

SCFDG News

a newsletter of the Scottish Charity Finance Directors' Group

Welcome

Welcome to the first SCFDG newsletter for 2008. We hope this quarterly publication will provide an update on current affairs of interest to members and charity finance managers, together with details of upcoming events organised by SCFDG.

Our new financial year commences on 1st April and we will begin with an event, kindly hosted by the Royal Bank of Scotland. This is a superb opportunity for members to enjoy lunch at The Hopetoun Room, 35 St Andrew Square on Thursday 10th April, whilst hearing an RBS bank economist speak on current economic issues. We have already had a positive response from members but there are still a few places available so if you'd like to come along, contact our administrator, Irene Cameron (icameron@a-m-s-online.com) to confirm your attendance.

Future seminars for 2008 are currently being finalised and are outlined elsewhere in this newsletter as well as on our website at www.scfdg.org.uk.

The quarterly newsletter is a new venture for SCFDG for 2008 and your comments on how we might improve it are welcome. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank members for their support of SCFDG over the last year and trust you will continue to support our activities in this coming year.

Catrina Scrimgeour, Convener



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For all the latest news and information
on SCFDG visit our website at:

www.scfdg.org.uk

SORP COMMITTEE Latest ...

The SORP Commission and OSCR are authorised by the ASB as the SORP-making body and as such take responsibility for organising the SORP review, drafting any revision and undertaking the consultation process. In making recommendations, the Commission and OSCR are expected to act on the recommendations of an expert committee—The SORP Committee. The recommendations of the SORP Committee are then tested through extensive consultation before recommendations are finalised and published.

Taking the pulse: Developing SORP with Stakeholder Roundtables

The SORP Committee is holding a Stakeholder Forum on 25 April to debate charity reports and accounts. Representatives of various sectors and users of accounts have been invited, including a representative from SCFDG. After the Forum, a series of roundtables will be organised across the country, including Scotland.

SORP Committee minutes and papers are available online at:

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/investigations/sorp/compapers.asp>

TAX matters...

Sending staff home by taxi

HMRC has published a new section to their Employment Income Manual—one part of this lays out the conditions under which sending staff home by taxi is not taxable. Guidance can be found at:-

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/eimanual/EIM21831.htm>

VAT

HMRC has lost an appeal in the House of Lords concerning the implementation in 1997 of a three year cap on refunds of VAT. HMRC will therefore be enforced to make substantial repayments to businesses. Consult your VAT adviser if you think you may have a case for repayment of funds.

Joint Statement from HMRC and OSCR

HMRC and OSCR have now clarified the requirement for "definition clauses" in constitutions of bodies on the Scottish Charity Register that also wish to seek tax relief from HMRC. The statement can be viewed or downloaded from the HMRC website at:-

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/oscr-hmrc-statement082202.pdf>

Do you wish to play a part in shaping the future of the Charitable Sector?

OSCR has published a consultation on Meeting the Charity Test Draft Guidelines. Due to developments in the application of the test since introduction, OSCR has decided to revisit and update the guidelines and are now seeking **your** views. Responses must be made by 7 April 2008. Documents can be viewed/downloaded from the OSCR website at:-

Draft Guidelines:

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/PublicationItem.aspx?ID=5455d7cc-a60c-456e-9d06-e623144e8359>

Response Form:

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/PublicationItem.aspx?ID=be127198-6d6b-4b52-83e9-7370f36aa054>

How does your charity compare?

If you are interested in charity facts and figures, OSCR has produced a profile, based on Annual returns submitted in advance of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Details available on the website at:-

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/Charityfactsandfigures.stm>

Employment Law

The Advocate General has now provided his opinion in *Stringer v HMRC* (formerly *Ainsworth v HMRC*) which related to the accrual and taking of holiday pay whilst on long term sick leave. Although this has still to be heard by the European Court of Justice, if it is upheld then this could mean that when an employee is absent on sick leave then they are entitled to holiday pay. They also may be able to carry holiday over. Consult your employment lawyers for advice if you think you have employees in this position.

SCFDG Membership

SCFDG's objective is to provide an opportunity for the exchange of views and discussion between accountants and finance professionals in the charity sector; to assist in improving the professional standard of those with financial responsibility in the charity sector in Scotland; and to provide an additional focal point within the Scottish charity sector which embodies organisations such as the Scottish Executive, OSCR, ICAS and others for an informed view on technical matters relating to charity accounting and finance.

Application forms for membership can be downloaded from the website at www.scfdg.org.uk or from the SCFDG Administrator (icameron@a-m-s-online.com).

Membership benefits include:-

- ◆ Complimentary registration at regular seminars covering a wide range of charity finance topics
- ◆ Reduced registration at SCFDG conferences
- ◆ Complimentary copy of the annual Charity Finance Yearbook
- ◆ An opportunity to assist in improving professional standards within the charity finance sector
- ◆ An opportunity to make your views known to organisations such as OSCR and the Scottish Executive through consultation and lobbying groups
- ◆ Networking opportunities with other finance professionals in the charity sector
- ◆ Expert advice from co-members
- ◆ Access to members' online discussion forum via the website at www.scfdg.org.uk

2008/09 Membership

Membership subscriptions for 2008/09 are due with effect from 1st April. Renewal forms can be downloaded from the website at <http://www.scfdg.org.uk/id2.html> and forwarded with payment (£65) to SCFDG Administrator, PO Box 2781, Glasgow, G61 3YL.

Diary Dates 2008

Thursday 10 April 2008

RBS Lunch



The Hopetoun Room,
35 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

12.30 pm for 12.45 pm

RSVP: icameron@a-m-s-online.com
by Wednesday 2 April

Wednesday 14 May 2008 (provisional)

OSCR Update

RSE Conference Centre, Edinburgh
2.30 pm for 3.00 pm

Wednesday 10 September 2008

"Facing change in a declining economy"

The Teacher Building, Glasgow
2.30 pm for 3.00 pm

Wednesday 12 November 2008

AGM & Social Networking

The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh
4.30 pm — 6.00 pm