



29 May 2019

LEGACY NOTIFICATION SERVICE

Thank you for your letter of 22nd May relating to the legacy notification service and the concerns among your member charities on this issue.

I want to start by reflecting to you our clear recognition of how important the notification service is to the charities you represent in terms of financial management and reporting, and its wider role in fraud prevention and awareness raising with executors. Legacy income plays an essential part in supporting charitable activities across the country, and we are committed to ensuring that an effective notification service continues to be delivered in support of this

Following the announcement in January, we have worked hard to listen to and understand the views of the sector on this critical issue. We are grateful to each of you, as well as to some of your members – such as Blerta Club at Save the Children – for giving my team your time to help us in this task.

As I said in January, I am committed to ensuring that the charity sector has a central role in helping us shape a sustainable notification service for the future. It is why I established the steering group you attend that met for the first time in March and will meet again on 18th June.

You as a group have consistently represented to us the importance of ensuring continuity of service for charities once existing arrangements cease at the end of July. This clear position has been reinforced by your members at engagement events attended by my Communications Director, Ed Owen, over the last three months too.

As a result, we have prioritised our effort during this time to securing an interim arrangement to provide participating charities with a notification service while the work is done to shape the longer-term solution.

I am pleased to tell you that that this effort has made good progress and that, while I am not yet in a position to provide details, I am now confident that an interim solution will be in place to deliver the continuity of service your members have sought.

My team is working hard on this and will continue to do so over the next few weeks to implement and deliver this solution, and we will provide an update on this to you at the forthcoming steering group meeting. I hope and believe that this will give you and your members the reassurance you require, and enable HMCTS, the sector and others to move forward more deliberately on work relating to developing to the longer-term arrangements.

Thank you again for your offer of help and support the work both to implement the interim solution and to shape the longer-term solution. Your insight and voice is important on both and we look forward to a constructive and mutually-supportive relationship over the next period.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Acland-Hood', with a stylized, flowing script.

Susan Acland-Hood

Chief Executive, HM Courts & Tribunals Service