

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF THE CHARITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY
BOARD**

The Minister for Justice and Equality, Mr Alan Shatter, T.D., will shortly establish a Charities Regulatory Authority under the Charities Act 2009. Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons who wish to be considered for appointment to the Board of the Authority.

The purpose of this process is to provide a pool of suitable candidates from which appointments to the Charities Regulatory Authority Board, including a Chairperson, can be made by the Minister for Justice and Equality.

Following the initial appointments to the Authority, it is anticipated that any subsequent vacancies that may arise in the membership of the Authority during the rest of 2014 and during 2015 will be filled from those persons who submit expressions of interest in response to this call.

Background:

The Charities Act was enacted in February 2009 to provide for a new system of regulation for charities in Ireland. As part of this new system, an independent Charities Regulatory Authority is to be established. The Authority's functions will include the establishment and maintenance of a public register of charities and a range of other regulatory and advisory functions.

The general functions of the Authority, as set out in the Charities Act 2009 shall be to—

- increase public trust and confidence in the management and administration of charitable trusts and charitable organisations,
- promote compliance by charity trustees with their duties in the control and management of charitable trusts and charitable organisations,
- promote the effective use of the property of charitable trusts or charitable organisations,
- ensure the accountability of charitable organisations to donors and beneficiaries of charitable gifts, and the public,
- promote understanding of the requirement that charitable purposes confer a public benefit,
- establish and maintain a register of charitable organisations,
- ensure and monitor compliance by charitable organisations with this Act,
- carry out investigations in accordance with this Act,

- encourage and facilitate the better administration and management of charitable organisations by the provision of information or advice, including in particular by way of issuing (or, as it considers appropriate, approving) guidelines, codes of conduct, and model constitutional documents,
- carry on such activities or publish such information (including statistical information) concerning charitable organisations and charitable trusts as it considers appropriate,
- provide information (including statistical information) or advice, or make proposals, to the Minister on matters relating to the functions of the Authority.

Key Criteria:

The Charities Act 2009 provides that the Authority shall consist of not less than 9 and not greater than 20 members, of whom not less than 3 shall be persons, each of whom-

- (a) hold or formerly held judicial office in the Superior Courts, or
- (b) are barristers or solicitors of not less than 10 years standing.

The Act also provides that the Minister shall, in appointing the members of the Authority, ensure that among those members there are persons who have knowledge of, and expertise in relation to-

- (a) the law relating to charities,
- (b) the keeping of accounts by, and the funding of, charitable organisations, and
- (c) the management of charitable organisations.

Knowledge and expertise of organisational and regulatory governance are also relevant.

Appointees to the Charities Regulatory Authority should be leaders and influencers in their respective fields, have a genuine interest in the charities sector and be willing to commit their time, energy and expertise to the regulation of the charities sector. They should be excellent communicators, have a capacity to think strategically and creatively, be able to consider issues objectively and impartially and be committed to the highest standards of integrity and governance.

In considering applications, due regard will be given to Government policy on gender balance on State Boards. It might be noted in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 1 of the *Charities Act 2009*, membership of the Board of the Charities Regulatory Authority shall hold office for such period, not exceeding 5 years from the date of his or her appointment. In making appointments, the Minister is not restricted to those who have responded to this invitation.

In submitting expressions of interest, a person should also set out clearly any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise should they be appointed to the Charities Regulatory Authority.

Remuneration and Expenses

Members of the Charities Regulatory Authority will receive Board fees of €5,985 per annum and the Chairperson will receive fees of €8,978 per annum. Travel and subsistence expenses are payable, where applicable, in respect of attendance at meetings. It is envisaged that 8-11 meetings will be held annually; these are most likely to be located in Dublin.

How to apply

Anyone interested in being considered for appointment as a member should submit an application via the following link www.stateboards.ie together with detailed Curriculum Vitae and cover letter.

If you are already registered on www.publicjobs.ie you can log in using your username and password.

If you have not previously registered on www.publicjobs.ie you will need to register your details.

You must go to “Choose a Job Category” on the left side of the screen.

Click on appointment you are interested in and then click “Apply for this job”.

Please note that documents a) and b) below should be submitted as one attachment and should be saved in one document before commencing the application process.

Step 1 - Complete the Online Application Form. Most of this will be pre-filled from your registration profile.

Step 2- Attach a) and b) listed below

- a) Curriculum Vitae
- b) A cover letter outlining your capacity and vision to assist in achieving the significant goals in regulating the charities sector

Closing Date

The closing date for receipt of applications is: **Friday 21st February 2014.**

We will treat all applications/expressions of interest confidentially and information will only be given to the appropriate personnel.