

Charity Reorganisation – Summary of Application

Type of Scheme

Mars Training Ship Fund Scheme 1961 (SC002256) has applied to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) for approval of a reorganisation scheme for a variation of the constitution of the charity (whether or not in relation to its purposes) under section 42(3)(a) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the 2005 Act).

The endowment was established in 1961. In summary, it was established for the following purposes:

It shall be in the power of the governing body to award bursaries and grants to people of promise to enable them to attend courses in preparation or continuation of a seafaring career in any of its branches. The governing body are required to maintain in good repair the war memorial erected at Woodhaven pier, Wormit, by the subscription of the boys on board the "MARS".

The trustees propose to update the constitution to allow the charity to advance capital, and add clauses that allow for future amendment of the constitution, and that allow the charity to wind up or dissolve.

Reasons for reorganisation/Background to Reorganisation

The trustees explain that the charity was established as a body corporate by virtue of a scheme under the Education (Scotland) Acts 1939 to 1956, and that since it was established the charity has evolved its strategy to meet societal needs, but that the charity's governing document has not been modernised to reflect such changes. The trustees believe that this has resulted in the constitution becoming outmoded, increasingly restrictive and even at times fettering their discretion.

The trustees have identified that the charity's constitution does not contain the necessary powers to allow the charity to wind up or dissolve and transfer its assets to a SCIO if deemed appropriate, or to make amendments to its constitution.

Reorganisation conditions

The trustees suggest that the following reorganisation condition(s) is/are met:

42(2)(d) that it is desirable to introduce a provision (other than a provision setting out a new purpose) to a charity's constitution

The trustees suggest the condition is met because the introduction of new provisions permitting amendment of the constitution (but not so as to alter the purposes) and the dissolution of the charity will allow the charity to modify its operating procedures where appropriate to meet modern demands and practices, and also enable a dissolution to be administered in a more appropriate, straightforward and cost-effective manner should that be deemed necessary.

Reorganisation outcomes

The trustees suggest that the following reorganisation outcome(s) is/are met:

39(1)(b)(ii) that the proposed reorganisation scheme will enable the charity to be administered more effectively.

The trustees suggest the outcome is met because they believe that introducing provision permitting amendment of the charity's constitution will provide the trustees with greater flexibility to manage the charity and its assets in an appropriate manner, applying modern management practices to advance its purposes, and to adapt to the various challenges of operating a charity in the contemporary world; and having in place a proper dissolution clause will also facilitate the administration of the charity by establishing a clear and straightforward procedure to be followed if dissolution is the appropriate option, avoiding the need to apply for OSCR's approval another reorganisation scheme.

How to make a representation in relation to the proposed reorganisation scheme

Any person may make a representation to OSCR either supporting or opposing this proposed reorganisation scheme. Should you wish to make a representation, you may do so by writing to OSCR providing the following information:

- Your name and address
- The name of the charity concerned
- The nature of the representation and reasons for it

These are the terms of Regulation 5 of the Charities Reorganisation (Scotland) Regulations 2007).

Representations should be sent to OSCR by post or email

Postal: OSCR
2nd Floor Quadrant House
Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

Email: info@oscr.org.uk

Representations can be made up to 14 days following the end of the publication period. The latest date for the receipt of representations is 09/08/2026.

We cannot accept representations via social media channels.

Copies of any representations will be provided to the applicant charity for comment. If you do not wish the charity to be provided with your personal details, please indicate this in your representation.

Personal details will otherwise be disclosed to the applicant charity.

Please contact us by email or by telephone on 01382 220446 if you have any questions about the submission of a representation.

OSCR
29/07/2026