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## Transparency and Trust webinar - 27 October 2021

In OSCR's upcoming FREE webinar, our staff will set out the findings of our most recent charity survey in relation to trust and transparency, and give advice on how charities can improve their performance in these areas, including:



- Displaying your charity number
- Better communications
- Trustees' Annual Report
- Safeguarding and checks

The event will consist of a presentation and an opportunity to raise questions, and is aimed at charity trustees, staff members and advisors to charities.

[Register for 'Transparency and Trust' here.](#)

## Reminder - Check your Register Entry



When a potential funder, a beneficiary or member of the public wants to find out more about your charity, they may look at the information that is available on the [Scottish Charity Register](#). This contains key information about your charity including

its purposes and beneficiaries. It also contains financial information which is populated from the annual return you submit each year, and dependent on size and legal structure, a copy of your most recent accounts.

OSCR does not check every annual return and set of accounts submitted to us. We undertake targeted monitoring along with random checks of charity annual reports and accounts. This means if there is an error on the information submitted it may show incorrectly on the Register.

It is important for you as charity trustees to:

- take care to submit accurate information to us in your annual return common errors include entering the previous year information and entering too many zeros
- regularly check your Register entry to ensure the information shown is correct and notify us if there are any errors.
- make sure that your charity's Register entry is accurate and up to date is part of good governance and it may be the only publicly available information about your charity so you want it to be correct.

If you have any further questions, [please contact us](#).

## Charity Fraud Awareness Week

Charity Fraud Awareness Week (18 – 22 October 2021) is an award-winning campaign run by a partnership of charities, regulators, law enforcers, representative and umbrella bodies, and other not-for-profit stakeholders from across the world.



The purpose of the week is to raise awareness of fraud and cybercrime affecting the sector and to create a safe space for charities and their supporters to talk about fraud and share good practice.

### How do I find out more?

The Fraud Advisory Panel has launched a brand new website in partnership with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The website has information on how to prevent, detect and respond to fraud committed against charities and not-for-profits.

[Visit the prevent charity fraud website here.](#)

### OSCR Event on Charity Fraud Awareness

Join us on Tuesday, 19 October 2021 from 14:00 to 15:00 BST to learn how to protect your organisation from fraud and cybercrime.

This FREE online event, hosted by the OSCR in association with the Cyber Scotland Partnership, will have some great hints and tips on how you can avoid your charity or voluntary sector organisation becoming a victim. We will be joined in conversation with guest speaker Dave Carter, the Head of Counter Fraud Management at the British Council.

[Register here.](#)

## Vacancy: C1 Senior Manager, Policy and Improvement



We are currently seeking a Senior Manager, Policy and Improvement. This is a permanent and pensionable appointment.

As the independent regulator and registrar of all 25,000 Scottish charities, OSCR wants to see charities at the heart of a vibrant and sustainable Scotland. This post will play a key role in this, working to influence and inform national policy affecting charities and help shape the Scottish charity sector. This will include the legislation to improve Charity Law just announced in the Programme for Government. The postholder will also lead our work to ensure that charities are well-run and thriving, enabling and influencing to improve standards and practice in the sector.

The closing date for applications is 26 October 2021.

[Find out more here.](#)

## Revitalising Trusts Project – first charities contacted

In September, OSCR wrote to the first charities identified through the Revitalising Trusts Project because they appear to be dormant or show evidence of very little activity over the past five years.



Eight charitable trusts have been selected from the first group looked at with more to follow over the coming months. The letter advises them that they are eligible for help from the Project and that they will be referred to Foundation Scotland, with whom OSCR is collaborating to provide the support.

[More information on the Project is available here.](#)

## Social investment webinar



The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) recently held an online event about the need for board members to think differently and to revisit their strategic approach.

A recording of the event, which was called **Social investment: why trustees need to think differently about strategy and risk**, is [now available to view on YouTube](#).

The video is a conversation within the sector on this important topic. Chaired by Kieran Daly, Head of Market Building, Social Investment Scotland, the 90-minute online event also includes a panel of guest speakers:

- Jason Glass, Director of Operations, Camphill Blair Drummond
- Laura Anderson, Senior Manager - Higher Risk Cases & Quality Assurance, OSCAR
- Scott J Jeffrey, Partner, Johnston Carmichael and ICAS Associate

## Annual Report and Accounts 2020-21

OSCR has published its Annual Report for the year 2020-2021.

The report shows our financial activity, details the impact of COVID-19 on our operations and highlights key facts and figures.



Key figures for 2020-21 include:

- 817 Scottish charities registered (874 in 2019-20)
- 96% consent to change applications considered within the required timescale
- 426 concerns about charities handled (620 in 2019-20)
- 12 online events to better inform charities of their responsibilities and discuss our wider work with other stakeholders.

OSCAR continued to make significant progress in delivering on our own agenda over the course of the year as set out in our Corporate Plan. We introduced a new organisational structure to help develop a cross-disciplinary approach to our regulatory work, and made significant progress in delivering on our digital strategy, in particular developing a replacement to our OSCAR Online system that charities use to submit their annual information.

[You can read our Annual Report and Accounts for 2020-2021 here.](#)

## The work of TSIs throughout COVID-19



A report published in August highlights key findings and recommendations following a review of Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs) and the roles they played during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The aim of the review was to better understand the role of TSIs during the pandemic. It has been funded by Scottish Government and prepared in partnership between TSIs and Evaluation Support Scotland. The review included a desk review, case studies of six TSI areas, and independent interviews with local partners. It also identified the types of activities undertaken by TSIs during COVID-19, the effectiveness of different approaches, and lessons for the future of TSIs. The findings of the review are now available within the report.

Based on the findings, the report highlights 5 critical recommendations:

1. Celebrate the role of the third sector and volunteers during COVID-19
2. Build awareness locally and nationally of the role and impact of TSI's
3. Invest in the capacity and reach of the third sector in local decision-making
4. Build on the opportunities that have come out of COVID-19
5. Review funding for TSIs

[Read the report here.](#)

## What charities told us: November COVID-19 survey open responses

OSCR has published a review of charities' open responses to our November COVID-19 impact survey.

Many experiences, thoughts and comments were shared. We asked charities what they had learned and what support they needed. We said 'your voice matters' and the findings reflect the diversity of Scottish charities and show that the impact and experiences of the pandemic were widely varied.



[Read the Open Responses Introduction and Overview here.](#)

The full findings cover:

- [Funding and Fundraising](#)
- [How charities adapted to the pandemic](#)

- [What charities learned](#)
- [What charities asked for help with](#)
- [Places and Spaces Supplementary](#)
- [Volunteers and Trustees Supplementary](#)

More information and the full results of our charity surveys on the impact of COVID-19 from May and November 2020 can be found on our [Surveys page](#).

## Scottish Veterans Fund 2022/23

### THE SCOTTISH VETERANS FUND

This year's Scottish Veterans Fund is now open for bids from projects that improve the lives of former service personnel or their

families.

The funding pot for this year has been increased to £500,000 and individual projects can bid up to a limit of £50,000 per year. This year the fund is particularly looking to support bids which promote collaboration and partnership from amongst and out with the veterans charitable sector, as well as bids which include support to early service leavers.

Since the fund's inception in 2008 more than 180 projects have been supported receiving more than £1.7 million.

Copies of the grant application form and application guidance document are available via the links below. Please note these have been updated from previous years forms and guidance.

- [Grant application Form](#)
- [Application Guidance Document](#)

Contact details and information on support for bids can be found on the [Veterans Scotland website](#).

## Vaccination programme extended to 16 and 17 year olds – information available

All young people aged 16 and 17 years are now being offered the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination in Scotland. In line with the latest advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), they will be offered a first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.



- From Friday 6 August, people who are 16 or 17 in mainland Scotland will be invited to register their interest through the online portal at NHS Inform, and will then be sent an appointment via SMS or email.
- Eligible young people in Shetland, Orkney and Western Isles will be contacted by their health board and invited to attend clinics.
- Alternatively, drop-in clinics offering Pfizer- BioNTech are available for 16- and 17-year olds from Tuesday 10 December.

Anyone who doesn't register an interest or attend a drop-in clinic, once open, will be sent an appointment invitation through the post. It is expected that everyone in this age group will have been offered a vaccination appointment by the end of September.

Information is available on [NHS Inform](#) along with access to the self-registration portal.

Those without online access can call the National Helpline on 0800 030 8013.

## Information for Elected Members



Our website has a [page dedicated to providing information to Councillors, MSPs and MPs](#) about the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and the charity sector in Scotland. It answers the most common questions we receive from

Elected Members.

If you have a query that is not covered in the information please [contact us](#).

## Scottish Charity Constituency Map

The page also contains a link to a [Scottish Charity Constituency Map](#). This online tool shows Scottish charities by constituency regions and areas. It uses data from the Scottish Charity Register from February 2021 and excludes cross border charities.

## Scottish Charity Awards 2021 winners announced



The winners of an annual awards ceremony dedicated to recognising Scotland's voluntary sector were announced tonight (1 October) in an online event hosted by Sally Magnusson live from the EICC.

Run annually by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), the Scottish Charity Awards celebrates the best of the voluntary sector and this year's shortlist included 47 individuals and organisations from charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups across the country.

The winner of each of the nine categories was decided by a judging panel, with the tenth People's Choice category winner decided by the public, with over 12,000 votes cast.

[Find out the winners here.](#)

## Trustees' Week

[Trustees' Week 2021](#) will take place 01 to 05 November.



Trustees are the people in charge of a charity. They play a vital role, volunteering their time and working together to make important decisions about the charity's work.

Trustees' Week is an annual event to showcase the great work that trustees do and highlight opportunities for people from all walks of life to get involved and make a difference. For details of all the events happening this Trustees' Week, please visit [this website](#).

### OSCR Event on Collective Responsibility

How do you make good decisions as a charity Board, and then stick by them? On Wednesday 3 November, OSCR is holding an event on Collective Responsibility. Our staff will discuss real life scenarios highlighting challenges faced by charity trustees, and key learning points for the for the sector. [Sign up and get further details here.](#)

Also on 3 November, Stephanie Fraser, an OSCR Board member and CEO of Cerebral Palsy Scotland and Martin Tyson, OSCR's Head of Regulation and Improvement will be taking part with John Fitzgerald of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust in a Scottish Third Sector Governance Forum event, talking about what we have learned from the pandemic about hybrid working for charities and their trustees – [see here for more details](#).

## Report Highlights Response to TSIs Funding Model





A new report highlights the positive response received in an evaluation of the Response, Recovery & Resilience (RRR) Funding Scheme, which was distributed locally by [Third Sector Interfaces \(TSIs\)](#)

across Scotland.

The Foundation Scotland funding offered additional financial support to community groups, charities and third sector organisations (TSOs), to enable them to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on their services and to help facilitate their work in supporting communities during challenging times.

Working in partnership with the TSI Scotland Network, [Foundation Scotland](#) piloted a new means of grant distribution for this fund, in the hopes of reaching local organisations who were on the frontline of the community response to the pandemic. In this first of its kind funding scheme, TSIs were a direct facilitator for the funding, providing grants through a mix of open and closed funding processes.

Leveraging both local knowledge and reach into communities, 30 participating TSIs made a total of 267 awards to TSOs across the whole of Scotland with a total award value of £292,000.

Highlighted in the report is positive feedback from both TSIs and grant recipients.

[Find out more and download the report here.](#)

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

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