

Charity Accounting Regulations Consultation

Submission on behalf of Friends of the Ochils by Dr David Gordon, Treasurer,
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In general we welcome the proposals, and support the preferred option.

The proposed thresholds are correct. We think that independent examination of the accounts should be a requirement for all small charities (<£250,000). It provides a safeguard for the public/members, for the charity, and for the treasurer.

All charities should follow the same accounting regulations unless there are other statutory or recommended requirements of no lesser standard that more specifically apply.

We agree with the proposals on accounting periods, timeframe and actions available to OSCR.

We agree with the regulations adopting SORP and with the way this is done (i.e. option 2 on page 17).

The Regulatory Impact Assessment underestimates the cost of compliance. In our own case, if a half day private study is required, the cost is an opportunity cost (at my salary) of three times that assumed for charities <£25,000. Much could be done to minimise this cost by making available very clear, plain English, guidance specifically for small charities preparing accounts on a receipts and payments basis, indicating what needs to be done to comply with the regulations, once they are approved.. It would take some OSCR/SE time to compile simple, concrete guidance but would save many multiples of that time for volunteer amateur treasurers.

DJG
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