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February 2025

As we move through February preparations are underway for this year's seminar for charities. As many of you know, this is our free charity event for staff and trustees to get together and hear from key speakers.

This year's seminar will be on Tuesday 20 May (4pm to 6.30pm) at the Solent Hotel, Fareham.

Our focus this year will cover fundraising. This is a topic that has been requested by our attendees from our previous seminar. We have a UK and International fundraising consultant to cover this topic, and we look forward to hearing some tips and advice on fundraising strategies. Another topic that we are covering is AI and so we have an award winning marketing and AI expert joining us to provide useful advice for charities.

We will be emailing you full details about the seminar and how to register early next month.

In the meantime, we leave you with this month's round-up of sector news and funding opportunities.

With kind regards

Paul Underwood Stuart Mackie

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For more details about our services for charities and not-for-profit organisations, please visit our **website**

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Charities Statement of Recommended Practice

The consultation is on the charities statement of recommended practice (SORP) in March 2025, which brings some significant updates, to align the SORP with the revised financial reporting standards (FRS 102). Revenue recognition and lease accounting will be two key areas. Although the new SORP is not expected to be available before early 2025, charities can be proactive now to ensure steps are taken so that you are well prepared for the transition.

Further information can be found **here**

Tax Compliance

Following a consultation held in 2023, the government is set to introduce a new legislation which is aimed at tightening charity tax compliance. The reforms are expected to update regulations on charitable donations and introduce stricter criteria for assessing charitable spending. It is anticipated that there will be a consultation of the draft legislation in 2025, with the implementation planned for later in the year.

The changes will underscore the government's focus on preventing the misuse of the charity tax benefits, the consultation and proposals cover four areas; Preventing abuse of the charitable investment rules; Closing a gap in non-charitable expenditure rules; and sanctioning charities that do not meet their filing and payment obligations. Prior to the full implementation, the government will consult on the changes with sector stakeholders to prevent unintended consequences.

Employer NIC's impact

The increase of the employer's national insurance, which is set to rise from 13.8% to 15% from April 2025 as well as the secondary threshold which will be reduced from £9,100 to £5,000 per year means charities will be facing higher tax bills. It is estimated that around 75% of charities are having to reduce or considering withdrawing from public service delivery, and some 61% are likely to cut staff.

Even with the employment allowance more than doubling to £10,500 to shield the smallest organisations from the rise, for most it feels like the government has little to no understanding of what a charity is or what they do. Providing vital services and care to their local communities is challenging enough with the cost of living constantly rising, for such services are not a business and cannot up their prices so the alternative inevitably leads to a cut in services or a cut in staff.

Over 7,000 charities have now signed a letter urging the Chancellor Rachel Reeves to ease the burden of the increase, with others writing to the government separately. The sense is that there are lots of things and big decisions that charities and their boards are going to have to look at.



Funding News

Round-up of the latest funding news and opportunities

Open Grants Funds - Peter Minet Trust

The round 3 deadlines are to be announced in February 2025, the grants are up to £30,000 a year for up to three years. All eligible charities are encouraged to apply, and the grant is unrestricted and can be used in anyway the charity chooses. The aim is to fund between six and twelve charities at a time.

For further information and to keep an eye on the announcement deadline please click [here](#)

Greggs Foundation

The community grant foundation offers grants of up to £20,000, for up to two years based in one of their geographical focus areas. The focus areas do change from round to round and they are published on the website and priority is given to organisations in their geographical area that are located near to a Greggs outlet or in an area of need.

For further information and eligibility can be found [here](#)

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