

LATEST NEWS FROM THE LEGAL AND OPERATIONS TEAM – FEBRUARY 2021

Charity Registration

In early December we wrote to all churches to explain that the Government was intending to extend the Exempting Regulations which currently mean that churches with an income below £100k per annum are exempted from the requirement to register with the Charity Commission. That letter can be found [here](#).

The Charities (Exception from Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 were laid before Parliament on 19 January 2021. **These regulations extend the temporary exception from registration from 2021 until 31 March 2031.**

We are told that the Charity Commission will be in touch with church representative bodies to design and develop a voluntary registration programme during 2021. We have no further information on this at present.

Data Protection update

We have updated the L13 Data Protection Guideline Leaflet and template Data Protection policy for churches to reflect the fact that the UK has left the EU and the impact this has on international transfers of personal data. We have also updated the template policy to cover in more detail the role that churches play in safeguarding. A church may have to process special category data or criminal offence data in relation to someone in the church or become involved in an investigation, sometimes without the knowledge of the individual concerned. We have therefore added an Appropriate Policy Document as a new schedule to the template policy, to cover this high risk processing of personal data. The updated template Data Protection policy can be found on our [Data protection documents for Churches webpage](#) and the L13 Guideline Leaflet can be found [here](#). Any questions may be addressed to dataprotection@baptist.org.uk.

Data Protection Training

We will be holding a Data Protection webinar on Friday 26 February 2021 at 1pm to update churches on developments post Brexit and to cover two challenging but key areas; Subject Access Requests (SARs) and data breaches. The link to join the webinar will appear on our website [here](#).

Online CIO Training Events

The BUGB Legal and Operations Team and Anthony Collins LLP will be hosting further online training sessions on Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) later this year, on Zoom. The training is open to all BUGB member churches, with a maximum of two delegates per church. The training will run from 10am until 1pm on the following dates:

Wednesday 21 April
Wednesday 30 June
Wednesday 20 October

Further information and an online booking facility will be available on the Baptists Together website nearer the time.

A webinar giving an introduction to CIOs is also available on the Baptists Together website [here](#).

Please direct any follow-up questions to legal.ops@baptist.org.uk