



October 2016

Online guidance to help charity trustees exploit technology

Charity trustees in England and Wales are being encouraged to make full use of digital technology. In October 2016, the Charity Commission published 'Making Digital Work: 12 Questions about Digital for Trustees', which is intended to raise trustees' awareness of the opportunities provided by new technology.

The guidance invites trustees to consider how technology can help them carry out a range of charitable activities, such as fundraising, delivering services and governance, and also addresses the potential digital pitfalls for charities, such as negative online feedback.

Additionally Charity Social Media Toolkit was made available in September 2016 free of charge online by the Skills Learning Platform. The toolkit covers topics such as social media strategy for charities, raising money through social media campaigns and analysing social media performance.

[Click here](#) for more on **Making Digital Work: 12 Questions about Digital for Trustees'** and [here](#) for more about the **Charity Social Media Toolkit**.

HMRC updates Retail Gift Aid guidance

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has updated its guidance on the circumstances under which charities and community amateur sports clubs (CASCs) can claim Gift Aid. The changes were made to the section of the guidance about the operation of the Retail Gift Aid scheme and relate to the sale by public or online auction of valuable or collectable items that have been donated to charities.

The guidance has also been updated to clarify how the Retail Gift Aid scheme applies to the proceeds from the sale of items donated to charity shops. HMRC made the changes in September 2016 following a number of calls to the charity helpline asking if the Retail Gift Aid process can be applied to items donated for sale at a charity fundraising auction.

The guidance now states that this process is exclusive to charity shops that operate a Retail Gift Aid scheme to sell items on behalf of donors, and charities can sell valuable items donated to a shop at a public or online auction to maximise the amount that is raised.

For the changes to the **guidance** [Click here](#) and for the full guidance on claiming **Gift Aid on Donations** [click here](#)

Charity Commission - Annual return 31 October deadline looms

The Charity Commission is reminding charities with a financial year ending 31 December 2015 that they have less than 2 weeks to file their annual return or accounts before the 31 October deadline.

[Click here](#) for the top tips from the Commission on how to avoid making mistakes and falling into default with the accounting and reporting requirements.

[Click here](#) for a full list of UK200Group Charities & Education Group members

UK200Charity & Education Group

We are specialist chartered accountants and law firms providing accounting, legal and advisory services for clients in the charity sector. Our members have a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the sector, providing expert support and assistance for charities ensuring Trustees discharge their responsibilities properly as defined by Charity Law, guidance issued by the Charity Commission and OSCR including the application of the SORP to the annual report and accounts, audits and independent examinations and advice on VAT, Gift Aid procedures, investments and funding.

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