

Essential Trustee



October 2024

Charities newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of Essential Trustee, containing essential legal news and updates for charity trustees and senior management.

Articles in this edition share thoughts and guidance from the Team on trustee disputes and disqualification, including an in-depth look at the Captain Tom Foundation and the Actors' Benevolent Fund, how new bills from the Labour Government may introduce both good and bad change for the sector, and how a recent Employment Appeal Tribunal judgment has raised questions over the status of charity trustees and whether they should be entitled to protection akin to that available to workers. We also share a Charity Commission regulatory round-up that will be of interest to charity trustees.

In our upcoming [webinar](#) on 21 November, [Jennifer Marley](#) and [Sara Sayer](#) will discuss recent examples of charity trustee disputes, how they can be managed, and what can be done to help avoid them. If you missed our previous webinar on [cyber security for charities](#), you can watch it on our YouTube channel.

Remember, you can keep up to date with the latest news and updates from the Charities Team by following our dedicated [LinkedIn page](#).

If you have any queries or would like any advice on the topics raised, please do get in touch.



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Featured articles

The “public benefit” of human rights: when model charitable objects are not charitable

[Nicola Morriss](#) discusses how the First Tier Tribunal recently held that a charitable incorporated organisation was not charitable despite the fact that its objects reflected exactly the Charity Commission’s model objects.



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Captain Tom Foundation: trustee disqualification

[Liz Brownsell](#) reports on the disqualification of Hannah and Colin Ingram-Moore as charity trustees.

[Read more](#) →

Charities and conflicts of interest: is the guidance clear enough?

[Liz Brownsell](#) questions if the Charity Commission is doing enough to educate and support trustees in relation to conflicts of interest.

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Charities and a Labour government: all change?

[Nicola Morriss](#) explores which new government bills will impact the charity sector, and the announcement of the Civil Society Covenant, beginning a partnership between government and civil society.

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Charity trustee disputes and the importance of resilient governance

[Jennifer Marley](#) discusses the recent trustee dispute at the Actors' Benevolent Fund, sharing how resilient governance can help charities avoid such situations.

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Charity trustees: volunteers or workers?

[Sonya O'Reilly](#) shares a recent Employment Appeal Tribunal judgment in a case relating to the British Psychological Society. In the case, the EAT suggested that *“the role of a charity trustee is akin to an occupational status”*.

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Regulatory round-up – Charity Commission updates

[Amy Bradburne](#) highlights some key updates and developments from the regulator that will no doubt be of interest to all charity trustees.

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News



Birketts advises High Performance on launch of new foundation

Birketts' [Charities Team](#) has advised High Performance, a renowned platform borne from the award-winning High Performance podcast, to launch a new foundation.

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Birketts added to Charity Commission Interim Managers list

Two members of Birketts' [Charities Team](#) have been approved to join the list of practitioners who will be considered for future Interim Manager appointments by the Charity Commission.

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Events



Webinar catch-up: fortifying cyber security for charities

In conversation with [Liz Brownsell](#), Simon Holden, Founder and CEO of Cybur Ltd, shared current threat trends, common vulnerabilities, top security tips, and free resources for charities. Learn how to protect your charity's sensitive data effectively with affordable and accessible solutions.

[Watch here →](#)

Upcoming webinar: trustee disputes

Join [Jennifer Marley](#) and [Sara Sayer](#) as they discuss recent examples of charity trustee disputes, how they can be managed, and what can be done to help avoid them.



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