

Press release: Charity Commission report shows almost 40% of small charities are providing inaccurate financial information

In a review of a sample of charities, 38% of charities with incomes below £25,000 per annum were found to be submitting inaccurate data.

Small charities make up two thirds of all charities on the register and basic information on income and expenditure is the only financial information most are routinely required to provide to the Commission.

In the sample of charities with incomes over £25,000, income and expenditure figures were 90% accurate.

Larger charities, with incomes over £500,000, must provide more information and in this sample, the Commission found a 95% accuracy rate for their balance sheet figures, but income and expenditure analyses were just over 80% accurate.

The Charity Commission, which regulates charities in England and Wales, has concluded that many charities task someone with insufficient knowledge of their organisation's accounts with completing their annual return figures, resulting in errors.

"Not providing accurate financial information is misleading and can have an impact on public trust.

"People want to know how charities spend their money; so this result is clearly not good enough."

The Charity Commission checked the accuracy of financial information provided by its samples of charities in their annual returns by comparing it with their accounts.

The charity register holds information on all registered charities' income and expenditure.

There are almost 12 million views of the register each year and this information is used to create data for the charity sector as a whole.

The full report is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

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