

Terms of reference: review of self-regulation of fundraising

These terms of reference have been agreed by the Cabinet Office and the review panel.

Purpose

To review the effectiveness of the current self-regulatory system for fundraising in the light of recent high-profile cases. To make recommendations and proposals to ministers, the charity sector and other bodies involved in fundraising on the changes needed to ensure an effective system of self-regulation which protects the interests and the confidence of the public while serving beneficiaries.

Scope

The review will take the main forms of fundraising as in scope: direct mail, telephone, doorstep and textile collections. It will consider:

- The structure of self-regulation, and the relationship between standard-setting (including the Code of Fundraising Practice), enforcement and operational management.
- The operation of the self-regulatory system and the current self-regulatory bodies (Fundraising Standards Board, Public Fundraising Regulatory Association, Institute of Fundraising).
- The scope of regulation itself (who is regulated; who is not) and sanctions.
- The responsibilities of charity chief executives and trustees.
- The role of third-party fundraisers and their relationship with charities.
- The relationship between the fundraising sector and the public.

The review will be strategic. It will not make detailed recommendations on, for instance, the content of the Code of Fundraising Practice.

Review panel

- Sir Stuart Etherington (chair)
- Lord Leigh of Hurley
- Baroness Pitkeathley
- Lord Wallace of Saltaire

Consultation

The panel and secretariat will consult:

- Representatives of the public interest
- Consumer experts
- Parliamentarians
- The three fundraising self-regulatory bodies

- Chief executives/chairs of large fundraising charities; umbrella representatives of small charities
- Representatives of commercial fundraisers
- Representatives from the media
- Other self-regulatory bodies
- Academics specialising in regulation

Timing

The review is expected to report by Monday 21 September 2015.

Secretariat

NCVO, with Cabinet Office support.