



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Commission

Engaging with and supporting Buddhist charities

Nick Donaldson, Head of Faith Charities Engagement

Network of Buddhist Organisations Annual Gathering
24th October 2020

www.gov.uk/charity-commission

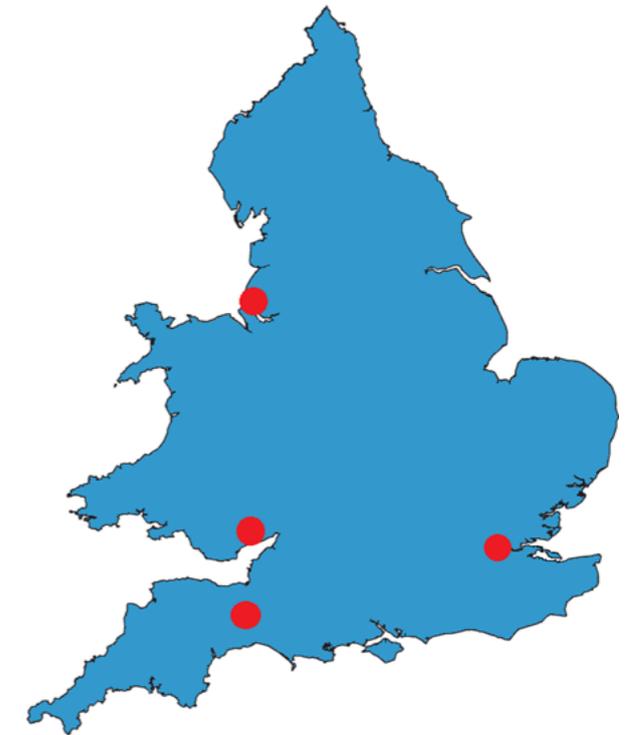
[@charitycommission](https://twitter.com/charitycommission)



The Charity Commission

Regulator and registrar of charities in England and Wales.

- 169,352 registered charities
- 35,505 undertake 'religious activities'





Faith Charities Outreach Team

Small team – 5.5 people based on 4 sites

2 primary aims:

- 1) To support unregistered faith-based charities to register
- 2) To support faith-based charities with governance





How do we work?

1) 1-1s (Bespoke registration support)



2) Events (including webinars) (Governance)



3) Comms (Registration and Governance)





Examples of recent engagement

1) Carbon offsetting

Discussing distinction between **advancement of religion** objective and **advancement of environmental protection**

“We recognise that, for many, the separation of religious and secular work is not easy, or even possible, as secular and/or social work in these similar fields is in fact an outworking of the religion.”

[\(Charity Commission public benefit guidance on advancement of religion\)](#)

Trustees need to consider the objective (purpose) of their spending

Trustees can spend money on activities which are ancillary to their purposes provided they are satisfied:

- doing so is the best way of furthering their purposes
- they have properly considered the charity’s reputation
- the amount involved is appropriate/proportionate



Examples of recent engagement

2) Safeguarding – Serious Incident Reporting

Discussion around due diligence/monitoring & reporting of safeguarding requirements in partner bodies.

Charity Commission stipulates safeguarding & serious incident reporting requirements in our guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-report-a-serious-incident-in-your-charity>

Specifics of policies, procedures & measures need to be agreed by trustees, based on risk assessment.

Critical to ask: does the safeguarding approach actually protect people? Or does it solely 'go through the motions'?



Future governance engagement

- Keen to understand range of Buddhist charities & governance challenges
- Can liaise directly on specific topics (but not individual cases)
- Webinars/events work well, particularly where we can:
 - maximise numbers – eg via centralised webinars
 - focus on specific topics affecting attendees
(can bring in other speakers if necessary – eg safeguarding)
- Can also support Comms (eg provide text for newsletter)
- For 1-1 registration support for faith charities:
 - email: faithoutreach@charitycommission.gov.uk
 - or call: 07783 141 669

My questions

Best ways to:

- a) Understand governance issues affecting the range of Buddhist charities?
- b) Promote relevant Commission guidance in response?
- c) Organise centralised webinars which promote good governance?



Tuesday 29th September
14:00

Topics include:

- Selecting your partners
- Sending money safely and securely internationally
- Monitoring how the money is spent
- Serious Incident Reporting to the Charity Commission

For further information
email



Eleanor Morgan:
International Charities
Engagement Manager,
Charity Commission
for England and Wales



Nick Donaldson:
Head of Faith Charities
Engagement, Charity
Commission for
England and Wales

To register:

Common governance topics

1	Accounting requirements
2	Campaigning and political activity guidance for charities (CC9)
3	Change your charity's structure
4	Claiming Gift Aid/ Tax benefits of being a registered charity
5	Conflicts of interest
6	Disputes
7	Decision-making and recording
8	Financial planning (including reserves)
10	Registration
11	Risk analysis & management
12	Safeguarding (including DBS)
13	Trusteeship of not-for-profit organisations



Questions



Nick.Donaldson@charitycommission.gov.uk
faithoutreach@charitycommission.gov.uk