

Response ID ANON-Z2S2-SWYE-S

Submitted to Call for evidence and views on the Charities Bill
Submitted on 2021-08-18 13:54:48

Introduction

1 How would you like your response to be published?

I would like my response to be published.

2 What is your name?

Name:
Denise Hayward

3 What is your email address?

Email:
denise.hayward@volunteernow.co.uk

4 What is your organisation?

Organisation:
Volunteer Now

Policy Objectives of the Bill

5 Do you think that the Bill will meet the policy objectives? If not, why not?

Yes

Please provide further comments:

6 Do you foresee any unintended consequences of any of the policy objectives of the Bill?

No

Please provide further comments:

Clause 1: Actions of Commission staff treated as Commission actions

7 Do you feel the retrospective effect to make the majority of decisions taken by Commission staff lawful is dealt with sufficiently in the Clause?

Yes

Please provide further comments:

8 Do you believe that individuals' rights under the ECHR are protected by the fact that decisions still subject to ongoing legal proceedings will not be subject to the Clause?

Yes

Please provide further comments:

9 Do you feel that the Refreshed Appeal Rights in Clause 1 are sufficient?

Unsure

If not, what would you propose?:

The timeframe of 42 days is quite short.

10 Please provide further comments in relation to Clause 1.

Do you have any other comments in relation to Clause 1?:

Clause 2: Power of Commission to delegate to staff

11 Do you feel the power of the Commission to delegate to staff certain functions that are listed in a Scheme of Delegation is sufficient?

Yes

12 Please provide further comments on the power to delegate, or the Scheme of Delegation, including: Will it allow Commission staff to operate effectively and efficiently?

Additional Comments on on Scheme of Delegation:

The Commission needs to be able to respond to charities in a timely way and for that reason there is a necessity to delegate to staff. If staff are well trained and the reporting is rigorous, then this should allow the Commission to function well.

13 Please provide further comments on the fact that it is the Department for Communities who will make and publish the Scheme of Delegation (after consultation with the Commission)?

Any comments on DfC making and publishing the Scheme of Delegation?:

This seems sensible as DfC has oversight responsibility for the Commission.

14 Please provide any further comments in relation to Clause 2.

Do you have any other comments in relation to Clause 2?:

Clause 3: Power to introduce a registration threshold via regulations

15 Do you feel it is appropriate to have this power in the Bill?

Yes

Please provide further comments:

The issues caused by registration for volunteers on the boards of small charities have been very challenging. The governance demands placed on volunteers in this way are substantial and more needs to be done to mitigate this or to provide more hands on support for groups.

16 Please provide any further comments on the list of matters that the regulations will cover? Are there any matters missing from the list?

Any missing matters or other comments:

All the reporting requirements need to be proportionate to the size of the organisations and to take into account whether it is a wholly volunteer led organisation or whether there is paid staff.

17 Please provide any further comments on Clause 3.

Further comments:

It would be helpful to have a timetable in place so that these changes actually happen.

18 Please provide any further comments you wish to make on the Charities Bill.

Further comments on the Charities Bill: