

Consultation on Charity Governance Code sets the priorities for Code update
95% satisfaction rate among nearly 400 consultation respondents who use or are familiar with the Code

The results of a public consultation about updating the Charity Governance Code indicate a 95% satisfaction rate with the Code among those who use the Code or are familiar enough with it to comment. Ninety-three per cent of these respondents find the Code clear and understand what charities need to do to implement the Code. All consultation responses have been analysed and have informed the priorities of ongoing work to update the Code.

The Steering Group responsible for the Code received nearly 500 responses to its consultation, including nearly 400 that use or are familiar with the Code, and extends sincere thanks to all those who shared their feedback. Responses came from individuals representing large, medium and small charities of all types, advisors and professional services who support charities, and non-users of the Code.

The Steering Group has no plans to charge charities for use of the Code. The group takes seriously its responsibility to ensure a sustainable code for the sector and will continue to explore all options for its ongoing financial viability. For now, the group's priority is to deliver an updated version of the Code.

Satisfaction levels with the Code's principles are very high, although feedback suggested that charities find the equality, diversity and inclusion principle most challenging. Many charities suggested that the language used in the Code could be more accessible, and some respondents indicated that they would like more guidance and support for implementing the Code. A significant number of responses suggested that the Code's status within the sector could be strengthened.

Responses to the consultation also highlighted a range of challenges which charities are facing, including financial resilience, risk management, boardroom behaviours, trustee succession planning, cyber-risk, and polarising debates about social issues.

The next stage of the work to update the Code will be a series of focus groups. The priority themes for these have been identified through an analysis of the consultation feedback and include:

- Further tailoring the Code and its guidance for charities of different sizes and at different stages of their governance development journey
- Supporting charities to implement the Code through guidance and prioritisation
- Clarifying whether any additions to the Code are needed
- Exploring the benefits of the Code and raising its profile in the sector.

Radojka Miljevic, Independent Chair of the Code Steering Group & Partner at Campbell Tickell, said:

“It is deeply encouraging to see such high levels of engagement with our consultation and to hear that the Charity Governance Code is such a valuable resource to so many charities. We have received a huge amount of highly valuable, detailed feedback, and we are very grateful to all those who have responded. We will continue to listen to and engage with charities during the next phase of our work to update the Code.”

Notes to Editors

1. The Charity Governance Code is a voluntary code by the sector, for the sector, which aims to support good governance practices in charities.
2. The Charity Governance Code is developed and maintained by a steering group made up of umbrella bodies which promote good governance in the sector. The steering group’s independent chair is Radojka Miljevic. The member organisations are ACEVO, Association of Chairs, Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland, NCVO and WCVA.