INSERT DATE

William Shawcross CVO

Chair

Charity Commission

1 Drummond Gate

London

SW1V 2QQ

Dear Mr Shawcross,

You recently made clear your intention for the Charity Commission to raise £5m directly from the charities over the next two years. I am writing to you to express my profound disappointment at this statement to urge you to reconsider.

This is a debate that has been on-going for many years with little detail from the Commission over what the fees may look like. So far not one strong argument in favour of seeking funding from charities has been put forward. The arguments against, however, are numerous and include:

* Fees are wrong in principle – they would essentially act to siphon off charitable donations, which are given in good faith in order to help people.
* Fees would be a damaging burden on charitable resources – they would have the effect of reducing a charity’s income leaving them less able to help people. This would damage public trust and confidence.
* Fees would lead to bad regulation – leaving the regulator open to criticism for being influenced by large charities responsible for a significant part of the Commission’s budget.
* Fees would be poor value for money – it will be costly to collect fees, and income generated could easily be rendered ineffective should the Treasury further reduce State funding of the Commission.

Charities are under a huge amount of strain, expected to meet rising demand on their services while also being expected to meet new costs, which are not being factored into funding arrangements. These include mandatory costs for pensions, the National Living Wage, and the new Fundraising Regulator. An additional cost for the Charity Commission would be disastrous and would severely damage the sector in many ways.

I strongly urge you to listen to the many arguments against the imposition of fees and to make the right decision, which is to not to seek funding from charities and instead make the case to government that state-funding regulation is in the country’s best interest.

Best wishes,

NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS