

CHARITIES BULLETIN ▶

Welcome to the Macalvins Charities Bulletin – our publication to keep you up to date with news and information relevant to the charities sector.

We hope you enjoy reading our Charities Bulletin and that you find it useful. We would welcome your feedback on the content, or ideas for topics that you'd like to see featured in future issues. Please get in touch with us.

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EXTENDED BUSINESS INTERRUPTION LOAN SCHEME TO PROVIDE VITAL FUNDING FOR CHARITIES

Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, has confirmed that the Government has extended the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) until the end of November.

Since March, nearly £53 billion Government-backed loans have been granted to commercial and third sector organisations. One of the loans, which offers 100 per cent Government backing, was due to expire at the beginning of November.

The other three, which enable 80 per cent Treasury backing on loans made by commercial banks, had been set close to new applications at the end of September.

All of these are now extended until the end of November and banks will be permitted to process loans until the end of 2020.

In total 60,000 organisations, including many charities, have taken advantage of £13.7billion worth of CBILS funding, with some accessing loans of up to £5 million.

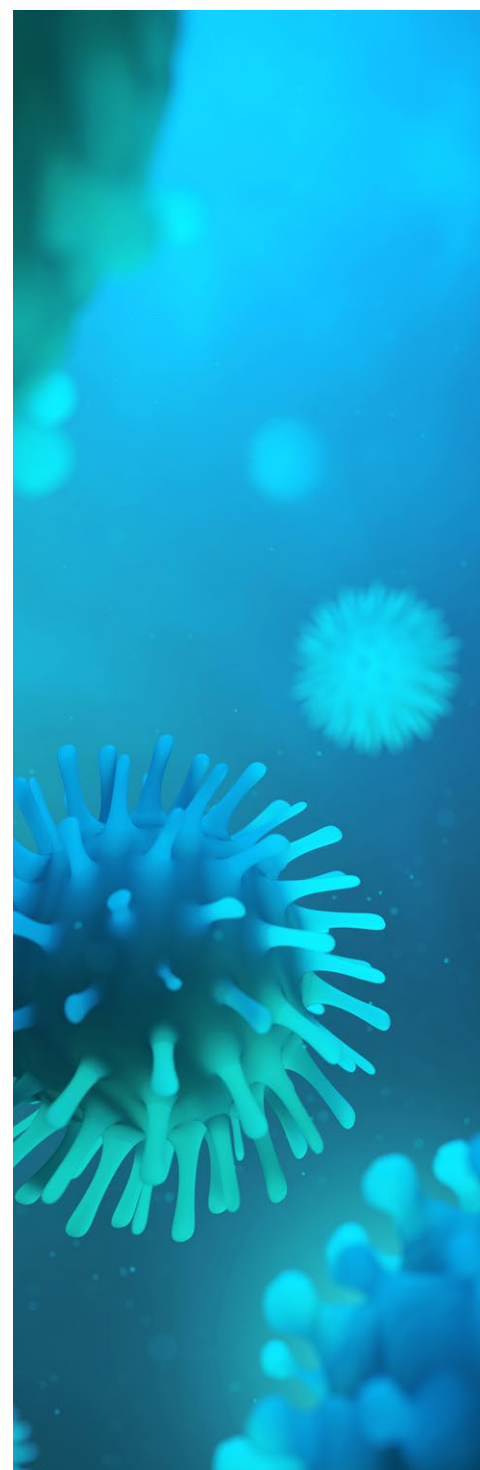
Stephen Muers, interim Chief Executive of social impact investors, Big Society Capital, said his organisation welcomed the Chancellor's announcement.

"Without this extension, we could have potentially seen up to one in 10 charities cease their operations before the end of the year," he said.

"In the short term, this extension will provide social enterprises and charities with additional time to secure much-needed finance. We welcome the fact that the government is exploring a successor loan guarantee scheme."



For help and advice on CBILS and other funding streams available to charities, contact our expert team today.





NEW CHARITIES REGISTER AIMS TO IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY

A new and improved register of charities aims to improve public confidence by increasing transparency on how donations are spent.

The new style public register of charities was launched last month and, according to the Charity Commission, the new system will allow donors to see where charity money goes and how efficiently charities use their resources.

The improved transparency will result from the increased scope of the register and the level of information that charities are now expected to make available in order to comply with new regulatory laws.

This includes the number of charity staff that receive total income packages in excess of £60,000, and whether trustees, who are usually volunteers, are paid for their services to the charity.

The new register will also include details of income received from Government

grants and contracts and whether a charity uses the services of professional fundraisers.

Easier online navigation will allow members of the public to search the register by charity name, area or cause.

Commenting on the launch of the register, Helen Stephenson, Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, said: "The Commission's online register has an important role to play in ensuring that generosity supports good causes, and we continue to urge people to check the register before donating to be sure that their money is going to a genuine charity.

"By widening the public's window into how individual charities are run, and how they spend their money, we hope people will also now

feel able to make more informed choices about how and where they give.

"I also hope that the new register display will encourage charities to continue to respond to growing public expectations around transparency and accountability.

"We know the public expect the way charities go about their work to be consistent with the spirit of charity, and the new mirror we are holding up to the sector should help charities respond to those expectations."



If you would like support with financial reporting or other governance issues, please get in touch with our dedicated charities team.

CHARITY COMMISSION URGES GREATER FRAUD AWARENESS

The Charity Commission used its annual Fraud Awareness Week to urge charities to protect its hard-earned funds from scammers.

The fraud awareness campaign, which this year ran from 19 to 23 October, is organised jointly by the Charity Commission and Fraud Advisory Panel and aimed to encourage and empower charities to talk about fraud and share best practice.

The 2020 campaign focuses on three simple messages:

- [Be fraud aware](#)
- [Take time to check](#)
- [Keep your charity safe](#)

This year has seen a number of charities fall victim to fraudsters, including revelations that as many as 105 charities have so far reported 'serious incidents' resulting from a

cyber-attack on software company, Blackbaud.

Although the regulator has refused to disclose exact details of the incidents, it is understood the ransomware attack against the US-based software provider, involved the theft of financial information, even though the company had originally claimed only names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers had been accessed.

Blackbaud has already apologised for the breach and paid the ransom in a bid to avoid the data being shared.

A spokesperson for the Charity Commission, said: "We are unable to disclose details of specific reports

we have received from individual charities.

"We are continuing to assess information in line with our regulatory framework to ensure the charities have responded appropriately."

The regulator is urging all charities to access the latest free, fraud prevention resources, which are available to download as part of Charity Fraud Awareness Week.



Information includes mini-tutorials, on-demand webinars, videos and factsheets to help combat fraud awareness, which can be accessed [here](#).

