

# Press release: New charity investigation: Kenya Community Support Network

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has opened a statutory inquiry into the Kenya Community Support Network (1104003). The investigation was opened on 22 January 2018.

The charity's objects include relieving poverty, sickness and distress among Kenyans and promoting research into the conditions of life of Kenyans. The charity's stated activities include providing advice and guidance on issues such as immigration, health, welfare benefit, housing, further education, training and basic counselling.

The Commission engaged with the charity in October 2017 after receiving a complaint. This complaint raised concerns about the charity's expenditure and whether it was in furtherance of the charity's objects. The Commission met with representatives from the charity to explore the charity's internal governance, management and administration and inspected the charity's records. The Commission is concerned that there are strong indicators that show that the charity is being used for significant private benefit, that there is mismanagement and misconduct in the administration of the charity, and that the charity is not carrying out activities in furtherance of its charitable objects for the public benefit.

In order to address these concerns, the investigation will look at:

- whether the trustees have acted in compliance with their legal duties and responsibilities under charity law in the administration of the charity
- the financial management of the charity, in particular with regard to its expenditure
- whether there has been any private benefit to the trustees of the charity
- whether the trustees have operated the charity in furtherance of its charitable objects for the public benefit
- whether there has been misconduct and/ or mismanagement by the trustees

In light of the Commission's concerns, it has taken action to protect the charity's assets by restricting the transactions from the charity's bank account. As a result, the charity cannot make payments or part with any of the charity's assets without the Commission's prior written approval.

The Commission stresses that opening an inquiry is not in itself a finding of wrongdoing. The purpose of an inquiry is to examine issues in detail, investigate and establish the facts so that the regulator can ascertain whether there has been mismanagement and/or misconduct; establish the extent of any risk to the charity's property, beneficiaries or work and decide what

action needs to be taken to resolve the serious concerns, if necessary using its investigative, protective and remedial powers to do so.

It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. [Reports of previous inquiries](#) by the Commission are available on GOV.UK.

The charity's details can be viewed on the Commission's [online charity search tool](#).

### **Notes to editors**

1. The Charity Commission is the regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work see the [about us](#) page on GOV.UK.
2. Search for charities on our [check charity](#) tool.
3. Section 46 of the Charities Act 2011 gives the commission the power to institute inquiries. The opening of an inquiry gives the commission access to a range of investigative, protective and remedial legal powers.
4. The Commission's [decision to announce the opening of a statutory inquiry](#) is based on whether it is in the public interest to do so and with consideration of our objective to increase public trust and confidence in charities.