signed up apart from in exceptional circumstances.

As ever, we want to acknowledge the crucial importance of the work done by charity trustees – their dedication and commitment to sound governance is the safeguard of high levels of public trust and confidence.

The Very Reverend Dr Graham Forbes CBE, Chair
David Robb, Chief Executive

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income and Expenditure for year to 31 March 2016.
For our full Annual Report and Accounts 2015-16 visit:
www.oscr.org.uk

Breakdown of annual operating costs



£11.31BN 
TOTAL INCOME OF SCOTTISH CHARITIES WE REGULATE
(EXCLUDING CROSS-BORDER CHARITIES)

£2.94M
SCOTTISH CHARITY
REGULATOR SPEND 2015-2016

EQUIVALENT TO EACH OSCR
STAFF MEMBER REGULATING
£233M

48.5 
AVERAGE NUMBER OF STAFF DURING 2015-2016

If you would like to know more, please visit www.oscr.org.uk and follow us on Twitter [@ScotCharityReg](https://twitter.com/ScotCharityReg)

THE YEAR IN FIGURES

(last year's figures in brackets)

918



NEW CHARITIES ADDED TO THE REGISTER (752)

1,025

CROSS BORDER
CHARITIES (1,042)

99,000



REGISTER SEARCHES, ON AVERAGE, PER MONTH (126,254)

362



CONCERNS REPORTED (337)

1,170



APPLICATIONS FOR
CHARITABLE STATUS (1,092)

184



REORGANISATION SCHEMES
APPROVED (170)

99%



OF CONSENT
APPLICATIONS
DECIDED WITHIN
THE STATUTORY
DEADLINE (99%)

97%



OF REORGANISATION
APPLICATIONS MET THE
STATUTORY DEADLINES (93%)

57%



STAFF ENGAGEMENT SCORE
IN THE UK CIVIL SERVICE
PEOPLE SURVEY (59%)

558,417



VISITS TO THE OSCR WEBSITE
(542,218)

24,053

OSCR

Scottish Charity Regulator

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHARITIES REGULATED BY OSCR (23,774)

92%



OF CHARITIES REGISTERED FOR OSCR ONLINE (77%)

PUBLIC AND CHARITY SURVEY RESULTS

(compared to 2014 except for where stated)



8,000



INCOMING LETTERS
AND EMAIL QUERIES
(7,500)

5,500



EXTRACTS OF THE SCOTTISH CHARITY
REGISTER DOWNLOADED FOR FREE

64%



OF THE PUBLIC RATE THEIR TRUST IN CHARITIES
AS 6/10 OR ABOVE (68% IN 2014; 61% IN 2011)

85%

OF CHARITIES SAY THEY
BENEFIT FROM BEING A
REGISTERED CHARITY

91%



OF CHARITIES RATE OSCR'S
COMMUNICATION AS GOOD,
VERY GOOD OR EXCELLENT
(89%)

84%



OF THE PUBLIC THINK THAT CHARITY REGULATION
VERY OR FAIRLY IMPORTANT (85%)

48%



OF NEW APPLICATIONS
FOR CHARITABLE STATUS
ARE SCIOs (44%)

5



INQUIRY REPORTS
PUBLISHED (6)

65



DAYS, ON AVERAGE, TO MAKE
A DECISION ON CHARITABLE
STATUS (63 DAYS)

8 IN 10

CHARITIES (79%) HAVE VISITED
THE OSCR WEBSITE (77%)

93%

OF CHARITIES SAY CHARITABLE
STATUS IS IMPORTANT (90%)

88%



OF THE PUBLIC SAY THAT KNOWING THE CHARITY
IS REGULATED GIVES THEM MORE TRUST (87%)

74%

OF CHARITIES AGREE STRONGLY THAT THEY
TRUST OSCR TO TREAT THEM FAIRLY (67%)

OSCR BOARD MEMBERS



**The Very Reverend
Dr Graham Forbes CBE**
Chair



Professor David Harrison
Deputy Chair



Shona Ulrichsen



Kaliani Lyle



Professor Stuart Cross



Pat Armstrong



Dr Sophie Flemig



Jess Wade



Sonia Johnston
(Shadow board member)

OSCR'S SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



David Robb
Chief Executive



Martin Tyson
Head of Casework



Laura Anderson
Head of Professional
Advice & Intelligence



Dr Judith Turbyne
Head of Engagement



Judith Hayhow
Head of Support
Services