

Consultation on the proposed charity accounts taxonomy



Introduction

Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) is a registered charity and umbrella body working to support, develop and represent Wales' third sector at UK and national level. We have over 3,350 organisations in direct membership, and are in touch with many more organisations through a wide range of national and local networks. WCVA's mission is to provide excellent support, leadership and an influential voice for the third sector and volunteering in Wales.

WCVA is committed to a strong and active third sector building resilient, cohesive and inclusive communities, giving people a stake in their future through their own actions and services, creating a strong, healthy and fair society and demonstrating the value of volunteering and community engagement.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the FRC and Charity Commission's consultation on the proposed charity accounts taxonomy. We have consulted our membership and wish to make the points detailed below, which we believe are of importance for the third sector in Wales. Our response is informed by WCVA's work with organisations relating to governance.

We are of the opinion that it will be advantageous for charities to be able to file accounts digitally, for the following reasons:

1. Administrative ease or convenience, as it is likely that the digital system would make the filing of accounts quicker and simpler. As accounts can already be submitted in this way to other bodies that charities may report to, such as Companies House and HMRC, it would be logical for the necessary systems to be in place to also allow digital filing with the Charity Commission;
2. More efficient data sharing, as having the same systems in place for Companies House, HMRC and the Charities Commission will enable data to be shared between those bodies more easily. We would hope that this would lead to less duplication in reporting processes for charities;
3. Increased transparency, as the Charity Commission would be able to make data more readily accessible on their public register using digital accounts;
4. Impact and reporting purposes, as using the proposed system should enable charities to extract information that they want and analyse it more efficiently.

We agree that smaller charities may need additional help in order to be able to file accounts digitally, but provided satisfactory templates and guidance are made available by the Charity Commission (as proposed) we would welcome the introduction of the proposed accounting taxonomy.

If you require additional information regarding this response please contact Anna Bezodis on abezodis@wcva.org.uk.

WCVA
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