

Regulator opens inquiry into air ambulance charity after trustees cannot provide evidence for all of its expenditure

Press release

The Charity Commission has opened a statutory inquiry into the Air Ambulance Foundation UK (1155345), after its trustees failed to provide evidence that all funds have been expended in furtherance of its purposes.



The charity aims to provide financial support to air ambulance services throughout England and Wales.

Using its regulatory powers, the Commission assessed the charity's banking records and asked the trustees to evidence how certain payments were in furtherance of its objects. When they failed to do so the regulator opened the inquiry and used its powers to protect the Charity's assets by freezing the charity's bank account.

The inquiry will examine the administration, governance and management of the charity, in particular:

1. Whether the trustees can fully account for the charity's expenditure,
2. If expenditure has been in furtherance of the charity's objects.

The Commission may extend the scope of the inquiry if additional issues emerge.

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Notes to Editors

1. The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that

people can improve lives and strengthen society.

2. The Commission has not made any conclusions and the opening of the inquiry is not a finding of wrongdoing.
3. Air Ambulance Foundation UK (1155345) is not linked to the Association of Air Ambulances (1161153), also known as 'Air Ambulances UK'. We have no regulatory engagement with the Association of Air Ambulances.

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One week to go to the tax credits deadline – don't miss out

With just over a week to go, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is urging more than 222,600 tax credits customers to renew their claims before the 31 July 2022 deadline.

Customers are being warned not to leave their renewal until the last minute and risk their payments being stopped. They can do it any time – day or night – through HMRC's online services, including the HMRC App.

Tax credits help working families with targeted financial support and more than 363,000 customers have already renewed ahead of the deadline.

Myrtle Lloyd, HMRC's Director General for Customer Services, said:

The 31 July deadline is fast approaching and renewing your tax credits is too important to forget. HMRC support is available at all times of the day and night via GOV.UK and the smartphone app to help customers get their renewals right.

It's great to see so many customers have already renewed their tax credits. I urge those who are yet to renew to do so as soon as possible, in order to avoid having their payments stopped.

Customers can [manage their tax credits](#) quickly and easily online. Once tax credits customers have completed their renewal, they can use their online account to check its progress and find out when they will hear back from HMRC.

If there is a change in a customer's circumstances that could affect their tax credits, they must [report the changes to HMRC](#). These include changes to:

- living arrangements
- childcare

- working hours, or
- income (increase or decrease).

Customers choosing to use the HMRC app on their smartphone can:

- renew their tax credits
- make changes to their claim
- check their tax credits payments schedule, and
- find out how much they have earned for the year

HMRC has released a [video to explain how tax credits customers can use the HMRC app](#) to view, manage and update their details.

As part of the UK government's package to support households with the rising cost of living, a Cost of Living Payment of £650, payable in two separate lump sums of £326 and £324, for households receiving certain benefits or tax credits, has been introduced. For eligible customers receiving tax credits only and no other eligible benefits, HMRC will contact them to let them know they're eligible and will issue payments automatically, with the first being made in the autumn. Customers do not need to contact HMRC or apply for the payment. More information on the [Cost of Living Payment](#), including eligibility, is available on GOV.UK.

Tax credits are ending and will be replaced by Universal Credit by the end of 2024. Many customers who move from tax credits to Universal Credit could be financially better off and can use an [independent benefits calculator](#) to check. If customers choose to apply sooner, it is important to get independent advice beforehand as they will not be able to go back to tax credits or any other benefits that Universal Credit replaces.

As the deadline for renewals approaches, customers hurrying to sort out their accounts could be more vulnerable to scammers. HMRC is warning that if someone contacts them saying that they are from HMRC and wants the customer to transfer money urgently or give personal information, they should never let themselves be rushed. HMRC is also urging customers never to share their HMRC login details. Someone using them could steal from the customer or make a fraudulent claim in their name. The department urges people to take their time and check HMRC's advice about scams on GOV.UK.

Customers can download the [HMRC app](#) for free from their smartphone app store.

Find out more about [Universal Credit replacing tax credits](#).

To sign into our tax credits service for the first time you'll need to prove your identity using 2 evidence sources. We've recently added GB driving licences as an additional option to help more of our customers get online. You can find the full list of accepted forms of ID at [Manage your tax credits](#).

Challenge to nutrient neutrality advice rejected by the High Court

News story

The Court of Appeal dismissed the case on all grounds on Friday 15 July.



Criticism of Natural England's nutrient neutrality advice to one of the Solent's local planning authorities (LPAs) has been firmly rejected by the Court of Appeal. [In an important judgment](#), the Court of Appeal found that the LPA's planning permission which relied on the advice was lawfully granted and successfully withstood the legal challenge.

The advice was aimed at helping planners to ensure that proposed housing developments did not cause additional harm to protected nature sites that were already suffering from nutrient pollution. Its application by Fareham Borough Council, Hants, in granting planning permission for eight homes, was challenged by a residents group.

In [Wyatt v Fareham BC](#) the residents claimed that the LPA's decision, which relied on Natural England's methodology, did not comply with the Habitats Regulations and did not sufficiently protect internationally-important wildlife sites.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the case on all grounds on Friday 15 July and concluded that the planning permission had been lawfully granted. The appeal had been brought against Mr Justice Jay's judgment in the High Court in 2021. The High Court's helpful recommendations were incorporated by Natural England when it issued its national nutrient neutrality methodology, guidance and tools in March 2022.

This positive outcome at the Court of Appeal should give all those involved confidence in the approach and methodology that Natural England has proposed to help LPAs to address nutrient impacts from new development.

We look forward to continuing to work with LPAs and developers to bring forward nature-based solutions which deliver broader benefits for people and

nature, in addition to mitigating water quality impacts from new development.

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Adrian Bird appointed new Chief of Defence Intelligence

Press release

Adrian Bird has been appointed the new Chief of Defence Intelligence



Defence Secretary Ben Wallace has confirmed that the Prime Minister has approved the new appointment of Adrian Bird CB as Chief of Defence Intelligence.

Adrian Bird will commence the role in September 2022, in succession to General Sir James Hockenhull KBE ADC Gen.

General Sir James Hockenhull, Commander United Kingdom Strategic Command said:

I am delighted to congratulate Adrian Bird on his appointment as Chief of Defence Intelligence.

As a current Director-General at GCHQ, Adrian is a widely respected figure across all the intelligence community. He has worked on a wide range of operations and brings to his new role a huge bank of experience and knowledge.

This will enable him to integrate all levels of Defence and Government to work together to address the challenges we face in an increasingly uncertain world.

Adrian Bird said:

"I am very proud and excited to be appointed as the Chief of Defence Intelligence, an amazing organisation with a long and proud history.

I have been fortunate to work closely with colleagues across Defence and Defence Intelligence for many years – amazingly dedicated and talented people, brimming with ideas, who are making a difference for the UK and our allies every day.

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Anne Kavanagh and Clare Shine appointed to The Crown Estate Board

News story

On the recommendation of the Prime Minister, Anne Kavanagh and Clare Shine are appointed as new members of The Crown Estate Board.



Anne and Clare have been appointed by Royal Warrant to the Board of The Crown Estate. Both started as Commissioners on 4 July for an initial period of four years.

Anne Kavanagh has an extensive track record in transforming and growing global businesses, working closely with investors and occupiers and driving diversity and sustainability. Anne was recently named Chief Executive Officer of Telford Homes, a Trammell Crow Company developer. She was a Board Member and Chief Investment Officer at PATRIZIA until June 2022, where she was instrumental in helping the company grow to manage more than €55 billion in real assets. Anne also sponsored PATRIZIA's debut impact investment strategy,

Sustainable Communities, which launched with €125m of seed capital to invest in affordable and social housing across Europe. She has also held leadership roles at AXA Real Assets, Lazard, Cambridge Place Investment Management and JLL. She is a trustee of the Urban Land Institute and Global Board Member. She also serves on the advisory board of Cambridge University's master's degree in Real Estate Finance.

Clare Shine has worked across the world on sustainable development, organisational change and culture since 1990 and was appointed Director and CEO of the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) in 2021. She is a UK-qualified barrister with extensive experience as an independent environmental lawyer and policy adviser, including 15 years working on cross-sector marine and coastal strategy and planning, climate change and biodiversity. Clare was previously Vice President at Salzburg Global Seminar and is a member of the Santander X Innovation Xperts Board, an Associate of the Institute for European Environmental Policy, and a member of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law and the World Commission on Protected Areas.

Further information

Appointments and re-appointments of The Crown Estate Commissioners are Crown Appointments made on the recommendation of the Chancellor and Prime Minister.

Non-Executive appointments are made in line with the Governance Code on Public Appointments and regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity (if any declared) to be made public. Anne Kavanagh and Clare Shine have confirmed that they have not engaged in any political activity in the last 5 years.

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