



Members' Policy Forum Bulletin – September 2020

This is the latest bulletin from the [Members' Policy Forum](#). 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.

It's been a busy summer at ACF:

- We recently launched *Funding Practices: The Pillars of Stronger Foundation Practice*, which marks the final thematic report in the series. You can download the report and watch the webinar recording of the launch [here](#).
- We've also continued to develop the new Funders' Collaborative Hub, and you can read the August update [here](#).
- Our Virtual Annual Conference 2020 is taking place 25-26 November, and the **call for member content submissions now open**. [Click here to find out more](#).
- And **we're recruiting!** – ACF is looking for a full-time Senior Policy and Engagement Officer to join us at an exciting time as we move forward with high-profile initiatives including Stronger Foundations, the Funder Commitment on Climate Change and the Funders' Collaborative Hub. The deadline is 27 August and details can be found [here](#). Please share among your networks.

Here's a round-up of some recent policy developments over the summer:

- **Trusts excluded from new money laundering legislation** – Charitable trusts regulated in the UK are not to be required to register with the Trust Registration Service. The proposal is part of the Fifth Money Laundering Directive, on which HM Treasury and HMRC consulted earlier this year indicating charitable trusts may fall within scope. ACF worked closely with NCVO, CFG and Bond to ensure that this layer of administration was not placed on charitable trusts, already fulfilling the requirements under charity regulation, and we are delighted that our feedback was taken on board. [Find out more here](#).
- **Northern Ireland legal update** – A court ruling in Northern Ireland has clarified that only the Board of Commissioners of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland can make decisions regarding charitable status. This means that all decisions made by Commission staff since its inception in 2009 are now void, therefore those that had received charitable status are no longer considered 'registered charities' but have a status for now as 'charities in law'. [Find out more here](#)
- **Spending Review and business rates** – The Chancellor launched the Comprehensive Spending Review 2020, whose priorities will include 'levelling up economic opportunity', 'improving outcomes in public services,' and 'making the UK a scientific superpower'.

Representations will be accepted until 24 September; [view the guidance here](#) or email policy@acf.org.uk to discuss.

- **SORP engagement convenors announced** – The group that governs the charity Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) has announced its engagement partners on strands of its future work. The strand for major funders and donors and government and public bodies, most relevant to ACF members, is to be convened by Sue Wilson FCA with support from the Irish Charities Regulator. ACF, as a SORP committee member, will work closely to ensure engagement with the foundation sector. [Find out more here](#).