

This is the 14th bulletin of the [Members' Policy Forum](#), ACF's 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. Please share with any colleagues or trustees that might be interested and encourage them to [sign up](#).

The outbreak of covid-19 has shaped a lot of policy priorities recently. We are regularly updating [this webpage](#) on foundations and covid-19 with the latest resources and support for foundations (both in supporting grantees and in adjusting to new ways of working), and sharing what foundations are doing in response to the crisis. Please send any queries to policy@acf.org.uk

Here is a round-up of what we've been working on recently:

Covid-19

- **Foundation response** – ACF has also written a [blog](#) on five ways foundations are responding, and hosted a webinar last week which can be viewed [here](#).
- **Public statements** – Over 250 funders have signed [London Funders' commitment](#) to stand with civil society at this time. It is open to all funders regardless of location or members. DAFNE and the European Foundation Centre are also hosting a similar [commitment](#) of European solidarity.
- **Funding** – ACF is working closely with other infrastructure bodies urging the government to provide financial support to the voluntary sector, which is facing huge challenges to its income and service delivery. This has included submitting evidence to the Treasury Select Committee's inquiry on the government's response, rallying support from parliamentarians, and launching the #EveryDayCounts campaign to highlight charities' plea. ACF is clear that only government can mobilise on the scale required, and that foundation funding, while very welcome, is not enough to save the sector.
- **Regulators' support** – The UK charity regulators have all created dedicated pages to support charities with issues including safeguarding, annual returns, and board meetings.
 - [Charity Commission for England and Wales](#)
 - [OSCR](#)
 - [Charity Commission for Northern Ireland](#)
- **New SORP guidance** – the SORP-making body has provided [guidance](#) on how charities account for the implications of covid-19.
- **Specific issues** – At ACF we are eager to hear members' concerns about the current context, whether these are operational or in relation to a specific policy area. Please do let us know if you would like to discuss any issue by emailing policy@acf.org.uk.

Elsewhere ...

- **Responsible investment** – ACF [submitted a response](#) to the Charity Commission for England and Wales' call for views on responsible investment. The [call](#) asked about experiences and current considerations around responsible investments, what are the barriers to more widespread responsible investment, and what more could be done to support trustees to invest in a way that reflects the charity's purpose and values. The key message from ACF is that charitable foundations should seek to do good as well as achieve an income from their investments, that the rules already allow for this, and that many are already doing it. But there is confusion within the charity sector about what is allowed, and the Commission should clarify this to enable a permissive environment for trustees.