

Possible alternative structures for the OGA.

The two main ideas proposed so far are that the OGA become a limited company or a charity.

I've become convinced that the difficulties of becoming a charity are too large. These are primarily:

- Onerous reporting requirements for the areas
- Difficulties created by the multiple different legislative and regulatory environments across the different nations

These problems are largely avoided by becoming a limited company because corporate law is largely aligned across the nations and the commercial financial reports are simpler than the charity ones.

But I am concerned that a national OGA company wouldn't limit the liabilities arising from the activities of the Areas. The Area committees wouldn't be employees of the company and wouldn't be commissioned by the OGA to hold the events. That would be an inversion of the way we operate.

So I want us to consider an alternative.

- The National organisation incorporates as a limited company which collects fees and holds the membership database and creates the log and distributes funds to the Areas. Members are members of the National OGA. The officer's liability is limited and the company reports only on what it does, not on how the Areas spend the money.
- The Areas are responsible for their own structures. Some might become CIOs or CICs or limited companies. Some might become small unincorporated associations. They report only on their own activities and if they incorporate, get the benefits of limited liability. If they become a charity they get those benefits and obligations.

There is a lot of precedence for this organisational style. Big companies usually have small operating companies and many charities are federations of small charities. The Citizens Advice Bureau is an example.

This would keep the OGA as an Area based organisation. It keeps the reporting simple. It meets the objective of limiting the liability of the officers. It sidesteps the problems of different rules for charities in different nations. It also makes us lots of small targets rather than one medium sized one if the lawyers get interested.

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