



Isle of Man Charities Registry and Regulation Quarterly Bulletin Q1 2023

WELCOME!

This is the first new style quarterly charities bulletin issued on behalf of H.M. Attorney General as the regulator and registrar of charities in the Isle of Man.

In each issue of this bulletin, we aim to report trends, issues or other important updates which will support trustees, directors or members of charities in the running of their charity.



Queries and requests to the Charities Administration Team

We continue to experience a high volume of enquiries and as such, there is a significant backlog which our small team is working hard to reduce. Where possible, we would ask that you set out any particular deadline that is relevant to your request or query, and check our guidance on the website at www.gov.im/charities (in particular on the Publications/FAQs page).

We are trying to reduce the amount of acknowledgments we send and are taking steps to process correspondence more promptly. To assist us we ask trustees not to chase a matter unless it is very urgent. We are currently working in a date received order, and we will respond to your query or request as soon as we can. We are refreshing the website and have plans to offer more guidance and training which should hopefully assist trustees.

We acknowledge, from the level of feedback received, that the transition from acting solely as a registry to also being the regulator has caused some challenges for charities. We thank you for your patience whilst we adapt our working practices.

Isle of Man Council of Voluntary Organisations



We encourage all charities to become a member of the Council of Voluntary Organisations (“CVO”). To do so or be added to the mailing list you can contact Jackie Betteridge or David Gawne at CVO@manx.net

The CVO is a support network for all charity trustees, and we will be working closely with the CVO to provide guidance and assistance as the regulator to of all charities on the Island, or those considering registration of a charity.

We plan to facilitate training for new/proposed trustees, to include training on accounts, although this will follow the streamlining of our processes

Change and reform of charities processes

We are always reviewing and considering the legislation and our processes and where improvements may be made. For example we are currently focusing on accounts requirements, audit levels, and exemptions, and a website refresh. We hope that these will improve and streamline the administration of your charity. A number of current changes and improvements are underway:

ACCOUNTS



- Improving content and format of forms
- Developing contacts with other regulators (Companies Registry for example)
- Consideration of accepting with guidance, rather than rejection, where law permits it
- Training seminars in conjunction with the CVO
- Refresh of Charities website with step by step processes, templates and guidance
- Updates to the register and accessibility
- All matters filed by a charity being dealt with at the same time
- Legal officer oversight of complaints and meeting requests
- Public communications on charitable issues to include transparency and protection of monies donated by the Manx Public.



Feedback is always welcome, and should be sent to charities@gov.im.

Charities Regulation – Best Practice

In an effort to improve our service and practice as a regulator, we will often look to other jurisdictions to find out what we could implement in the Isle of Man to the benefit of our trustees and charities, and ultimately the Manx public.

We are grateful to our colleagues in the Charity Commission for England and Wales who we have recently engaged with to highlight some of the risks and issues facing charities regulation which will inform the improvements to our practices.



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Updating your e-mail contact addresses

We regularly receive items of returned mail. To ensure mailshots and communications reach you, we would be grateful if you could check your charity's nominated address. The address is made publicly available and it should be an address that is routinely monitored.

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