

CLAS CIRCULAR 2021/18 (25 August 2021)

Disclaimer

CLAS is not qualified to advise on the legal and technical problems of members and does not undertake to do so. Though we take every care to provide a service of high quality, neither CLAS, the Secretary nor the Governors undertakes any liability for any error or omission in the information supplied.

It would be very helpful if members could let us know of anything that appears to indicate developments of policy or practice on the part of Government or other matters of general concern that should be pursued.

CHARITIES & CHARITY LAW	2
Charity Commission: responsible investment guidance.....	2
EMPLOYMENT.....	3
EU Settlement Scheme	3
ODDS & ENDS.....	4
Government data on mass events and COVID-19	4
PROPERTY & PLANNING	5
Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Bill 2021-22.....	5
SCOTLAND.....	6
Scottish Government: consultation on COVID-19 inquiry	6
TAXATION	7
Business rates revaluation 2023: the central rating list	7
WALES.....	8
Draft Valuation for Rating (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2021.....	8

CHARITIES & CHARITY LAW

Charity Commission: responsible investment guidance

For information

The Charity Commission is currently analysing the responses to the public consultation on its responsible investment guidance, to which there were 211 responses.

During the consultation, two charities were granted permission to bring a case relating to responsible investment to the High Court. They are seeking clarification of the law and there will be a court hearing in 2022. Because the court's decision may affect the Commission's final guidance, it will not be published until the court has given its judgement. There is a summary of the responses [here](#).

[Source: Charity Commission, 18 August]

EMPLOYMENT

EU Settlement Scheme

For information

The EU Settlement Scheme officially closed for applications on **30 June 2021**. From 1 July 2021, all EU, EEA and Swiss nationals will need to have immigration status in the UK to live and work. So what's next? – [an explainer](#) from Bates Wells.

[Source: Bates Wells, 10 August]

ODDS & ENDS

Government data on mass events and COVID-19

For information

The Government has [announced](#) that data across all Event Research Programme (ERP) phases show that cases of COVID-19 observed in and around events were in line with, or below, community prevalence. The announcement notes that “a cautious approach should be taken at unstructured events involving attendees being in close proximity for extended periods of time, when spectators are at high-density pinch points at venues, when travelling to and from events, and when mixing indoors before, during and after events” – but it still urges people to get vaccinated.

[Source: DCMS, 20 August]

PROPERTY & PLANNING

Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Bill 2021-22

For information

The House of Commons Library has [published](#) a briefing on the Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Bill 2021-22. The briefing outlines the main provisions of the Bill and the key issues raised during its consideration in the House of Lords to date.

[Source: House of Commons Library, 6 August]

SCOTLAND

Scottish Government: consultation on COVID-19 inquiry

For information **and possibly for action**

The Scottish Government has [announced](#) a judge-led public inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005 into its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic to be set up by the end of the year and is consulting on the suggested approach. Comments should be e-mailed to:

COVID-19publicinquirysetupteam@gov.scot by **30 September**.

We don't believe that this is an issue on which CLAS can offer an opinion, but member Churches with congregations in Scotland may want to express a view.

[Source: Scottish Government, 26 August]

TAXATION

Business rates revaluation 2023: the central rating list

For information **and possibly for action**

MHCLG has [published](#) a consultation, closing on **8 November**, on changes to the central rating list for the 2023 business rates revaluation. The consultation document proposes that for the 2023 business rates revaluation certain assessments currently on local rating lists should be moved to the central list.

[Source: MHCLG, 16 August]

WALES

Draft Valuation for Rating (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2021

For information **and possibly for action**

The Welsh Government has [published](#) a consultation – closing on **27 September** - on draft regulations designed to prevent non-domestic rating appeals. The regulations apply to appeals citing certain COVID-19 trading conditions and restrictions.

[Source: Welsh Government, 16 August]