

CHURCHES AS CHARITIES – UPDATE FEBRUARY 2014

The Cabinet Office has written to advise us that Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242 The Charities (Exception from Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 comes into force on 31st March 2014. The Excepting Regulations will continue to allow churches not to register as a charity with the Charity Commission if their income is under £100,000 per annum until 31st March 2021. The Government are still committed to ending the Excepting Regulations eventually and churches should therefore continue to prepare themselves for registering as a charity.

Information about this is available on our Website (www.gbtc.org.uk/ChurchesasCharities.asp). Churches that do not have internet access can obtain hardcopies on request. As all applications for registration must be completed online, this will cause those churches some difficulty but the Corporation is willing to provide such churches with all the assistance they may need.

We are pleased to say that we have already been able to assist a number of churches to register as charities and, generally, it has been plain sailing. So church officers should not feel alarmed about this process but should ensure that they are ready for the process of registration. Reference to the information on our Website or in our information pack is a useful first step and we will continue to keep you informed as further information becomes available.

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