Key events which shaped today's charity sector

1986

NCVO releases recommendations on fundraising practice, in response to years of concerns from the Charity Commission about dubious fundraising practices which were attracting increasing levels of negative publicity.

NGO FINANCE

1994

NGO FINANCE

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FOR THE PC REVOLUTE

The National

Lottery launches

The National Lottery

starts, leading to the

formation of the National

Charities Lottery Board,

and subsequently to the

Charities Act 1992

The first new major charity

creation of the Big Lottery Fund.

1992

legislation since 1960 gets

Royal Assent. It increases

the powers of the Charity

obligation of charities to be

accountable to the public.

Commission and the

1990

NGO Finance launches

Daniel Phelan launches NGO

Finance (retitled as Charity

Finance in 2001). The first

issue looks at the case for

1989

The Home Office publishes

the recommendations of the

a White Paper which translates

Woodfield report into legislative

the reform of the Trustee

Investments Act 1961.

The White Paper

proposals.

NAO and Woodfield reports

1987

Building on NCVO's report, the National Audit Office reviews the ability of the Charity Commission to regulate, and finds it needs more resources and further powers. Following the NAO report, the government commissions Sir Philip Woodfield to undertake an inquiry into the regulation of charities. His recommendations form the bedrock, five years later, of the Charities Act 1992.

Founding of CFDG

Adrian Randall, FD of Cancer Research Campaign, starts the Charity Finance Directors' Group, with support, amoug others, from Andrew Hind, Pesh Framjee and Ian Theodoreson

1988

PAC report The Public Accounts Committee delivers a damning verdict on the Charity Commission's work, including – famously – criticising it for not having any qualified accountants on its staff.

Sorp 2

The Accounting Standards Committee publishes Sorp 2. The Charity Commission, keen to respond to criticism that they hadn't done more to lay down accounting guidelines, warmly welcomes this initiative.

CharityFinance



1995

Sorp 1995 CHARITY SHOP The first comprehensive Sorp for charities launches, this time fronted by the Charity Commission. The new statement of financial activities attracts a great deal of attention.

1996

Deakin report

Professor Nicholas Deakin chairs NCVO's influential Commission on the Future of the Voluntary Sector. It is the genesis of the Charities Act 2006.

1997 **Review of charity tax**

Gordon Brown's first Budget has welcome news for the charity sector, with the announcement of a comprehensive review of their tax treatment. The review concentrates on irrecoverable VAT and business rates relief.

Compact established

Designed as an agreement between local government and service delivery charities, the Compact aims to revolutionise funding agreements and promote equal partnerships GO FINANC between statutory funders and voluntary groups delivering frontline services.

Another critical PAC report into CC

The PAC issues a highly critical report on the work of the Charity Commission. The "complacent" Commission is attacked for failing to achieve many of

its performance targets **GO FINANC** in 1996/97, and failing to use powers "to anything like their full potential".

2004

VGO FINANCE

GOFINAN

Charities Bill

Eight years after Deakin, a Charities Bill includes a new public benefit test, an extended list of charitable objectives and new duties for the Charity Commission.

2002

Private Action, Public Benefit The Prime Minister's strategy unit proposes a major shake up of UK charity law in this key report.

2001

CIO development

Liverpool University's charities unit, NCVO and the Charity Law Association originally developed the idea of the CIO. This year it gains traction in the Cabinet Office.

2000

Sorp 2000

Further changes are made to charities' accounting NGO FINANC requirements, and they now have to include a risk statement in the trustees' annual report.

Trustee payment

In response to an increase in the number of charities seeking the Charity Commission's authority to pay trustees, consultation begins on the circumstances, if any, in which charity trustees should be paid.

Gift aid threshold scrapped

1999

Following the Charities' Tax Review, government abolishes the minimum donation threshold of £250 and introduces a simplified gift aid declaration (the gift aid scheme was introduced in 1990).

2005

A charity regulator for Scotland

The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 receives Royal Asset in July. It establishes an independent regulator for the sector in Scotland, known as the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Sorp 2005

Sorp 2005 arrives, described as an evolution of Sorp 1995 and 2000, rather than a revolutionary change. One development

more comprehensive. 64

CICs kick-off

harityFinan

77

2006

OTS created

Reflecting the government's commitment to the sector, it sets up the Office of the Third Sector (now Office for Civil Society).

Charities Act 2006

The Charities Act 2006 gets Royal Assent in November.



Big Society Capital

The Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008 lays the foundation for the development of Big Society Capital, a new social investor for the sector.

2011



CC vs ICS

The Charity Commission and the Independent Schools Council battle over the interpretation of public benefit at the Charity Tribunal.





is that the trustees' annual report becomes even

The community interest company is introduced by government as a new constitutional form, designed for social enterprises.

2014 Lobbying Act

The Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014 is introduced and criticised by many charities. It contains rules which

require some charities to register with the Electoral Commission and report on their campaigning.

T

2013

Cup Trust

The Cup Trust controversy places charity tax issues squarely in the public spotlight and leads to another PAC report on the Charity Commission.

Another new Sorp

Consultation on Sorp 2014 finishes in November.

Charities Act review

2012

Lord Hodgson leads a review of the Charities Act 2006. Despite sector opposition, he controversially recommends it be made easier to pay trustees. The government rejects this recommendation.

2015

Fundraising scandals

Charity fundraisers are accused on the front pages of national newspapers of "hounding" 92-year-old poppy seller Olive Cooke to death. Fundraising practices come under increased scrutiny throughout the year following this.

Kids Company

Government-backed youth charity Kids Company closes suddenly after funding

was withdrawn by a donor. The charity had reserves of less than £500,000 despite having a wage bill of more than £15m.

2016

Fundraising Regulator The Fundraising Regulator is launched to replace the Fundraising Standards Board.

Charities fined for data breaches

The Information Commissioner's Office fines 13 charities for breaching data protection law, the first of which are RSPCA and BHF in December 2016 due to so-called "wealth screening" and selling of donor data.







2018

Sexual misconduct scandals at aid charities

Allegations of sexual misconduct among Oxfam staff in Haiti in 2011 are published in the Times, prompting a media storm. Revelations of inappropriate behaviour at other aid charities follow leading to a drop in donations and a series of resignations.



CharityFinanc

Civil Society Strategy

The Office for Civil Society publishes a new strategy, which is broadly welcomed by the sector but is also criticised for not going far enough.

Fundraising Preference Service

2017

The Fundraising Preference Service is launched to help donors to opt out of fundraising communications. Some 19,583 stop requests were made in the first year, with 5,318 made to suppress charity communications on behalf of another person.



The Independent Dormant Assets Commission, set up by the government, identifies £2bn of unclaimed assets lying dormant in the financial sector that have the potential to "transform the charity sector".