

The Charity Commission

The Charity Commission for England and Wales is the non-ministerial government department that regulates registered charities and maintains the Central Register of Charities in England and Wales.

As well as registering charities, the Commission is also responsible for taking enforcement action when there is malpractice or misconduct and ensuring that charities meet their legal requirements, including providing information on their activities each year. It supports charities by providing online services and guidance to help them run as effectively as possible, and it also makes appropriate information about each registered charity publicly available.

The Commission has identified three key areas of priority for its work:

- to develop public confidence in the charity sector
- to develop the sector's compliance and accountability
- to develop the self-reliance of individual charities

The Commission is accountable to Parliament and is funded by the Treasury.

Over the past decade the Commission has seen a stark decline in the central funding it receives from Government. Funding decreased dramatically, and has fallen by £8m since 2010. It will now be frozen at £20.3m a year until 2020, meaning a continued fall in the real-terms funding of the Commission.