

**Meeting of the SORP-making body  
London  
16 September 2019**

**Present:**

Joint Chairs:

Laura Anderson, Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

Nigel Davies, Charity Commission England and Wales (CCEW)

Myles Mckeown, Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI)

In attendance, as observers:

Jenny Carter, Financial Reporting Council (FRC)

Jelena Griscenko, Charities Regulator (CR)

**Purpose of the meeting:**

To discuss the feedback from the concluding SORP Committee held on 12 September regarding the new stakeholder process and the wider SORP-making body plans for taking forward the development of the SORP. To consider the next steps in the recruitment process and to settle the interim arrangements for keeping the current SORP up to date.

**Agreed actions from the meeting:**

- In terms of the recruitment packs the Committee suggested changing 'public interest' to 'public benefit' but in discussion it was decided to retain public interest as this expression better fits with wider perspective; public benefit has different definitions in each jurisdiction and limiting the focus to public benefit expressed in report and accounts would not be addressing wider view of charity and the interest of stakeholders- public represent public interest. Agreed the packs need to be clearer in explaining what is meant by 'public interest' (CCEW and OSCR).
- Agreed to change 'corporate member' to 'organisational member' as the Committee advised due to connotations of the word 'corporate' could give rise to confusion (CCEW and OSCR).
- Agreed when considering applications received to keep under review the number of organisational members specifically to professional bodies and sector umbrella groups including funders' groups that would be offered places in accordance with the recommendations of the Governance Review (CCEW, CCNI and OSCR).
- Considered the Committee's view that the charity regulators be excluded from the regulator engagement strand. Decided that it is necessary to retain charity regulators as participants due to the input charity regulators can bring with ideas and findings from research. Distinguishing input via a strand from the different role of chair brings greater transparency and clarity about when regulators are seeking to influence reporting through open discussion in an engagement strand of charity regulators' proposals.
- Agreed to elaborate on the proxy interest stakeholder strand to explicitly include charity beneficiaries and add a separate strand for larger charities as recommended by the Committee (CCEW and OSCR).
- Agreed to publish a summary of the retiring SORP Committee's working groups as a separate document on the SORP site to act as an engagement briefing (CCEW and OSCR).
- Agreed to explain our expectations more fully in the engagement packs of members and engagement partners (CCEW and OSCR).

- Agreed to launch the new process week beginning 14 October and to publicise the launch to those who responded to the SORP Governance review and other interested parties. Also agreed to advise the SORP Committee of updates and developments as the launch progresses (CCEW, CCNI and OSCR).
- Closing date for SORP Committee applications agreed as 22 November with a short list for interview to be completed by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November if possible. Interviews to be held in Dublin, Belfast, London and Edinburgh with dates to be advised to shortlisted applicants. If possible appointments to the new SORP Committee to be settled on 9 January with offer letters issued by the end of January.
- Agreed to consider induction arrangements once recruitment has closed (CCEW, CCNI and OSCR).
- In implementing the recommendation for chair evaluation with 360 degree feedback on Chairs- the FRC is to consider suggesting a peer reviewer.
- Discussion of cost sharing on engagement strands to be deferred once we know how strong the response has been. Closing date for the stakeholder groups to be 31 January 2020 with each regulator determining its initial ideas as to the way forward for its jurisdiction based upon the level of response (CCEW, CCNI and OSCR).
- Agreed that a summary of the engagement pack be developed (CCNI).
- Conference call as follow up to the meeting to brief CIPFA (CCEW)
- Agreed to align timing of a future SORP to the plans of the FRC for a review of UK-Irish GAAP.
- Agreed that to ensure public accountability the SORP-making body will maintain an actions log against the SORP Governance Review recommendations (CCEW)