

CMS Pensions Charities Group

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At CMS we pride ourselves on providing our charity and other third sector clients with outstanding legal advice; it is the strength of our client relationships that sets us apart. Our extensive resource means that we can confidently commit to meeting our clients’ needs efficiently, at the right level and to any timescale. We recognise and understand the key issues facing third sector clients in relation to pensions and deliver pragmatic, user-friendly advice which is second to none.

Specialist knowledge

We recognise that pensions issues facing charities and the third sector have become more wide-ranging and complex over recent years.

As a result of the size of our practice and the number of charities we act for we have a head start in terms of issues that arise. It is rare for us to be confronted with issues for the first time or have to ‘reinvent the wheel’ when issues come up, meaning we are quick across the ground in providing prompt, proactive advice and commercial solutions.

Forefront of pensions law and related issues for charities and the third sector

We invest in ensuring that we are at the cutting edge of developments in both pensions law and the third sector.

We work hard both to understand the details and implications of new developments and to influence those developments so that they work in practice for our clients. We ensure that our clients benefit from our broad and extensive experience.

Some of our pensions charities and third sector clients:

- Ark Schools
- Central Cecil Housing Trust Pension Scheme
- The Civil Service Benevolent Fund Pension and Assurance Scheme
- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals Scheme
- Family Action Pension Scheme
- The Francis Crick Institute
- Genome Research Limited Pension Plan
- Latymer School
- Livability
- National Centre for Social Research Scheme
- Newham Partnership Working
- Oasis Community Learning
- Royal Academy of Arts
- Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation
- Royal College of Physicians Pension Scheme
- Royal Geographic Pension Fund
- Royal Society for Blind Children
- RSPCA
- Scope Pension Scheme
- St Paul’s Schools
- St Piers
- TPT Retirement Solutions
- The Wellcome Trust Pension Plan



CMS remains at the top of the profession...collectively they cannot be matched.

Legal 500, UK, 2022

A flavour of our charities and third sector expertise

Auto enrolment

Amending existing scheme documentation for auto enrolment compliance.

Covenant Issues

How to measure covenant strength, how to mitigate against funding concerns by use of contingent assets and how to deal with trustee concerns over covenant issues.

PPF Levy Issues

How to ensure the employer’s credit rating reflects a charity’s true financial standing.

Local Government Pension Scheme

Advising not-for-profit organisations regarding their management of liabilities under an exit from the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Funding Issues

Availability of funds and constraints on what funds can be used for.

Our charity partners and our approach to corporate social responsibility

The firm has a long history of supporting charitable causes via its charity partnerships. We work with a range of charities in creating holistic partnerships that go beyond fundraising to include volunteering, in-kind and pro bono support. We also support the firm’s corporate foundation and assist our staff with their individual charitable giving through our Give As You Earn scheme and provide matched funding for personal fundraising initiatives in aid of their chosen charity.

The CMS Cameron McKenna Foundation is a grant-making charity supporting charitable purposes in our communities across the world. Every year, staff can nominate charities to be considered for the Foundation’s grant programme.

As a firm we also take our commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) very seriously and encourage all of our people to devote a minimum of 50 hours a year towards CSR initiatives.

CMS contacts

Please get in touch with any of the team below or your usual CMS contact if you would like to discuss anything further.



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