

Statement on Ukraine crisis and its implications for charities

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia is a shocking event, which has upturned the lives of many millions of people in Ukraine, and challenges the sense of peace and security in which many Europeans have lived for two generations. It seems probable that the repercussions will impact widely across society, including for many charities registered with us, responding to these events as they unfold.

The British public has already responded with immense generosity, donating millions of pounds to support those affected by the war. Together with the Fundraising Regulator, we are reminding the public that [giving to established registered charities](#) with experience of delivering humanitarian aid in challenging environments is often the most efficient and helpful way to support those in need. Many charities have launched emergency fundraising appeals, and we are reminding trustees of our guidance on [running effective and impactful appeals](#), and on [holding, moving and receiving funds safely](#).

Many charities operate in Russia, and may come under increasing pressure as a result of the implications of sanctions, difficulties in transferring funds and because of the operating environment for civil society in that country. To keep up to date with the latest financial sanctions, charities can sign up to [e-alerts from HM Treasury](#) and find guidance from the [Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation \(OFSI\)](#). We urge trustees to consider our guidance on working in high-risk areas, and to ensure that they are following [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office \(FCDO\) advice](#), and keeping staff, volunteers and funds safe.

All charities should also know their donors, and consider whether or not to accept donations, including where there may be a reputational implication for them in doing so. [Our guidance is here](#), and we encourage all charities to read this in light of the current international context. We also have general guidance on [managing risks when working internationally](#).

There will be other implications for charities, both short and long term, that we cannot yet predict. The Commission will remain alive to the issues and risks facing charities, and we encourage charities to do likewise. We will promote or update our guidance as needed. We want to help support charities, which play such a vital role in our society, to get it right and make the biggest impact possible.

We encourage charities to visit our GOV.UK pages for any updates to our guidance, and to get in touch with our [contact centre](#) if they have any specific questions or concerns.

Regulators urge safe giving to support Ukraine



The Charity Commission and Fundraising Regulator have urged the public to 'give safely' to registered charities as people make generous donations to causes helping to support and protect people affected by the invasion of Ukraine.

As the conflict and ensuing humanitarian situation in Ukraine continues to escalate, it is vital that charitable donations of goods and money reach their intended causes. UK charities are pivotal to a collective response to this crisis.

The [Disasters Emergency Committee](#), a coalition of 15 leading UK charities, has launched its collective appeal to provide emergency aid and rapid relief to civilians suffering during the conflict. Many [registered charities](#) are also helping to provide vital life-saving services, like water, food and healthcare, to those caught up in the conflict, including those forced to flee to neighbouring countries.

By giving to a registered, regulated charity, the public can have assurance that their funds will be accounted for in line with the charity law framework. Established charities with experience of responding to disasters are usually best placed to reach victims on the ground.

Members of the public initiating their own informal fundraising appeals that are not linked to established registered charities should be aware of the ongoing responsibilities associated with overseeing and managing funds and ensuring they are applied in line with donors' wishes.

People looking to donate to causes working in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, should make a few simple checks before giving:

- check the charity's name and registration number at www.gov.uk/checkcharity. Most charities with an annual income of £5,000 or more must be registered, and you can use the advanced search function to identify charities working in specific regions and countries
- make sure the charity is genuine before giving any financial information
- be careful when responding to emails or clicking on links within them

- contact or find out more online about the charity that you're seeking to donate to or work with to understand how they are spending their funds
- look out for the Fundraising Badge on charity fundraising materials, this is the Fundraising Regulator's logo which shows that a charity has committed to fundraise in line with the Code of Fundraising Practice

Helen Stephenson CBE, Chief Executive of the Charity Commission said:

The public, as always in times of crisis, has responded generously to help those in dire need in Ukraine itself or who have escaped to neighbouring countries. It's important that this money goes to those who need it most, those whose lives have been uprooted by fighting. We encourage everyone to follow our simple steps to check that their money gets to its intended cause. Donating to a registered charity is a good way to feel confident of that.

Gerald Oppenheim, Chief Executive of the Fundraising Regulator said:

The devastating situation in Ukraine has captured the hearts of people across the UK, leading to an outpouring of public generosity in response to fundraising campaigns. But people should think carefully before donating goods or money, so that their donations reach the people who need it most. Charities are responsible for making sure that their donations are used for the purpose they were fundraised for. That is why, if you are thinking about supporting a fundraising campaign, you should make sure that it is for an established, registered charity that is subject to charity law and fundraising regulations.

Notes to editors:

1. Further tips on [giving safely to registered charities](#) is available on GOV.UK
2. The [Charity Commission](#) is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society.
3. The [Fundraising Regulator](#) is the independent regulator of charitable fundraising in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Further guidance on giving safely to charity is available on the Fundraising Regulator's website.
4. If you think that a collection or appeal is not legitimate, report it to the police. If you think the collection is fraudulent report it to Action Fraud over the phone at 0300 123 2040 or online.

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1. 16 March 2022

Edited final bullet, detailing the Fundraising Badge is the Fundraising Regulator's logo

2. 2 March 2022

First published.

[Independent review into police management of registered sex offenders](#)

Today the Home Secretary Priti Patel has appointed Mick Creedon, Former Chief Constable of Derbyshire Constabulary, to undertake the independent review which was a promise set out in the [Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy \(2021\)](#).

Mr Creedon has over 37 years' experience in policing, counter-terrorism and security, and will be taking up the post imminently.

The review will consider the consistency of the management of registered sex offenders across England and Wales, and whether the current capabilities to manage them are fit for purpose. It will specifically look at how consistently the police use their capabilities to manage the risk posed by registered sex offenders and whether the regime protecting the public from them could be strengthened further.

The review, which is independent of government, will consider evidence in relation to factors including (but not limited to):

- police resourcing
- consistency of offender management
- information-sharing
- management tools and orders
- risk assessment, management, and prioritisation
- training

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

“The UK has some of the toughest powers in the world to deal with sex offenders and we are committed to ensuring that the system is as robust as it can be.

“Mick brings a wealth of policing and criminal justice expertise to this role and I am delighted he has agreed to chair the review.”

On taking on this role as the independent reviewer, Mick Creedon said:

“I’m really pleased to be offered the opportunity to lead this review on behalf of the Home Secretary. The question of how the police best manage offenders released from custody but rightly subject to restrictions is a complicated one. The public deserve protection, and at the same time the demands on the police service continue to grow. I intend to gather as many views as possible, to work with those leading and involved in this work, and will seek to provide a fully independent review and realistic proposals to ensure the longstanding MAPPA arrangements provide the best protection for the public, and the effective monitoring and management of offenders living in the community.”

The review will be undertaken in line with the [Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy \(2021\)](#) which aims to prevent, tackle and respond to all forms of child sexual abuse, while also building on the findings of the government’s end-to-end review into the criminal justice response to rape (2021). It will commence imminently and will aim to report back to the Home Secretary, Safeguarding Minister and Crime and Policing Minister by the end of this year.

Pharmaceutical company fined for manufacturing defective medicine

Today, Syri Ltd, a pharmaceutical manufacturer based in Ruislip, Hillingdon, London has been fined £51,000 and ordered to pay costs of £104,898 by Aylesbury Crown Court. Following an investigation by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and a prosecution brought by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the company was convicted of supplying a medicinal product which was not of the nature or quality specified in a prescription. The investigation was prompted by a child suffering multiple seizures and their admission to hospital.

The child was prescribed magnesium glycerophosphate to help prevent seizures. However, the medicine made by the company contained just 12% of the strength specified in the prescription, which resulted in it failing to work effectively.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) was alerted to the issue following a report from Milton Keynes University Hospital. MHRA inspectors visited the site and found the methods used to manufacture the medicine and the checks in place to ensure appropriate standards were not met at the time the medicine was supplied. This resulted in the medicine being manufactured with insufficient levels of the active ingredient, making it ineffective and causing the child to become seriously ill.

The medicine was made to a specific prescription (known as a special) for the child. The company has improved their quality assurance procedures to prevent

a recurrence.

Dr Alison Cave, MHRA Chief Safety Officer, said:

“Pharmaceutical companies such as Syri Ltd have a legal obligation to ensure they produce and supply medicines that work and are manufactured to the required standards. The patient has recovered, but the consequences could have been much more serious if it hadn’t been for the swift action of hospital staff.

“Patient safety is our top priority. The Agency will not hesitate to take robust enforcement action when serious failings that put patients at risk are identified.”

Laura Walters, Special Crown Prosecutor of the Crown Prosecution Service said:

“Syri Limited, as with all pharmaceutical providers, have a vital responsibility to produce medicines accurately and safely, in the form specified in a prescription. Fortunately, the mistake they made was not fatal in this case. This was not an isolated mistake although our prosecution was only concerned with this one serious incident.

“These types of prosecutions are thankfully rare, but this conviction and sentence should serve as a reminder for all pharmaceutical companies of the need for absolute care in providing essential medications to the public.”

Anyone who suspects that they, or a member of their family, may have experienced a side effect from a medicine can report it to the MHRA’s Yellow Card scheme, which collects and monitors information on suspected safety concerns involving healthcare products.

Notes to Editor

- The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in the UK. All work is underpinned by robust and fact-based judgements to ensure that the benefits justify any risks.
- The MHRA is an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care.

[Changes to the trade remedies regime](#)

News story

The way the TRA reviews measures inherited from the EU system is set to

change, following new legislation which comes into force on Wednesday 2 March 2022.



From Wednesday 2 March, there will be changes to the way the [Trade Remedies Authority](#) assesses existing trade remedy measures that the UK transitioned from the European Union (EU) when it left the EU.

The Government has introduced new 'call-in' powers to allow the Secretary of State for International Trade to 'call in' transition reviews which the TRA is carrying out into transitioned measures. This gives the Secretary of State increased powers to decide how the review should be carried out. This power only applies to reviews which are in the process of being carried out by the TRA and also covers any reconsiderations that the TRA may be undertaking following its reviews of the transitioned measures. Not all transition reviews will be called in and we anticipate that the powers will in practice be used rarely.

What will change and when

The changes will come into force on Wednesday 2 March 2022. This will mean that transition reviews which the TRA is carrying out can be 'called in' by the Secretary of State for International Trade. After calling a case in, the Secretary of State is responsible for all decisions relating to that review or reconsideration. This ensures the Secretary of State can have greater oversight of and involvement and the ability to decide on appropriate measures that may be deemed to be in the public interest.

When a review or reconsideration is called in, the Secretary of State will publish a notice to announce this. The TRA will also publish a notice on its [public file](#) to inform participants.

Trade remedies framework review

In parallel to the introduction of the call-in power, the Department for International Trade is conducting a review of the UK's trade remedies framework to ensure that it reflects the UK's needs in a post-COVID world. The review is being carried on in close collaboration with the TRA, drawing on its expert advice.

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