



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Mrs Georgia Stokes

Sent by email only to

georgia.stokes@somersetwildlifeorg

Charity Commission
PO Box 211
Bootle
L20 7YX

T: 0300 065 1742

Our ref: EC/238372/C-510457/RC

Date: 25 November 2019

Dear Mrs Stokes

Somerset Wildlife Trust

We acknowledge your email letter reporting a serious incident (“RSI”) on behalf of the charity. The incident has now been recorded.

In this matter, the Charity Commission’s (“the Commission”) regulatory role is to ensure that trustees are complying with, and discharging, their legal duties and responsibilities and that the charity is managing any incident responsibly. Reporting serious incidents demonstrates to us that the trustees have identified a risk to the charity. Where it is clear that trustees are handling serious incidents appropriately and the risks are being managed by them, we are unlikely to take further action.

Serious incident report

You have explained how the charity’s logo came to be used on the Conservative Party candidate’s campaign leaflet and the steps that have been taken by the trustees to stop the leaflet being used. We understand that the charity intends to issue a statement on its website to clarify that it is politically neutral and not supporting a political party.

We accept that the trustees could not have prevented or foreseen this happening and note that the trustees have given regard to the relevant Commission guidance including “Campaigning and Political Activity: guidance for charities (CC9).

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

Next steps

Based on the information you have provided, which we assume is a full and frank disclosure of the relevant facts, you have assured us at this stage that the trustees are dealing with the matter appropriately and responsibly.

If there are any significant developments or material changes to those facts the trustees should contact us again.

Yours sincerely

Emma Cardwell

Emma Cardwell
Case Manager – Regulatory Compliance

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