



An Rialálaí
Carthanas

Charities
Regulator

12 October, 2017

Charities Regulator issues reminder to charity trustees: make sure you submit your annual report on time

The Charities Regulator today issued a timely reminder to over 4,000 charities, to highlight that they have just 12 days left to submit their 2016 annual report to the Regulator.

Under the Charities Act 2009 all registered charities must submit an annual report within 10 months of the end of their financial year. For more than 60% of registered Irish charities their financial year runs for the 12 months to December 31, so their submission deadline is October 31 of the following year.

“One of the key functions of the Charities Regulator is to increase public trust and confidence in charities,” Charities Regulator Chief Executive John Farrelly said. “Ensuring that your details are up to date on the Charities Register is crucial when donors and service users come to check the register. This is about transparency and building trust. However, not only will trustees be damaging their charity’s reputation if they fail to report on time, they will also be breaking the law. Filing your annual report on time is a legal requirement and one of the key responsibilities of trustees under the Charities Act.”

Annual reports provide a large amount of information about charities to the public for the reporting period including: income and expenditure; staffing and volunteer numbers; and a description of the charities’ activities. They are published as part of each charity’s entry on the Register of Charities, which can be accessed by the public on the Charities Regulators website (See Notes to The Editor).

A report published by the Charities Regulator today showed that 86% of registered charities filed an annual report during 2016. The Charities Regulator pursues organisations which fail to submit their reports. As part of the Regulator's escalation process, email reminders are sent to those who are up to 90 days late, warning them to comply or face a process that may ultimately result in them being removed from the Charities Register.

The Charities Regulator has issued 1,515 registered letters regarding charities who had reports outstanding over 90 days since 2016. In response to this, over 1,048 overdue annual reports have been filed. The final step for those who have not filed is removal from the Register.

Working in conjunction with the Revenue Commissioners, 1,068 Organisations have been removed from the Register since 2016 for a variety of reasons including non-compliance. A further 730 are in the process of being removed from the Register.

"The Charities Regulator has written in recent weeks to charities who are due to file a report by October 31, reminding them of the impending deadline, and their legal responsibilities to file on time," Mr Farrelly said.

The Charities Regulator has produced a guidance document for charity trustees on how to submit an annual report (See Notes to the Editor).

For more information: email press@charitiesregulator.ie or contact Eamon Timmins, Head of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement, at 01-6331517 or 087-7520978.

ENDS.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

The Charities Regulator's report on annual reporting compliance rates for 2016 can be read at

<http://www.charitiesregulator.ie/en/CRA/Annual%20Reporting%20Compliance%202016%20FINAL.pdf/Files/Annual%20Reporting%20Compliance%202016%20FINAL.pdf>

The Register of Charities can be accessed at

http://www.charitiesregulator.ie/en/cra/pages/search_a_charity

The guidance document for charity trustees on how to submit an annual report can be read at

<https://www.charitiesregulatoryauthority.ie/en/CRA/Annual%20Reporting%20User%20Guide%2026%2008%202016.pdf/Files/Annual%20Reporting%20User%20Guide%2026%2008%202016.pdf>