

CHARITY COMMISSION UPDATE MARCH 2015

Filing Accounts with the Charity Commission

The Charity Commission have now provided the option for a charity's accountant or other nominated agent to submit accounts on behalf of their client charity through a digital service.

In order to set up this option, the charity must use the existing **change your charity's details** service on the Charity Commission website using the charity's password to give authorisation, and then the accountant or agent can register to use the new service.

Changes to the Annual Return

The Charity Commission has made some minor changes to the online Annual Return form over the past year. One new question asks if the audit report on the accounts has been qualified. It is important that this question should be answered carefully because the charity commission flags up qualified audit reports on the web-site.

Further changes to the Annual Return for 2015 year ends.

The Charity Commission has announced changes to the annual return, the tool it uses to hold charities accountable to the public.

The Charity Commission has stated that the changes, which will apply when charities report on their financial years ending in 2015, will strengthen its ability to identify risk and will ensure people have access to the information they need to make confident decisions about charities.

The annual return 2015 will include three new question areas:

- In the reporting period, how much income did you receive from:
 - contracts from central or local government to deliver services
 - grants from central or local government?
- Does your charity have a policy on paying its staff?
- Has your charity reviewed its financial controls during the reporting period?