



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

By email only:

request-1061183-3a6a9f16@whatdotheyknow.com

Charity Commission
PO Box 211
Bootle
L20 7YX

Our ref: C-110879

Date: 4 January 2024

Dear Riley A Cooke

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Thank you for your email of 17 December 2023 requesting information from the Commission.

We have dealt with your request under the FOIA.

FOI Request

I see in articles 170-172 of the Charities Act 2011 that the public have access to the accounts of a charity.

But is there any legislation that either specifically permits or specifically prevents public access to Ordinary meetings of the charity (not just the AGM or any EGMs) and to the agendas and minutes etc of these Ordinary meetings?

If so, can you please identify this legislation?

If not, can you please confirm it doesn't exist (in which case do the public have a right to access Ordinary meetings or does the charity have the right to prevent public access to Ordinary meetings?).

Some clarity would be very much appreciated.

FOI Response

We have understood your request to refer to ordinary meetings of the trustees of a charity, if this is incorrect please let us know.

On track to meet your deadline?

Visit www.gov.uk/charity-commission for help on filing your annual return and accounts

t: 0300 066 9197 (General enquiries)

w: www.gov.uk/charity-commission

We can confirm there is no specific legislation that permits or prevents public access to the ordinary meetings of a charity and to the agendas and minutes of the ordinary meetings of a charity.

A charity's governing document may contain specific directions for the conduct of meetings, including who can attend and vote at that meeting and have access to the agenda and minutes.

It may be helpful if we explain that minutes of trustees' meetings and agendas pertaining to such are not open documents and do not have to be made available for public inspection unless the charity's governing document requires this.

Further information about charities and meetings can be found on our website on the link [Charities and meetings \(CC48\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Right to Review

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request or the decision which has been reached, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests must be submitted within two months of the date of this response and should be addressed to the Charity Commission at PO Box 211, Bootle, L20 7YX (email: DPIR@charitycommission.gov.uk).

If you are not satisfied with the internal review, you are able to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our review procedure. The ICO can be contacted at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 [Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#)

Yours sincerely

Data Protection and Information Rights Team
Charity Commission