

Charities & Not-For-Profit organisations

Brexit

Replacing EU funding after Brexit won't be simple. Real alternatives are thin on the ground. Charities and not-for-profit organisations are not even among the 58 sectors that have been consulted on the potential impact of Brexit. Heads of charities are calling for consolidation to best utilise available funding after Brexit, with one calling for 700 mergers in 2019.

Points to consider:

- Contracts and agreements, restructuring and employment issues to aid consolidation
- Funding and insolvency issues
- Legacy campaigns and trusts and Wills questions.

GDPR

Donor databases need cleansing and consent processes need to be updated in line with the new regulation long after the enforcement date. What does GDPR mean for handling donations via the web, contactless payments and text – or legacy and estate management?

Points to consider:

- GDPR guidance for charities and not-for-profit organisations
- Reputational management and cyber security advice
- GDPR issues related to employees and volunteers
- Compliance issues where there is no legitimate interest.

Trust

Recent high profile charity revelations have compounded falling public trust in charities. Kevin Watkins, Head of Save the Children, has called for a global vetting and barring system to regain trust in the sector.

Points to consider:

- Reputational management
- Rogue employees and other employment issues
- Legal input into potential global vetting procedures.

Cyber crime

The Lloyds report on Charities 2017 cited a distinct lack of digital or technological skills which exacerbates the GDPR risks and likelihood of data and financial breaches, and opens them up to cybercrime. More than 70% of charities rate their board's digital skills as low or with room for improvement.

Points to consider:

- Reputational damage from cybercrime and data privacy invasion
- Digital effects on charitable giving, such as apps, bitcoin and crowdfunding.



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We offer charities and not-for-profit organisations advice on a full range of corporate and commercial issues, utilising the skills of our in-house charity law specialists to ensure that advice is tailored to the sector's particular requirements.

Our multi-disciplinary team, many of whom are top ranked by independent legal directories Chambers and Partners UK and The Legal 500 UK, can advise and guide you at every stage in your organisation's development; whether it's early days of incorporation and you need advice with objects, trustees and registration, or you're well established and looking to expand, restructure and develop governance. We'll also provide advice and support with employment and property issues.

Our Contested Wills, Trusts & Inheritance team is consistently rated as one of the best in this area of expertise by legal directories. With a dedicated team of specialists, we work with many charity and not-for-profit clients to advise on disputes relating to Wills, estates and trusts. We also support our clients' legacies teams, advising on Wills and trust matters.

We encourage collaboration between clients and are able to introduce them to each other where there is strong potential to work together. This is especially so where we may be able to put a grant-making organisation in touch with another charity or not-for-profit organisation to help it deliver its objects.

Support for a new charity

We provide ongoing advice to a charity which supports people with a rare and little understood medical condition which can be completely debilitating and affect every aspect of their lives. Our initial role was to help the group to establish itself as a formal charity. Being registered with the Charity Commission was key to helping them build a network of support groups, undertake educational awareness-raising initiatives within the NHS and public promotional activities. Their work has led to a more timely diagnosis and treatment of people with the condition, as well as better understanding and care for patients during hospital stays. We have also recently advised the charity on the structure and implementation of new fundraising initiatives as well as partnership agreements with other charitable organisations.

"Service levels and response times are so high that it seems as if we are your only client."

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust