

Charity Commission - Regulatory Advice Note

Safeguarding - Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG)

Issue: Act on the Charity Commission - Regulatory Advice Note. The Scout Association requires the actions to be completed by 30th April 2026.

Scout Regulatory Advice: On the 4th of February 2026 the Charity Commission - Regulatory Advice and Guidance note to Trustees.

The Charity Commission's advice is mirrored by guidance given by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) in terms of [Charity Trustee duties](#).

In Scotland there is a legal duty for trustees to ensure the charity operates in a manner consistent with its purpose. This includes making sure that all those involved in Scouting follow the rules in our governing document. The Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) deem the whole of Scout Policy Organisation & Rules (POR) as our governing document, not just the Constitution.

Note: The Charity Commission advice note highlights the commitments made by The Scout Association in response to HM Coroner's Prevention of Future Deaths report issued following the death of an Explorer Scout.

Action: In support of you as a Trustee in discharging your duties, in addition to undertaking Scouts essential learning for Trustees, the Commission expects you to read and understand published guidance on trustee duties, trustee decision making, safeguarding and reporting serious incidents.

- [The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do \(CC3\)](#) which covers key principles of trustee decision-making.
- [CC27: It's Your Decision](#) which is a useful tool for trustees to judge their decision-making processes against.
- [Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees - GOV.UK](#)

Assurance Activity: The Scout Association requires all Trustees to...

- Read and understand the Regulatory Advice Note with reference to OSCR guidance on Charity Trustee duties and POR.
- Add Regulatory Advice Note to your next Trustee Board agenda for discussion to remind trustees about their responsibilities and the processes in place to assure compliance with the controls, procedures and structures in place to keep everyone safe in Scouting.
- Minute the outcome of these discussions and retain a copy of the Regulatory Advice note with your charity's records.
- Ensure Safety & Safeguarding is a standing item on every Trustee Board agenda.

Scout Safeguarding Policy: This policy applies to everyone who engages with The Scout Association including all members, staff and volunteers, including **subcontractors and partnerships**.

Duty of care is the legal, professional, or moral obligation to act in a person's best interests, while safeguarding involves proactive measures, policies, and procedures to ensure safety and well-being.

PVG Overseas Applicants: Overseas applicants for roles requiring PVG membership in Scotland must complete a Disclosure Scotland check. If you have lived outside the UK for 3+ months in the last 5 years, you must also provide a criminal record check (Certificate of Good Conduct/Police Clearance) from those countries.

Visits Abroad: Similar arrangements may be in place. Before travelling abroad, you should check the legislative requirements in the countries you are visiting and make arrangements to comply.

Reference

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charity Commission (CC) - Regulatory Advice • Scout Association Safeguarding Policy • CC27: It's Your Decision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Code of Conduct – The Yellow Card • The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do (CC3) • Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees - GOV.UK |
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