

Natalie Don MSP,
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Sent via email

16 March 2023

Dear Natalie Don,

I am writing to you in your role as Convenor of the Scottish Parliament's Social Justice and Social Security with regard to the first evidence session held on 9 March 2023.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for giving OSCR the opportunity to provide information to the Committee to help members in their scrutiny of the Charities (Administration and Regulation) (Scotland) Bill.

Secondly, I committed to respond in writing to a question asked by Jeremy Balfour MSP, regarding the status of the Scottish Charity Appeals Panel:

The powers of the Scottish Charity Appeals Panel were transferred under the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland under the Transfer of Functions of the Scottish Charity Appeals Panel) Regulations 2018, to the First Tier Tribunal, available here: [The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland \(Transfer of Functions of the Scottish Charity Appeals Panel\) Regulations 2018 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk/uk/2018/1000).

These Regulations also abolished the Scottish Charity Appeals Panel.

Additionally, I was asked about OSCR's planned communications programme and would like to set out OSCR's plans in more detail:

OSCR will engage with charities and stakeholders in relation to the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill, starting with an initial communication to alert charities to the progress of the Bill through the Scottish Parliament.

The phasing of subsequent communication and engagement work will reflect decisions made about the commencement of the measures contained within the Bill. The content of the communications programme will explain the nature of the measures, as defined by Parliament and the Scottish Government, in Primary and Secondary Legislation. It will also be influenced by any changes to existing guidance

Charities you can trust and that provide public benefit

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published by OSCR, and will reflect feedback on possible impact of the measures emerging from the evidence to the Committee as well as our own stakeholder engagement.

OSCR will communicate directly with all charities in Scotland, and engage in depth with representative and umbrella bodies with expertise within specific sub-sections of the charity sector, to ensure that tailored information reaches all relevant charities in a timely manner.

OSCR has a number of established channels of communication with charities including social media and we will use these as well as in-person meetings and events.

The objective of this engagement will be to:

- raise awareness and understanding of the measures being implemented,
- understand potential impacts upon charities of the implementation of measures,
- provide charities with enough time and information to adjust current systems and processes before new measures come into force,
- provide charities and those who advise them with sufficiently detailed guidance on how OSCR would intend to exercise any discretion it has in implementing and interpreting the measures, including issues like connection to Scotland and the waiving of trustee disqualification,
- and help to mitigate where possible against disproportionate administrative burden or cost to charities.

I hope this additional information answers any further questions your Committee may have had following the evidence session on 9 March.

Yours Sincerely,

Martin Tyson
Head of Improvement and Regulation

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