

# Press release: Safeguarding is a key governance priority for all charities, regulator reminds trustees

The Charity Commission says safeguarding should be a priority for all charities, not just those working with groups traditionally considered at risk.

It comes as the charity regulator publishes a report showing safeguarding concerns are an increasing feature in its regulatory compliance case work with charities.

[Tackling abuse and mismanagement](#), the regulator's annual report of its compliance case work, reveals that safeguarding concerns featured in 302 regulatory compliance cases opened in 2016-17, up from 163 in the previous year. Disclosures with other agencies that have safeguarding responsibilities have increased by 30%, at 244 (up from 187 in 2015-16). Six statutory inquiries, the regulator's most serious type of engagement with charities, featured safeguarding concerns.

Over half of serious incidents reported by the charities to their regulator related to safeguarding concerns (1,203 of 2,182).

The Commission recently updated its [strategy on safeguarding in charities](#), which reminded trustees that they should proactively safeguard and promote the welfare of their charity's beneficiaries and take reasonable steps to ensure that their beneficiaries or others who come into contact with their charity do not, as a result, come to harm.

**Michelle Russell, Director of Investigations, Monitoring and Enforcement, said:**

We know that it is vital that trustees set a culture within their charity that prioritises safeguarding, so that the risk of safeguarding incidents is minimised, and so that it is safe for those affected to come forward and report incidents and concerns with the assurance they will be handled sensitively and properly. As our safeguarding strategy makes clear, everybody has the right to be safe, no matter who they are or what their circumstances are, and the public rightly expects charities to be safe and trusted places.

Our wider compliance case work shows that problems in charities often result from basic failures by trustees to understand and fulfil their legal duties. In the area of safeguarding, this can include failing to recognise that your beneficiaries may be at risk or vulnerable in certain situations, or not taking proper steps to

protect others who come into contact with your charity, such as staff members and volunteers.

I hope this report serves as a tool that enables trustees in managing their charities effectively.

Last month, the Commission [issued an alert to charities](#) reminding them of the importance of safeguarding, following a number of reports of serious incidents, and growing public interest in and concerns about accusations of harassment in the work place, including media reporting about some safeguarding incidents which have affected charities.

Tackling abuse and mismanagement also shows that in 2016-17 the Commission opened:

- 1,664 new regulatory compliance cases (2015-16: 1,804)
- 503 new monitoring cases (2015-16: 424)
- 187 new statutory inquiries\* (2015-16: 53)
- 2,182 serious incidents (2015-16: 2,117)

\*the increase in statutory inquiries relates in part to a class inquiry involving 74 connected charities which opened during the year; in addition, more charities became part of the double defaulters class inquiry.

The regulator also used its powers on 1,099 occasions; 13 of these were powers granted through the 2016 Charities Act. By the end of December 2017, the Commission had used these new powers on 80 occasions.

The Commission has today also published an updated [regulatory and risk framework](#); the updated document explains the Commission's approach to risk-led regulation and sets out how it prioritises both reactive and its proactive engagement with charities, including the development of policy and guidance aimed at enabling charity trustees to run their charity effectively.

The framework is designed as a guide for the Commission's staff and as a reference tool and guide for those involved in charities, notably trustees, staff and professional advisers.

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## Notes to editors

1. The Commission is not responsible for dealing with incidents of actual abuse and does not administer safeguarding legislation. It cannot prosecute or bring criminal proceedings, but it can and does refer any concerns we have to the police, local authorities, the Disclosure and Barring Service ('DBS'), and other agencies [each of which has a particular statutory function](#).
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## Correspondence: Harnessing technology to meet increasing care needs

Advice to the Prime Minister on how to improve the use of technology in social care, and the Prime Minister's response.

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## Correspondence: Harnessing technology to meet increasing case needs

In a letter to the Prime Minister, the Council for Science and Technology (CST) explores how technology could help address the specific challenges affecting care and support. CST make 4 recommendations for government and industry to consider.

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## Recording of the week: Britain's first supercomputer

*This week's selection comes from Tom Lean, Project Interviewer for An Oral History of British Science.*

It has been 55 years since the commissioning of Atlas at the University of Manchester in 1962, one of the world's very first supercomputers. Developed largely by the University of Manchester and Ferranti, the enormous machine was probably the second most powerful computer at the time and pioneered a

number of innovations in hardware and software. Capable of processing about a million instructions a second and with over 670 kilobytes of memory, Atlas had as much computing power as several smaller machines, albeit far less than the simplest desktop machine today. It was said that when Atlas went offline, Britain lost half its computing power. Yet despite this awesome potential, only three Atlas computers were ever built. As Atlas's lead hardware designer [Professor David Edwards](#) recalled for [An Oral History Of British Science](#), it was rather difficult convincing the sceptics that Britain even needed a machine that was so powerful:

[We only need one computer for the country\\_Dai Edwards \(C1379/11\)](#)



The Atlas computer at the University of Manchester, 1963 (Iain MacCallum)

Visit the library's [Voices of Science](#) web resource to explore 100 life stories about environmental science, British technology and engineering from 1940 to the present.

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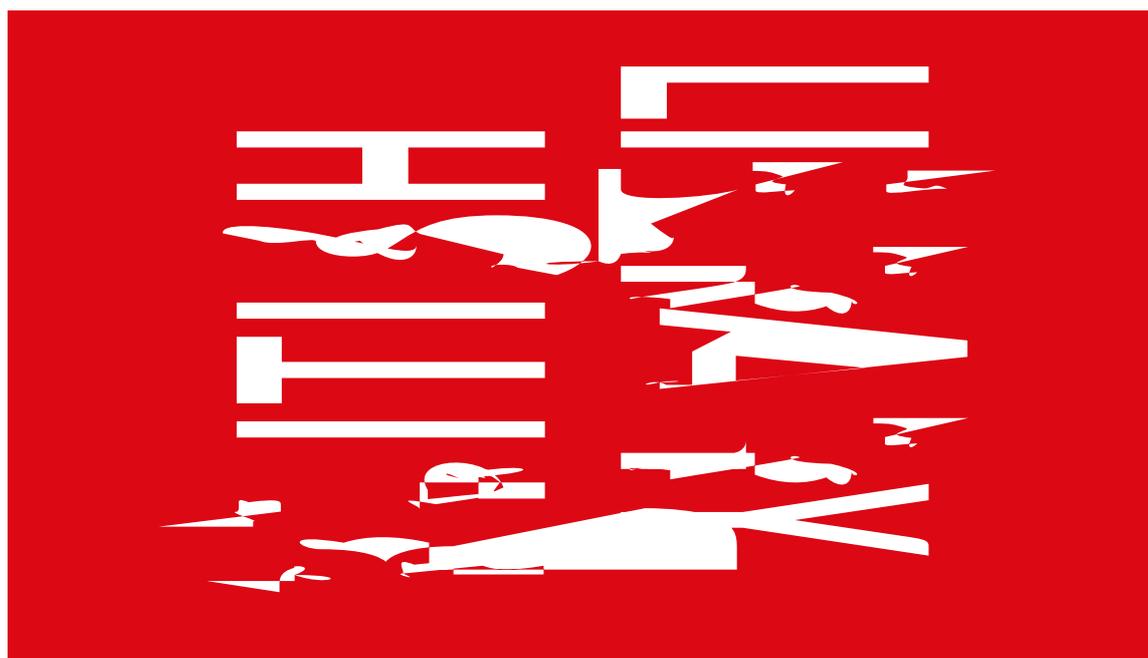
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## [Recording of the week: watching Britain's nuclear bomb tests](#)

*This week's selection comes from Tom Lean, Project Interviewer for An Oral History of British Science.*

On 8th November 1957, hundreds of British military and scientific personnel gathered at Christmas Island, a remote speck of land in the Pacific Ocean. They were there for Operation Grapple X, the first successful test of a British hydrogen bomb. At 1.8 megatons, the blast was about a hundred and forty times more powerful than the atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, and signified Britain's mastery of the secrets of thermonuclear power. Amongst the witnesses to the mushroom cloud rising above Christmas Island was a 35 year old technician named Frank Raynor. As he recalls, in perhaps something of an understatement, it was "quite impressive" to watch:

[Frank Raynor\\_C1379/76](#)



The tests were also witnessed by Laurance Reed, a naval officer on HMS Warrior. He describes a shipboard atmosphere of excitement, anxiety and awe

when the first bomb was dropped.

[Laurence Reed\\_C1503/37](#)

The full interview with Frank Raynor can be found in the [Oral History of British Science](#) collection on [British Library Sounds](#).

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