

Rt Hon Nicky Morgan  
Secretary of State  
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and  
Sport  
100 Parliament Street  
Westminster  
London SW1A 2BQ



23 December 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to you as leaders of the main national bodies representing civil society organisations. Our members work to support people and communities across the country, providing both a voice and services on issues ranging from domestic violence to homelessness, international aid, rehabilitation, health and social care.

First of all, we would like to congratulate you on your reappointment as Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. We look forward to continuing working with you and with the Minister for Civil Society Baroness Barran. The value of having a minister with a dedicated role for civil society has been greatly appreciated by our sector, and has been beneficial to both government and civil society organisations. We hope that you will ensure the charity and civil society brief remains a specific and prominent ministerial role.

We are also writing following the speculation surrounding changes to the current structure of government departments, including the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

While aware that any change to the machinery of government has considerable implications in terms of both financial costs and civil service capacity and nothing has yet been confirmed, we see this as an opportunity to rethink the position of the Office for Civil Society (OCS). Specifically, we would strongly support its move back into Cabinet Office.

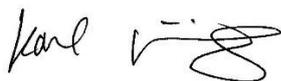
This machinery of government change would provide a more suitable home for the Office for Civil Society in line with the key commitments and aims of the Civil Society Strategy published last year. It would enable the Office for Civil Society

to have even more influence and leverage within government, working across different departments, and others, to drive meaningful progress on policy objectives relevant to civil society organisations.

The Civil Society Strategy rightly took a broad view of civil society organisations, including charities and culture and leisure organisations. This should also be reflected in the move, with a broad agenda and remit for the Office for Civil Society.

As charities and civil society organisations play a vital role in our society and economy, all departments need the support of the Office for Civil Society. Placing it in the Cabinet Office will help it to be more effective by being closer to the heart of government – in turn it will help the government to underscore the message that charities, faith groups and community groups are the binds that hold our society together.

Yours sincerely,



**Karl Wilding**  
Chief executive

With the support of:

**Vicky Browning, Chief executive, ACEVO**

**Caron Bradshaw, Chief executive, Charity Finance Group (CFG)**

**Carol Mack, Chief executive, Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF)**

**Jane Ide, Chief executive, National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA)**

**Peter Lewis, Chief executive, Institute of Fundraising**

**Cate Atwater, Chief executive, Community Leisure UK**

**Rita Chadha, Chief executive, Small Charities Coalition**