

# OSCR Interim Environmental Strategy 2021



## 1. Our role

We are the independent regulator and registrar for Scotland's 25,000 charities. We grant charitable status, monitor registered charities, identify and act where we believe misconduct including mismanagement has occurred.

We are a non-ministerial office of the Scottish Administration, operating independently of the Scottish Government, reporting directly to the Scottish Parliament. All charities in Scotland must be registered with us and must meet annual reporting requirements to keep their status. We are an enabling regulator and offer a wide range of services to support and encourage improvement within the Scottish charity sector.

## 2. Our purpose

We hold charities in Scotland to account and help the charity sector to improve so that the public have trust and confidence in charities.

## 3. Our Vision

OSCR's vision is for a trusted and respected Scottish charity sector which positively contributes to society.

## 4. Our Values

Our values drive what we do, how we interact with each other, and how we work together and with others to achieve results. We strive to practice and demonstrate these daily.

## 5. Our strategic outcomes

Our outcomes as set out in our [Corporate Plan 2020-23](#) are:

- The public have confidence in charities
- Charities are well run and thriving
- Charities are at the heart of a vibrant and sustainable Scotland
- The Scottish Charity Regulator is a highly effective organisation

## **6. Covid 19**

Like many other organisations around the world, in March 2020 our work was deeply impacted by the global pandemic.

Our immediate priority was for the health and safety of our staff. We moved swiftly to ensure the correct infrastructure was in place to support our staff to work remotely, and to allow for the continuation of our business and services for stakeholders. We continue to make sure that our resources are targeted at supporting delivery of our key functions.

Covid 19 has had an impact on how we work, the ways in which we work and where we work. Since March 2020, our colleagues have worked from home with limited access to our office; our events have been delivered online and our need for office based commodities such as stationery, ink and printer paper supplies have reduced significantly.

This interim strategy reflects our new ways of working and will guide us through these uncertain times until we can return to a “new normal” in whatever shape that will take.

## **7. Our building**

Although we are a Scotland-wide regulator, OSCR is a relatively small organisation, normally operating from one office located on the second floor of Quadrant House, on Dundee’s Riverside Drive. Quadrant House is a leased property and is shared between OSCR, the Care Inspectorate (CI) and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). Heating, lighting, water, and waste collection are provided on a building-wide basis and are managed through a shared service contract by a facilities manager employed by the Care Inspectorate.

Our small size and consequently our relatively low carbon emissions, together with the shared services we use, mean that opportunities for emissions reductions are limited. Nevertheless, we are keen to demonstrate our commitment as a public body and to take action.

## **6. Managing this strategy and our public reporting duties**

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 is the key driver for our improved environmental and sustainability performance, and as a publicly funded body we have a responsibility to lead by example, and influence how Scotland performs in terms of reducing carbon emissions.

Overall responsibility for this strategy rests with OSCR's Head of Corporate, but all staff have a responsibility towards carbon reduction and are committed to achieving the targets set out in this strategy.

We undertake annual reporting to the Scottish Government on our emissions and our work to reduce our carbon footprint.

## **7. Our biodiversity duties**

As a Scottish public body, we have a statutory duty to further the conservation of biodiversity:

*“It is the duty of every public body and office holder, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions”* The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011, places a duty on us to make a report publicly available every three years on our compliance with the biodiversity duty. You can read our 2017-20 report [here](#)

## **8. Environmental objectives**

Our interim objectives reflect our current operating environment under Covid19; we will revisit these objectives when the threat from the pandemic reduces and we can return to our office.

We will:

1. Continue to promote the use of MS Teams for connecting with stakeholders
2. Continue to offer a calendar of online events
3. Encourage energy efficient behaviour in the work place (when we are allowed to return) and at home.
4. Meet our public reporting duties.
5. Look at the most efficient use of our physical workspace by undertaking a scoping exercise to understand our needs in terms of floor space and design.

## **9. How will we know if we have been successful?**

We will:

1. Have increased our online services to our stakeholders
2. Increased our interactions using MS Teams
3. Have met our public sector climate change reporting duties
4. Have increased our staff’s awareness of climate change and sustainability, both within the office and at home.

## **10. Reviewing this Plan**

This plan will be reviewed when the ‘new normal’ becomes clearer, and will be influenced by Scottish Government (SG) guidance which has yet to be published.