

How to join CTG

CTG depends entirely on voluntary donations from members to fund its activities. Members are encouraged to donate at least £100 but many larger charities contribute considerably more. Please give as much as you are able as it is only through our members' generosity that CTG is able to carry out the work that we do.

We also have an Observer membership category for professional firms advising charities.

For further information, please contact us:

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representing charities on tax

Are you a charity?

Do you advise charities on tax issues?

Are you concerned about the amount of tax that your charity pays?

Would you like to work with over 400 of the UK's leading charities to reduce the burden of taxation charities face?

If the answer to all of these questions is 'yes', you should join the Charity Tax Group

What is the Charity Tax Group?

The Charity Tax Group (CTG) was formerly known as the Charities' Tax Reform Group (CTRG) and has over 400 members of all sizes representing all types of charitable activity. CTG was set up in 1982 to make representations to Government on charity taxation and it has since become the leading voice for the sector on this issue. It has persuaded successive Governments to introduce a range of tax reliefs and has also campaigned successfully to protect existing concessions.

By joining CTG, you can:

- be part of the sector's leading authority on tax and charities
- help to reduce the sector's irrecoverable VAT bill – over £400 million a year
- improve tax concessions on giving
- identify new ways of helping the sector
- obtain technical advice from the helpline operated by Ernst & Young
- help to protect existing reliefs

Success Stories

CTG has negotiated significant tax concessions for charities and has helped to prevent additional tax being paid by the sector. The Group has negotiated £300 million of VAT concessions a year and the work of the Group has also ensured that another £250 million of reliefs have been saved.

CTG was extensively involved in the Government's Review of Charity Taxation (1997-2000), with over 50% of its ideas being accepted by the Government.

Crucially, CTG has secured a recent commitment from the Government to protect all the charity zero-rates during the negotiations on the ending of the transitional VAT regime.

CTG played an important role in helping the Government fulfil its commitment to ensure free admission to national museums and galleries by devising the technical VAT solution.

The Group played a leading role in securing new direct tax reliefs, including developing a mechanism to ensure charities can convert donated goods into a Gift Aid donation.

CTG has lobbied successfully to persuade the Government not to appeal the Church of England Children's Society judgment and, subsequently, worked closely with officials to make sure that the response to claims was as sympathetic as possible.

CTG has also been extensively involved in the development of the new Charities Business Stream in the merged Revenue & Customs department.

CTG in Europe

As VAT is a European tax, any changes to European VAT law could have a significant effect on charities in the UK. Since the early 1990s, the European Commission has been making proposals to harmonise tax rates across the EU. These proposals have included abolishing the zero-rates that currently exist in the UK – hence the importance of securing the Government's commitment to protect them.

CTG worked with charities in other EU Member States to set up the European Charities' Committee on VAT (ECCVAT). Regular monitoring of European issues and contact with European officials helps CTG to influence decision-making when vital issues affecting charities are being discussed. ECCVAT has also secured considerable support in the European Parliament for the sector and several influential resolutions on charities and VAT have been passed by the Economic & Monetary Affairs Committee.

Activities & Membership Benefits

To achieve its objectives, CTG:

- makes representations to Ministers and Opposition spokespeople
- holds regular meetings with HM Treasury and HM Revenue & Customs officials
- runs regular seminars and members' meetings on current issues
- forms specialist groups on specific concerns
- develops responses to consultations conducted by the Government
- produces regular electronic updates giving members information on the latest tax developments, both in the UK and Europe
- makes available to donating members a free technical helpline
- has a dedicated website describing CTG's activities with a members-only section giving access to CTG's policy documents and an archive of relevant developments
- seeks updates from members on how VAT and other tax issues affect them in order to provide the information needed to campaign more effectively on their behalf.

By joining CTG, you can take advantage of these wide-ranging benefits and help to shape a fairer future for charity taxation. If you would like to join, please contact CTG using the details provided overleaf.

Observer Membership

CTG also welcomes the membership of professional firms and advisers to charities as 'Observer' members. In addition to the benefits outlined above, CTG holds dedicated biannual meetings for Observer members on topical issues and often involving senior Government officials. For further information about Observer membership, please contact CTG using the details overleaf.