

CLAS CIRCULAR

2025/09 (16 June)

Disclaimer

CLAS is not qualified to advise on the legal and technical problems of members and does not undertake to do so. Though we take every care to provide a service of high quality, neither CLAS, the Secretary nor the Governors undertakes any liability for any error or omission in the information supplied.

It would be very helpful if members could let us know of anything that appears to indicate developments of policy or practice on the part of Government or other matters of general concern that should be pursued.

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CHARITIES & CHARITY LAW

Raising a concern with the Charity Commission (CC47): updated guidance

For information **and possibly for action**

The Charity Commission has updated its [guidance](#) on what to do when someone wants to raise a complaint about a charity with the Commission. The guidance has been updated to make it clearer when to raise concerns about a charity with the Commission, as well as what the Commission can and cannot do in its capacity as regulator.

The full guidance can be accessed [here](#). The guidance on what the Commission can and cannot do is in sections 2 and 4, while the guidance on how to raise issues with a charity is in section 6.

[Source: Charity Commission, 9 June]

National Churches Trust survey: a reminder

Possibly for action?

As we have mentioned previously, the NCT is running a National Churches Survey to give policymakers, the media and the wider public a better understanding of the challenges that churches face and to highlight the work that they do. The survey has the support of denominations, faith and heritage groups across the country, and the NCT is encouraging as many as possible to take part.

As we understand it, ***it will only be of any use if individual places of worship respond*** – it's not the kind of survey that is appropriate for corporate responses.

The survey is [here](#): it closes on **30 June**.

[Source: HRBA, 12 June]

Out-of-School Settings and safeguarding: call for evidence

For information **and possibly for action**

The Department for Education is calling for evidence to help shape future safeguarding policy for the Out-of-School settings (OOSS) sector. This diverse sector includes providers such as tuition centres, extracurricular clubs, youth groups (e.g. Scouts and Brownies), holiday camps, activity centres and **faith-based education settings**.

The consultation is seeking views on existing safeguarding practices in Out-of-School settings and potential options to strengthen safeguarding across the sector. Contributions will help ensure that children attend safe and trusted settings.

The consultation can be found [here](#) and additional documents [here](#). This consultation will close on **21 August 2025**.

[Source: Dept for Education, 29 May]

FAITH & SOCIETY

Law Commission consultation on New Funerary Methods

For information **and possibly for action**

The Law Commission has published a [Consultation Paper on New Funerary Methods](#) – potential alternatives to the established methods of burial, cremation and burial at sea. Although new funerary methods are not currently regulated in England and Wales, some are available in other countries.

As part of the Commission's overall project on Burial, Cremation and New Funerary Methods, the Consultation Paper examines the conception of a new funerary method, legislation governing new funerary methods in other jurisdictions, the nature and scope of future regulation and the principles which could inform it. The Commission is seeking views from potential operators of new funerary methods, those who are interested in using them, funeral directors, others involved in the death care sector and anyone with an interest in this area.

The consultation is open until **4 September**. Responses can be made using the online form available on the project webpage. Respondents do not need to answer all the questions if they are only interested in some aspects of the consultation.

CLAS is a member of the Churches' Funerals Group, which is currently considering a response. We should be interested to see any responses from individual denominations.

The Commission is running four briefing sessions on the consultation: one in London, one in Leeds and two online: booking with Eventbrite, details below:

- London: Tuesday 1 July from 14:30 – 16:00 at the Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France SW1H 9AJ: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1401395885819>.
- Online: Tuesday 8 July from 15:00
16:30: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1401460840099>.
- Leeds: Wednesday 16 July from 14:30 – 16:00 at G.13, Maurice Keyworth Building, Moorland Road LS6 1AN: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1401415093269>.
- Online event: Wednesday 23 July from 11:00 – 12:30:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1401554710869>.

[Source: Law Commission, 4 June]

SCOTLAND

Trustee information: a reminder from OSCR

For action

From **30 June 2025**, OSCR will begin [collecting charity trustee information through OSCR Online](#). Providing this information will become a legal requirement for all charities.

Charity users must submit trustee details using OSCR Online. Any charity completing a new online annual return created on or after 30 June 2025 will be required to include trustee information as part of the submission.

Before this date, make sure that you:

- inform all trustees about this upcoming change;
- collect the required trustee information (see our website for a [list of the required information](#)); and
- ensure that relevant individuals (up to three per charity) [have access to OSCR Online](#).

[Source: OSCR, 13 June]

Heat and Energy Efficiency Technical Suitability Assessment (HEETSA)

For action

The Scottish Government is setting out a consultation on the Heat and Energy Efficiency Technical Suitability Assessment (HEETSA), a process beyond the current Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) for assessments of buildings to confirm which energy and clean heat measures would be appropriate for given buildings.

The Scottish Government is seeking views of stakeholders, including social landlords, on the concept of HEETSA and how it relates to other parts of the heating and retrofit landscape, how it relates to the current EPC regime, and what the right methodologies to employ for it would be.

The consultation can be accessed [here](#), and supporting documents can be accessed [here](#). The consultation will close on **29 August**.

There will also be a number of workshops held to discuss the ongoing development of HEETSA. Dates, times, and links to each can be found below.

[HEETSA Workshop 1](#): 29 July, 10am-12pm

[HEETSA Workshop 2](#): 5 August, 2pm-4pm

[HEETSA Workshop 3](#): 26 August, 2pm-4pm

[Source: Scottish Government, 6 May]