



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

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20 July 2023

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Our Ref:
MC2023/06972/NB

Dear Jay Richardson,

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 June to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP, on behalf of yourself and your co-signatories, regarding a lack of data on diversity, equality and inclusion in the charity sector. I am replying as the Minister for Civil Society.

The Government is committed to ensuring that opportunities, such as charity trusteeship, are available to all and recognises the important role data can play in helping to understand such issues as a priority.

Trustee diversity is important for the good governance of charities. By having a broad range of skills, experiences and backgrounds, charity trustees are better placed to challenge one another and strengthen their decision making.

The Charity Commission is engaging with stakeholders to better understand the barriers to charity trusteeship. It is taking targeted action to address this through its guidance, campaigns and events. It explored the use of charities' annual returns as a method to collect diversity data, but concluded that this was not an appropriate mechanism to do so. It is engaging with partners to explore alternative options.

As the department that sponsors the Charity Commission, we are keen to support it in its efforts to strengthen the data it collects, and in its efforts to encourage greater diversity of charity trustees. However, because the commission is statutorily independent, it cannot be directed to act by the Government or ministers.

Please continue to engage with the Charity Commission to encourage greater trustee diversity and data transparency. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will also continue to work with the commission to support these aims.

Thank you again for writing on this matter. Unfortunately, due to diary constraints, neither I nor the Secretary of State are unable to meet with you at present. I would be grateful if you could share a copy of this reply with your co-signatories.

Rt Hon Stuart Andrew MP
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