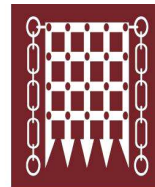


## Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar:

### The future for charity law and governance - accountability, regulation and priorities for new legislation

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Venue: 1 Wimpole Street, London W1G 0AE



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Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Barker**, Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson for the Voluntary Sector
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Key issues from the Law Commission's Technical Issues in Charity Law report, and priorities for the Draft Bill**  
**Professor Nick Hopkins**, Law Commissioner for Property, Family and Trust, Law Commission  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.20 **Simplifying charity law - operational freedom, charitable status and management of charity assets**  
*Stakeholder perspectives on the Law Commission's final report on Technical Issues in Charity Law, and the priorities for reform as key proposals are taken forward as part of new legislation. What effect will proposals to reduce the restrictions on charities amending their governing documents have on the wider sector, and how can charities take advantage of this greater flexibility? What are the implications of proposals to remove the need to offer donors refunds before establishing a cy-près scheme, and how can charities be encouraged to set out secondary purposes more effectively in order to avoid these situations? In light of proposals to remove the statutory requirement for using surveyors in charities' land transactions, what are the likely implications for the pace at which these transactions can be completed, and the quality of the agreements reached? Following measures in The Charities Act 2006 that enable a charity to override restrictions on the spending of its permanent endowment to further its purposes, does the sector require greater flexibility in this area, and how can this be taken forward without posing risks to the long-term financial stability of the sector?*  
**Jo Coleman**, Partner, Bond Dickinson  
**Professor Warren Barr**, Member, Charity Law and Policy Unit, University of Liverpool Law School  
**Michael Fahy**, Director - Real Estate, Steeles Law Solicitors and Trustee, Ethical Property Foundation  
**Martine Verweij**, Founding Chief Executive Officer, Kids Run Free  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 - 10.25 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Baroness Barker**, Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson for the Voluntary Sector
- 10.25 - 10.55 Coffee
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Susan Elan Jones MP**
- 11.00 - 11.25 **Current and emerging priorities for regulating the sector**  
**Kenneth Dibble**, Director of Legal Services, Charity Commission  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.25 - 11.35 **The new code for charity governance - implications for the third sector**  
**Rosie Chapman**, Chair, Charity Governance Code Steering Group and former Specialist Advisor to the House of Lords Select Committee on Charities
- 11.35 - 12.25 **Reforming charity governance - latest thinking on accountability, reporting, and the role of trustees**  
*Following the publication of the Code Steering Group's Charity Governance Code, which includes recommendations that charities consider the impact of the way they operate on the wider sector - as well as on their own continued relevance - what steps can be taken in practice by managers and trustees to ensure that this happens? Where charities have been recognised for their approach to governance - particularly in areas of trustee recruitment and ethical practice - how can best practice be more effectively learnt from and disseminated across the sector? With the publication of a report warning of "outdated and unprofessional" recruitment practices for trustees, what are the priorities for charities seeking to avoid conflicts of interest, and to ensure diversity among their trustees? What impact will the Law Commission's proposals to address issues arising from the remuneration of trustees (as well as their powers to make ex-gratia payments from a charity's funds) have on the future role of trustees in charity governance? After an annual survey revealed that public trust in charities has marginally increased after falling to its lowest level in a decade in 2016, how can charities continue to improve their accountability and further raise public confidence in the third sector? How will the move to a new financial reporting standard (SORP 102) affect charity governance, particularly following changes to the content of trustees' annual reports, and to disclosure practices for employee benefits?*  
**Helena Wilkinson**, Partner and Head of Charities and Not for Profit, Price Bailey and Vice-Chair, ICAEW Charity and Voluntary Sector Group  
**Dr Lorraine Gailey**, Chief Executive, Hearing Link  
**Ian Joseph**, Chief Executive, Trustees Unlimited  
**Richard Litchfield**, Chief Executive, Eastside Primetimers  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Rosie Chapman**, Chair, Charity Governance Code Steering Group and former Specialist Advisor to the House of Lords Select Committee on Charities
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Charity law and regulation - next steps for policy**  
**Ben Harrison**, Policy Manager, Office for Civil Society, DCMS  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**  
**Susan Elan Jones MP**  
**Marc Gammon**, Associate Editor, Westminster Legal Policy Forum