



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES



COMISIWN ELUSENNAU
AR GYFER CYMRU A LLOEGR

Dame Caroline Dinenage MP
Chair
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Dear Dame Caroline,

Charity Commission for England and Wales: Annual Report and Accounts 2025-2026

I am writing to inform you that the Charity Commission's Annual Report and Accounts have been laid before Parliament and are available to view here: [Charity Commission annual report and accounts 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

As the report sets out, this has been a year of high demand for the Commission. We saw another record year of applications to register a new charity, with over 11,700 applications assessed (an increase of 20% on 2024/25), leading to 4,650 new registrations. We also saw an increase year on year across most of our regulatory activities and caseloads (with a 23% increase in volumes of incoming compliance concerns to be assessed). This has coincided with reduced staffing capacity, resulting in increased pressure on operational delivery and some longer waiting times for certain decisions. Despite these pressures, I am pleased to highlight that productivity has improved through greater efficiencies and more effective deployment of resources.

Looking ahead, I am confident that investment secured via the Spending Review will help address resource and capacity issues and to improve the services we offer to charities, trustees and the public.

As you are aware, we have also been working with government to ensure our powers keep pace with the risks facing the sector, including the growing threat of terrorist and extremist abuse of charities. We welcomed the Government's announcement earlier this year of stronger powers for the Commission. Many of these proposals will require primary legislation and we are working with officials to progress this.

Alongside our Annual Report we have published the results of our [annual public and trustee research](#) which shows that, overall, public trust in charities remains high. Charities are among the most trusted groups in society, second only after doctors. More worryingly, however, the research also shows that a quarter of charities say they have been impacted by polarisation and division in

society, including vandalism, protests, changes in the level of support or having to stop or change their services. We will continue to monitor these trends closely and encourage charities to report serious incidents to us.

I would be very happy to meet to discuss any of these matters in greater detail. I remain deeply committed to the need for the Commission to demonstrate its accountability to Parliament, and I would be pleased to appear before your Committee or, of course, to meet you more informally.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Julia Unwin

**JULIA UNWIN
CHAIR**