



Charities Act 2011

2011 CHAPTER 25

[^{F1}PART 14A

SOCIAL INVESTMENTS

Textual Amendments

F1 Pt. 14A inserted (31.7.2016) by [Charities \(Protection and Social Investment\) Act 2016 \(c. 4\), ss. 15\(1\), 17\(4\); S.I. 2016/815, reg. 2\(k\)](#)

292A Meaning of “social investment”

- (1) This section applies for the purposes of this Part.
- (2) A social investment is made when a relevant act of a charity is carried out with a view to both—
 - (a) directly furthering the charity's purposes; and
 - (b) achieving a financial return for the charity.
- (3) References to an act of a charity are, in the case of an unincorporated charity, to an act of the charity trustees.
- (4) A relevant act of a charity is—
 - (a) an application or use of funds or other property; or
 - (b) taking on a commitment in relation to a liability of another person (such as a guarantee) that puts the charity's funds or other property at risk of being applied or used.
- (5) An act mentioned in subsection (4)(a) is to be regarded as achieving a financial return if its outcome is better for the charity in financial terms than expending the whole of the funds or other property in question.
- (6) A commitment mentioned in subsection (4)(b) is to be regarded as achieving a financial return if—

Changes to legislation: Charities Act 2011, PART 14A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (a) it is not called upon; or
 - (b) it is called upon without resulting in the expenditure of the whole of the funds or other property put at risk.
- (7) The fact that a relevant act may also have results other than those mentioned in subsection (2)(a) and (b) does not prevent the carrying out of that act being regarded as the making of a social investment.
- (8) The fact that carrying out a relevant act of a charity is regarded as the making of a social investment for the purposes of this Part does not of itself make the act an investment for any other purpose.

292B General power to make social investments

- (1) An incorporated charity has, and the charity trustees of an unincorporated charity have, power to make social investments.
- (2) The power conferred by this section may not be used to make a social investment involving—
- (a) the application or use of permanent endowment, or
 - (b) taking on a commitment mentioned in section 292A(4)(b) that puts permanent endowment at risk of being applied or used,
- unless the charity trustees expect that making the social investment will not contravene any restriction with respect to expenditure that applies to the permanent endowment in question [^{F2}(but see section 104AA, which confers on charity trustees a power to use permanent endowment to make social investments in certain circumstances)].
- (3) The power conferred by this section—
- (a) may be restricted or excluded by the trusts of the charity;
 - (b) is (subject to paragraph (a)) in addition to any other power to make social investments that the charity or charity trustees may have.
- (4) This section and section 292C do not apply in relation to—
- (a) charities established by, or whose purposes and functions are set out in, legislation;
 - [^{F3}(b) charities established or regulated by Royal charter;]
- but they apply in relation to all other charities, whether established before or after this section comes into force.
- (5) In subsection (4) “legislation” means—
- (a) an Act of Parliament or an Act or Measure of the National Assembly for Wales; or
 - (b) subordinate legislation (within the meaning of the Interpretation Act 1978) made under such an Act or Measure.

Textual Amendments

- F2** Words in s. 292B(2) inserted (14.6.2023) by Charities Act 2022 (c. 6), s. 41(4), Sch. 2 para. 23; S.I. 2023/643, Sch. para. 20(i)
- F3** S. 292B(4)(b) substituted (14.6.2023) by Charities Act 2022 (c. 6), s. 41(4), Sch. 2 para. 45; S.I. 2023/643, Sch. para. 20(u)

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 292B: power to exclude conferred (coming into force in accordance with s. 53(3) of the amending Measure) by [Cathedrals Measure 2021 \(No. 2\)](#), s. 5(8) (with ss. 42(4), 48, 52(1))

292C Charity trustees' duties in relation to social investments

- (1) This section applies in relation to social investments that are made after section 292B comes into force, whether or not made by the exercise of the power conferred by section 292B.
- (2) The charity trustees of a charity must, before exercising a power to make a social investment—
 - (a) consider whether in all the circumstances any advice about the proposed social investment ought to be obtained;
 - (b) obtain and consider any advice they conclude ought to be obtained; and
 - (c) satisfy themselves that it is in the interests of the charity to make the social investment, having regard to the benefit they expect it to achieve for the charity (by directly furthering the charity's purposes and achieving a financial return).
- (3) The charity trustees of a charity must from time to time review the charity's social investments.
- (4) When carrying out a review the charity trustees must—
 - (a) consider whether any advice about the social investments (or any particular social investment) ought to be obtained; and
 - (b) obtain and consider any advice they conclude ought to be obtained.
- (5) The duties under this section may not be restricted or excluded by the charity's trusts.
- (6) In the case of an unincorporated charity, the duties under this section apply in relation to relevant social investments in place of any duties under sections 4 and 5 of the Trustee Act 2000 that would otherwise apply.
- (7) In subsection (6) “relevant social investments” means social investments that are investments for the purposes of Part 2 of the Trustee Act 2000.]

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 106(1)-(1B) substituted for s. 106(1) by [2022 c. 6 s. 16\(a\)](#)
- s. 322(2)(ea) inserted by [2022 c. 6 Sch. 2 para. 26](#)
- s. 331A331B and cross-heading inserted by [2022 c. 6 s. 15](#)