



## Beware of cyber-crime

**As we move further and further into the digital age, we are faced with an ever-increasing amount of cyber-criminal activity.**

This can take its form in several ways, which includes but is not limited to:

- **Ransomware attacks** – Placing a block on a computer system preventing access to the data until a ransom is paid.
- **Phishing fraud** – Where a cyber-criminal poses as a legitimate organisation to lure someone into providing information, usually personal data or banking information.
- **Malware** – Software being installed onto a computer via a link or attachment to an email that allows the cyber-criminal to control a computer.

The latest information from the Government's Department for the Digital, Culture, Media & Sport is that 1 in 5 charities have experienced a cyber-attack, with an average cost per attack of £9,470. When we consider this along with the updated Data Protection Regulations, charities need to be increasingly aware of the risks they are facing from a cyber-attack.

### **So, what is it that a charity can do to reduce their risk?**

Firstly, always ensure that the software being used is as up to date as possible. All software companies will release security updates. Cyber-criminals will often use out of date software as a way of infiltrating a computer system as they have had time to expose the loop holes in the software.

Ensure that you only click on email links or attachments from known sources. If you ever have any suspicions as to the contents of an email, do not use the link. Access the particular website through a web browser rather than the email

itself. Likewise, if you are ever asked to telephone, find the relevant number on the website of whom you are trying to contact, rather than using a telephone number from an email. That way you can be sure you are contacting the right company, and not an imposter posing as a company.

HM Revenue & Customs will only use email as a way of contact in a select few instances. You can be reasonably certain that if you receive an email from someone claiming to be HM Revenue & Customs, that it is indeed spam. Should you ever be in any doubt, use HM Revenue & Customs website to find a relevant contact number and call them instead.

You should already have an up-to-date Data Protection policy, but consider updating your IT policy to ensure staff are aware of potential cyber risks facing the charity. You could also consider whether it is prudent to request that staff undertake additional cyber-training. As an example, Barclays Bank PLC have released their 'Digital Wings Programme'. It is an online resource to aid with improving individuals' digital knowledge, including cyber-crime.

One final important step for charities is to consider the adequacy of their IT infrastructure, including hardware, software and internal procedures. Is the hardware or software used by your charity now out dated making it more susceptible to a cyber-attack? As with everything there are always costs involved, which can be hard for Trustees to justify when funding may be reducing. But consider the risk and potential impact on the charity if there was a cyber-attack and a loss of personal data. Trustees have a duty to safeguard

all assets, both tangible and intangible. As a matter of good practice, you should ensure that any information is backed up regularly to prevent data loss, and as best practice, these back-ups should be kept off site.

If you are ever in doubt over the authenticity of an email simply do not open it, and be sure to seek specialist advice where it is required.

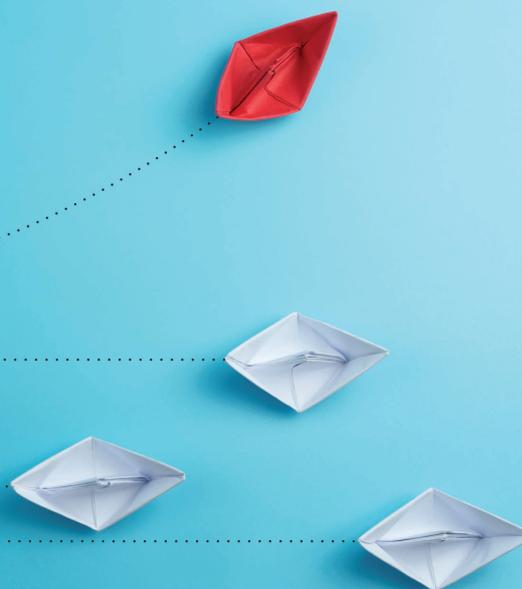


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**Plummer Parsons**  
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# Charity Trading Limits Changed



**From April 2019, the upper limit for charity trading has increased. The historic rate has been the same for the past 20 years so this is a long overdue change. It means as a charity you will be able to carry out more trade before incurring a tax liability or having to introduce a trading subsidiary.**

Charities can trade, without restriction if this is part of carrying out their charitable objectives. This “Primary purpose trading income” isn’t subject to tax, as it is raised whilst performing its charitable activities, for example, fees received for accommodation and care of residents in a residential home. However, there are restrictions upon trades pursued by the charity solely to generate funds for the charity.

If a charity’s trading activities do not relate to its primary purpose, for example holding a summer fete to raise funds, the profits are only exempt from tax if its turnover is below the small tax exemption limits.

The update to these rules from April, brings these thresholds to:

Annual charity income	Maximum non-primary purpose trading income
Under £32,000	£8,000
£32,000-£320,000	25% of income
Over £320,000	£80,000

It is important to remember some charities’ governing documents may include additional restrictions on non-primary trading. The new thresholds do not override these provisions and charities should ensure any restrictions are being complied with.

## Update your Details

All registered charities in England and Wales will need to check and update their details before they can submit an annual return. Each time you log in to your online account to do your annual return or update your charity details you will need to check and confirm your charity details are correct, or update them if needed, and agree to the Charity Commission terms.



From 31 March 2019 the Charity Commission changed all of its email addresses to end in [@charitycommission.gov.uk](mailto:@charitycommission.gov.uk). Any emails sent to the old [gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gsi.gov.uk) addresses will not be delivered.

## Cloud accounting

Don’t forget to talk to us about your charity’s cloud accounting needs.



## REMINDER

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into effect on 25 May 2018. Make sure that you and your charity are compliant.



## TaxaPP

Keep up to date with the latest tax rates and news by downloading our TaxaPP from our website.

**Download our TaxaPP now**  
[www.plummer-parsons.co.uk/taxapp](http://www.plummer-parsons.co.uk/taxapp)

## Did you know?

Tax and accounting are rapidly going digital. Gift Aid is already digital. The world of compliance is fast becoming digital. This can be looked on as an inconvenience, or an opportunity to improve your charity and make it more efficient. Plummer Parsons has the knowledge and experience to help you implement digital solutions that will not only meet compliance needs but, more importantly, enable you to put people not paperwork first.

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