

An extract from The Heritage Alliance's Heritage Update 256

Charities Act 2006 'critically flawed'

The Charities Commission has been put in an 'impossible position' and does not have the resources to adequately fulfil its duties, according to the latest report from the Public Administration Select Committee.

A key recommendation is that changes be made to the rules surrounding 'public benefit', the definition of which should be the responsibility of Parliament. The Cabinet Office should then prioritise what the Commission can reasonably achieve.

PASC Chair Bernard Jenkin MP also says that the Commission does not have the skills to carry out large-scale investigations into tax-avoidance abuses - such as those carried out by the Cup Trust.

However, the report has attracted criticism in turn. Head of chief executives body Acevo, Sir Stephen Bubb, has dubbed it an "unnecessary distraction" and PASC member Paul Flynn MP says that he "fundamentally disagrees" with an "atrocious" report.