

Poor accounting practice in charities to be referred to professional body

The Charity Commission can now refer cases of poor professional practice by accountants and finance professionals to [ACCA, \(the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants\)](#). The two bodies have signed an agreement on the sharing of data, which facilitates the referral of concerns about accountancy services provided to charities.

It comes as part of the regulator's wider work with the accountancy and audit profession aimed at raising the standard of financial reporting by charities and encouraging the highest professional standards amongst practitioners working with the charity sector. The move follows the launch of the external scrutiny benchmark in August 2019.

The new undertaking establishes a process for sharing information that is lawful, safe and secure, and more generally provides a framework for closer working between the two bodies, both at strategic and operational levels.

The undertaking allows, in certain circumstances, for the Commission to share details about individual ACCA members with their professional body; ACCA can ultimately institute disciplinary proceedings against a member. The document also provides for ACCA to share information with the regulator.

The Commission's ultimate purpose in signing up to the agreement is to provide a mechanism to alert ACCA to poor practice and, by raising the standards of ACCA practitioners undertaking external scrutiny work for charities, help charities comply with their accounting framework and legal requirements.

Nigel Davies, Head of Accountancy Services at the Charity Commission, said:

I am delighted that we now have this clear framework in place, which will help both the Commission and ACCA better serve the public interest by promoting high standards of accountancy practice in and for charities.

We expect finance professionals working for charities to display both probity and high standards of professional expertise and competence. Sadly, [some of our recent accountancy reviews](#) indicate that some finance professionals are unaware of important changes to rules on accounting, the requirements for independent examination and some of the reporting duties for those examining or auditing in charities. I am confident that by working together, ACCA and the Commission will raise the standards of the profession and the

awareness of charity accounting to assist charities to thrive and inspire trust.

Laura Murphy, Standards Manager of ACCA, said:

Signing this agreement reaffirms our strong commitment to working with the Charity Commission. The new agreement builds on the firm foundations established between our organisations. Through this partnership, ACCA aims to support our members working in the charity sector to uphold the highest of ethical and professional standards, meet their statutory responsibilities and act in the public interest.

The new agreement does not compel either party to share information; the Commission stresses that in certain circumstances, for example where doing so might undermine ongoing investigations, the regulator remains free to withhold information from other parties.

The Commission has [similar agreements in place with other organisations](#). In 2018, the Commission published a Memorandum of Understanding it had agreed with the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

ENDS

Third generation mariner to turbocharge the future of maritime's brightest talent

- chair appointed to lead new Maritime Skills Commission
- commission will look to understand existing and future skills the industry will need to continue its success
- announcement made as minister visits key London ports

A third-generation mariner has been appointed chair of a new skills commission, Maritime Minister Nusrat Ghani has announced today (24 January 2020) during her visit to the Port of Tilbury.

Professor Graham Baldwin will lead the Maritime Skills Commission, which is being set up to better understand the existing and future skills needs of the industry both on land and at sea. It will future proof training for the 220,100 people working in the sector, including for the 27,000 employed at ports around the country.

Starting work in the coming months, the commission will bring together leading maritime experts to report on the changing needs of the industry, make recommendations and ensure its workforce has the talent it needs for today, the next 30 years and beyond.

Visiting both the Port of Tilbury and London Gateway today (24 January 2020), the maritime minister was able to witness first-hand two of the most advanced ports in the UK in action. A crucial element of the review will be to look at the impacts of advances in technology for growing the maritime workforce of the future.

Maritime Minister Nusrat Ghani said:

I am proud to announce the appointment of Professor Baldwin to Chair of the Maritime Skills Commission.

Professor Baldwin is already well respected by the industry and has gained experience in the sector from around the world and I believe his expertise will be an invaluable asset to the team.

The commission will play a crucial role in ensuring our industry is equipped with the brightest talent, support and resources to further enhance the UK as a world maritime leader.

Professor Baldwin is the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Central Lancashire and is the former Vice-Chancellor of Solent University which is home to the Warsash School of Maritime Science and Engineering.

Professor Graham Baldwin said:

I am delighted to have accepted the prestigious position of Chair of the Maritime Skills Commission, a core element of delivering the Maritime 2050 Strategy.

All parts of the maritime industry are critical to the future of the UK and I am excited to be able to contribute to its continued success.

The Maritime Skills Commission will build on the foundations laid by Maritime UK's People and Skills Forum.

The creation of the commission was a key recommendation in the flagship [Maritime 2050 Strategy](#), and further detailed in the People Route Map.

The long-term plan sets an ambition for the UK to become a world leader in the move to clean maritime growth, with support for UK businesses and a targeted focus on the maritime workforce, to shape the sector over the next 3 decades.

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[Vetpol recognised by VMD as a suitable body to maintain a register for suitably qualified persons \(SQPs\)](#)



The VMD has recognised Vetpol as a suitable body to maintain a register for suitably qualified persons (SQPs).

An SQP is a professionally qualified person who is allowed to prescribe, supply and advise on the safe use of veterinary medicines classified as POM-VPS and NFA-VPS, for example worming and flea treatments.

This recognition means that Vetpol has demonstrated it can fulfil the requirements of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations.

Vetpol joins the Animal Medicines Training Regulatory Authority and VetSkill as the third body approved to maintain a register of SQPs.

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