

### **Charities Bulletin**



This Bulletin has been prepared by: Eric Williams Partner

Good News for Small Charities

You may be aware that large charitable donations and proposed tax relief caps have been in the news recently, but you may not be aware that some equally important changes to tax reliefs have been made which will benefit smaller charities. These are:-

# Gift Aid - New Wording on Forms

In the past some confusion has arisen with donors mistakenly assuming that payment of Council Tax or VAT means that they can gift aid their donation. To remove this misunderstanding, HMRC are suggesting the following new updated wording be used for gift aid forms.

"If I have ticked the box headed 'Gift Aid  $\sqrt{\ }$ , I confirm that I am a UK income or Capital Gains taxpayer. I have read this statement and want the charity or community amateur sports club (CASC) named above to

reclaim tax on the donation detailed below, given on the date shown. I understand that I must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the tax year at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and CASCs I donate to, will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given".

Gift aid forms with the existing wording will only be accepted until 31 December 2012 so we therefore recommend that you order the new forms in readiness for the change, effective 1 January 2013.

# Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme

Another beneficial change to small charities is the proposed change to the Gift Aid Small Donations If you collect small Scheme. donations in buckets, or for example during church services, where donors do not have the opportunity to complete gift aid forms, Charities can now claim top-up payments for these individual donations to the value of £20 - previously the limit was £10. The overall total is not to exceed £5,000. Although this is positive news it does also bring with it some complication over eligibility criteria and administration.

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If you would like to know more about these changes and how they could affect your organisation, please don't hesitate to make contact with either Eric Williams or Jackie Patient <a href="mailto:EWilliams@EdmundCarr.com">EWilliams@EdmundCarr.com</a> or <a href="mailto:JPatient@EdmundCarr.com">JPatient@EdmundCarr.com</a>

If you do experience problems with the Small Aid Donation Scheme, please let us know what the problems are and we will guide you to a solution.

#### Disclaimer

This newsletter is intended to give general guidance only and no liability can be accepted for any action taken based on the information given.

#### Edmund Carr LLP July 2012

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If you think this information might be useful to a friend or colleague, please pass it on.

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