



## **Ref: Charity Commission Investigation**

It has come to our attention that some members believe we are being investigated by the Charity Commission. We are not entirely sure where this rumour has come from, or whether it has been started by someone maliciously with an ulterior motive or whether it is a genuine misunderstanding.

Initially we took the view not to comment on this allegation, as sometimes that can simply fan the flames and is not a good use of the Association's time and resources. However, we are aware that this story has been circulating for some months now and is causing concern to members who are anxious that gossip, no matter how baseless, will damage the reputation of the Association.

We have therefore consulted our legal advisor, and the recommendation was to send out a Statement and to confirm that at no stage have we been contacted by or on behalf of the Charity Commission or indeed by anyone in relation to a proposed, threatened, or likely investigation. Given that this story started many months ago, it is reasonable to assume that if anyone had made a complaint against the Association that needed to be investigated, we would have been notified by now, but nevertheless we have contacted the Commission ourselves, to clarify the situation, and based on our enquiries we have absolutely no evidence of a complaint having been made against us and we have no reason to believe that anyone has a valid reason to make such a complaint against us.

We hope that this will reassure everyone that there is nothing untoward going on within the Association but if anyone has any concerns, questions or information they feel we should be aware of, they are requested to contact the National Chairman, Katherine Kear, [chairman@nafas.org.uk](mailto:chairman@nafas.org.uk) at their earliest convenience. We would suggest that this is a far more professional and appropriate way to deal with any issues that anyone may have, rather than spreading malicious and unsubstantiated gossip.

We are taking this extremely seriously, and should we receive evidence that the reputation of the Association is being damaged by false claims, we will pass this onto our legal advisor to pursue further.

In the meantime, now that lockdown is largely over and things are returning to normal, we hope that we can all focus on the far more important matter of taking the Association forward in a productive and positive way.

From the Board of Trustees, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021

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