



## OSCR Reporter - August 2025



Welcome to the OSCR Reporter newsletter, your regular update of the latest charity sector news from the Scottish Charity Regulator.



### **Strong early response as Scottish charities embrace new charity trustee reporting**

Since new requirements came into effect on 30 June 2025, all Scottish charities will be required to submit charity trustee information to OSCR. In just over a month, almost [10% of charities on the Scottish Charity Register have already submitted charity trustee information.](#)

To date, the system has recorded details for over 15,000 charity trustees from 2,372 different charities - ensuring they are meeting their reporting requirements well ahead of schedule. By providing this data, charities are helping to build

public trust and confidence in the sector, ensuring that governance is visible and accountable.

If you haven't already done so, please log in to OSCR Online and submit your charity's trustee information as soon as possible. [Full instructions on how to provide charity trustee information using OSCR Online are available here.](#)

Read more about providing trustee information



## New charity banking guide published by the Charity Finance Group

The challenge some charities face with banking has been a cause of much concern in recent years. Charities are facing a variety of issues, from branch closures and difficulties opening an account to problems with ID verification, introduction of fees and the freezing of accounts without notice.

The Charity Finance Group has recently [published a new guide to help charities to communicate better with their bank](#) including step-by-step advice on raising and resolving concerns. The guide is a practical toolkit, containing background information on the common terms used by banks and sample emails for different types of communication.

[Read the banking guide](#)

---



## Improvement to the Record of Removed Persons search

Following some recent feedback, we have made a small [improvement to the Record of Removed Persons search](#) on our website.

The search results now display a more detailed message when no results are returned, which shows the term searched for and the date and time of the search. This can be used as evidence that a search for an individual has been carried out.

This small change will help Scottish charities to do their due diligence and act as a reminder to regularly review charity trustees' eligibility.

[View the improved search](#)

---



## New inquiry reports published by OSCR

OSCR has recently published two new inquiry reports:

- OSCR has directed [Free Wheel North \(SC039789\)](#) to hold a competent Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) so that the members of the charity can properly elect a new Board.
- OSCR has issued a direction to [Nicholas James Lee Gray LLC](#), a Limited Liability Corporation in the United States which has been misrepresenting itself as a charity in Scotland, to stop representing itself as a Scottish charity.

[View the latest inquiry reports](#)



## ICO fines charity Birthlink following destruction of irreplaceable personal records

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) fined Scottish charity Birthlink £18,000 after it destroyed approximately 4,800 personal records, up to ten percent of which may be irreplaceable such as handwritten letters and photographs from birth parents.

The ICO's investigation found the charity had limited knowledge of data protection obligations and lacked cost effective and easy-to-implement policies and procedures, which would likely have prevented the destruction. [Read more about this case here.](#)

The ICO provides easy to use [self-service tools](#), [helpful bitesize guidance and tips aimed at small charities](#) and detailed [records management and security guidance setting out what our expects from organisations](#).

[Read more about this case](#)

---

## More charity sector news

- From 31 August 2025, new rules on the automatic disqualification of individuals from acting in Scottish charities will come into force under the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023. The disqualification criteria is being extended to include a wider range of offences, and it will also apply to individuals undertaking a senior management function as well as charity trustees. [Find out more about these changes and read our updated automatic disqualification guidance ahead of 31 August.](#)

- The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Ms Somerville, has announced the [reappointment of Kirsten Howie and William Maxwell as Members of the Scottish Charity Regulator](#). They both bring a wealth of experience from roles across the charity and regulatory sectors. Their reappointments will run until 31 March 2029.
- The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is running a survey to find out how they can better support Scottish charities that are working with children and young people (age 0 to 25), and who are storing, collecting, or sharing their personal information. The [survey deadline has been extended until the end of August](#) and the ICO welcomes responses from all charities working with children and young people.



The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)  
2nd Floor  
Quadrant House  
9 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk)

You are receiving this email because you have subscribed to [OSCR Reporter](#).

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)