

MPF bulletin #13

Dear colleagues,

This is the 13th bulletin of the Members' Policy Forum, and the first of 2020! The MPF is an initiative that aims to increase opportunities for all our members to engage directly with ACF's policy work, raise issues of interest and concern, and regularly engage with policy-makers in government. Feel free to share this email with any colleagues or trustees that may be interested, and see an overview of our work and impact in 2019 in the latest issue of [Trust & Foundation News](#) (p46).

- **Responsible investing** – The Charity Commission for England and Wales is seeking views on charities' experiences of responsible investment and how charities can align their investments with their aims. Sian Hawkrigg from the Commission has outlined its current thinking in [this blog](#), inviting views from all interested parties. ACF will be sharing an overview of the current context as we see it (please email emma@acf.org.uk to feed in), or feel free to share your own views by emailing policy@charitycommission.gov.uk by the end of March.
- **Trust registration service** – HM Treasury is proposing that charitable trusts will not have to sign up to a register of trusts, as part of new rules to tackle money laundering. This proposal follows a consultation last year to which ACF responded alongside NCVO and CFG, so we are pleased with this result. A [detailed technical consultation](#) is open until 21 February – please let us know if you'd like to discuss this issue.
- **Corporate foundations** – the Commission's survey on its recently published guidance for charities connected to non-charities is still open; they want to hear from ACF's corporate foundation members on whether the guidance has been useful. [Complete the short survey here](#).
- **Northern Ireland** – The restoration of the NI Assembly offers hope to voluntary sector, according to ACF's NI Development Officer James Magowan. James explains that the absence of an executive and political leadership caused stagnation of policy, planning and decision making. This has not only led to a lack of investment in infrastructure and public services, but also directly on the funding of the voluntary sector. The restoration of the Assembly hopefully means foundations will see some stabilisation and in due course a Programme for Government that will offer some direction of travel, both of which could inform funding strategies and decisions. Please contact james@acf.org.uk to discuss.
- **Social bridging finance** – earlier this week we held our first session of the year with Kenneth Ferguson from the Robertson Trust sharing his experience of social bridging finance. Over 30 foundation professionals and government officials attended for a lively discussion. Notes and resources from the session will be shared shortly.

As ever, please let us know if you have any ideas or issues to raise with us. We look forward to sharing more plans for 2020 with you soon.

Best wishes,

The ACF policy team