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manuals



The Charities Act 2011

On 14 December 2011 [The Charities Act 2011](#) received Royal Assent. Its provisions are due to come into force in March 2012, three months from the day on which the legislation was passed. The 2011 Act is a consolidating Act; there are no new provisions. The intention is to make charity law simpler and more accessible.

Implications of the new Act

Guidance from the Charity Commission (CC) is unaffected by the 2011 Act apart from all references to the appropriate legislation, which will now need to be [updated](#). References in applicable statutory accounts, audit reports, independent examinations, etc. will also need to change.

We understand that CC guidance on the effective date of change is due to be published shortly and that the 2011 Act will apply to documents issued on or after 14 March 2012, including reports issued after that date. As soon as the position is formally clarified we will let you know of our update plans for your Specialist Assignment Manual. Until then accounts and reports should continue to make reference to the Charities Act 1993.

A brief background

The 2011 Act repeals and replaces the Recreational Charities Act 1958, the Charities Act 1993 and many of the provisions of the Charities Act 2006. It fulfils a commitment made during the pre-legislative scrutiny of the Charities Bill which led to the Charities Act 2006.

The new legislation does not include part 3 of the 2006 Act which deals with public collections. This is to avoid making the CC the lead regulator of public charitable collections. Public collections will be reconsidered as part of the review of charity law being carried out by Lord Hodgson.

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