

## Charities Regulator Stakeholder Forum

Date: 15 April 2024

Location: Charities Regulator, Georges Dock Dublin 1 and virtual.

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The third meeting of the Charities Regulator's Stakeholder Forum was held on 15 April 2024. An agenda was circulated before the meeting.

### Charities Regulator updates

- Madeleine Delaney (Interim Chief Executive /Director of Legal Affairs and Registration) updated the forum on the recruitment for a new Chief Executive and her appointment as Interim Chief Executive by the [Board of the Charities Regulator](#). She also updated the forum on recent appointments to the Board by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD. These include the appointment of Gerry Kearney as member and Chairperson of the Board. Madeleine provided an update on the progress of the Charities Amendment Bill, which will be at the committee stage in the coming weeks. She also drew the forum's attention to a recent webinar hosted by the Charities Regulator on charity property and regulatory authorisation, which was attended by over 300 legal professionals. The webinar was held to further increase awareness of the statutory process the Charities Regulator is required to follow in these matters and in an effort to improve the quality of applications that are made to the Regulator which in turn will help improve the timeline within which decisions are issued.
- Thomas Mulholland (Director of Compliance and Enforcement) updated the forum on the targeted compliance project to improve levels of compliance with annual reporting obligations.
- Geraldine McCarthy (Head of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement) provided some top line results from a recent survey of senior managers / CEOs of charities as part of an ongoing review of guidance. She also informed the forum of a forthcoming survey of trustees, and an initiative to increase the public's understanding of what a charity is and is not.

### Group discussions – Charities Governance Code

- Following on from a discussion at the previous meeting on reviewing the Charities Regulator's current guidance for charity trustees, the trustee members of the forum broke into small groups to discuss communications around the Charities Governance Code and how charities are using the Code at present to help improve their organisation is charity is run. They also discussed possible additional changes or supports that would be helpful for charities of all sizes, including promoting how they implement it to their stakeholders. The suggestions included tracking progress across the year using a version of the current compliance record

form and promoting a charity's status on its own website. The groups fed back their views and suggestions to the wider group including the Charities Regulator's representatives, where a further discussion took place.

### **Next meeting**

The forum will meet again in October 2024.