



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES



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Regulatory Advice and Guidance to all Trustees of the Scout Movement on implementation of Prevention of Future Deaths (PFD) Report Commitments.

This advice and guidance is being provided by the Charity Commission of England and Wales (“the Commission”) to all Trustees of The Scout Association (“TSA”) and Trustees of local Scout Groups, Districts and Counties in England and Wales.

As the regulator of charities in England and Wales, one of our roles is to provide advice and guidance to support Trustees in governing their charities effectively. Our advice and guidance is issued under the powers provided at Section 15(2) of the [Charities Act 2011](#).

In April 2024, TSA’s trustees made commitments in response to HM Coroner’s [PFD Report, issued following the inquest into the death of an Explorer Scout](#). The Commission notes these commitments and continues to monitor their implementation. The commitments are formally set out in [TSA’s Response to the PFD Report](#) and the Commission expects Trustees to ensure the measures are fully embedded and sustained across the movement.

Since the conclusion of the Coroner’s inquest in February 2024, the Commission has met regularly with TSA’s Trustees, including the Chair, CEO and UK Chief Volunteer, and other senior leadership to review delivery against those commitments. The Commission has also reviewed TSA Headquarters’ incident reporting practices. These practices exist to support all Trustees across the individual Scout charities in meeting their safety and safeguarding duties. The duties include taking appropriate action should an incident occur and reporting certain types of serious incidents to the Commission where required.

The Commission has noted that in meeting the commitments, TSA has made significant efforts to review and develop permanent controls, procedures and structures aimed at transforming safety across the movement. These efforts reflect a movement-wide ongoing endeavour and commitment to making all necessary changes to protect from harm people who come into contact with a Scout charity.

It is clear that for these safety and safeguarding measures to be effective, **all volunteers – including those who also serve as Trustees** - in the movement must comply with these permanent controls, procedures and structures. The Commission understands that these measures include, but are not limited to, mandatory training, the nights away and adventurous activities permitting processes, and the prompt reporting of serious safety and safeguarding incidents. TSA Headquarters compiles these incident reports and submits them to the Commission, where required, on behalf of Scout charities in England and Wales.

All Trustees within the Scout movement share the responsibility of keeping safe everyone who comes into contact with their charity. To help ensure this, the Commission expects all Trustees to adhere to TSA’s established policies and

procedures. This includes compliance with TSA's [Rules and Guidance \(POR\)](#), and other safeguarding frameworks designed to uphold safe and transparent practices across the movement.

All Trustees within the Scout movement are asked to note that, in line with the Commission's role as regulator, a failure by Trustees to comply with their charity's relevant policies and procedures may require the Commission to investigate.

In support of you as a Trustee in discharging your duties, in addition to undertaking Scouts essential learning for Trustees, the Commission expects you to read and understand published guidance on trustee duties, trustee decision making, safeguarding and reporting serious incidents:

- [The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do \(CC3\)](#) which covers key principles of trustee decision-making.
- [CC27: It's Your Decision](#) which is a useful tool for trustees to judge their decision-making processes against.
- [Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees - GOV.UK](#)

The responsibility for reporting serious incidents within the federated structure of Scouts is outlined on the Scouts website – which is linked here: [Serious Incident Reporting / Scouts](#). For information, the Commission's guidance on serious incident reporting is available here: [How to report a serious incident in your charity](#).

Please retain a copy of this advice and guidance with your charity's records. The advice and guidance should be shared with all current trustees.

Any questions or comments about the content of this regulatory advice and guidance should be addressed to support@scouts.co.uk in the first instance.

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