

Summary of Advice and Guidance from Charity Commission

The Charity Commission provided advice and guidance for the Trustees that was considered by the Trustees at their meeting on 5 February 2021.

1. Reporting serious incidents

The NRA did not report the current electricity disputes to the Commission when they started. Any incident that has the potential to generate legal proceedings or any negative media interest should be reported the Commission immediately. If Trustees are unsure whether an incident should be reported, they should report it.

2. Current electricity claims

The Trustees must inform the Commission if any existing electricity claim escalates significantly and impacts the NRA's finances, or if any new claims are made.

3. Service charges

The Trustees must notify the Commission when the current professional review of electricity and service charging is completed.

4. Dispute

Serious disagreements within a charity can cause problems and damage its reputation. The Commission does not become involved in disputes between trustees, but has published guidance on how to deal with such disputes. Mediation should be attempted to resolve disputes between the NRA and its members. In resolving disputes, trustees must act in the interests of the charity on an informed basis, taking into account relevant factors, ignoring irrelevant factors and act reasonably.

As a result of this guidance, the Charity may be making a greater number of Serious Incident Reports, given the recommended lower threshold for making such reports. The Trustees have authorised the Secretary General to submit serious incident reports with the approval of the Chairman and one other trustee to facilitate this process. The Trustees are also reviewing proposals to expand the Designated Trustee function and provide a more comprehensive complaints handling process.

A copy of this summary will be placed on the NRA website for the information of members and the public.

12 February 2021