

News update:

29 November 2017

Conversion of charitable companies into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Following long awaited secondary legislation, charitable companies will now be able to convert into a CIO. The Charity Commission has announced a timetable (see the link below) for phased conversion beginning on 1 January 2018. We will be publishing detailed guidance about the conversion process and its consequences in due course.

In addition, from 1 January 2018 all CIOs will be included in the Register of Business Names Index maintained by Companies House. The practical implications of this are that:-

- all CIO names will appear alongside the names of companies when a person makes a search on the Companies House website – this will help prevent other CIOs or companies being established with the same or similar name; and
- the names of CIOs will be subject to regulations regarding “sensitive words or expressions” and the prior approval of Companies House will be required with regard to any proposed name of a CIO which includes such a word or expression.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/legislative-changes-affecting-the-charitable-incorporated-organisation-cio>

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This note provides a general summary only and it does not constitute legal advice. It is recommended that specific advice is sought in relation to the particular facts of a given situation.