



**Girlguiding UK**  
*girls in the lead*

## Being a Trustee in Girlguiding UK

The responsibility for managing a charity falls upon the charity trustees. In guiding, the charity trustees are typically:

- The voting members of a County or Country/Region Executive Committee
- The members of a Division or District Committee
- The Leader and any Assistant Leader(s) of a unit.

The regulatory approach of the Charity Commission is defined as “light touch”, with recognition that charity trustees are volunteers and can be expected to do no more than their reasonable best to meet the standards set.

There are several categories of trustee, each with its own particular area of powers and responsibilities. Those most commonly encountered in guiding are the following:

### **Charity trustees**

These are the people who are involved with the management and administration of the business of a guide unit or area. It is generally straightforward to identify the charity trustees of Countries and Regions, and Counties; they are the voting members of the Executive Committee, and their identity will be confirmed by a written constitution.

In the case of Counties without a constitution, and Divisions and Districts who generally have no written constitution, the charity trustees will be the voting members of the County, Division or District committees or teams.

In the case of a unit, the charity trustees will be identified according to the individuals who regularly take part in making decisions about the management and administration of the unit.

### **Governing trustees**

These are those who have the function of the overall governance of Girlguiding UK or a Country/Region. As a County Commissioner you may be a Governing trustee for your Country or Region. The members of the Council of the Association are governing trustees, with limited trustee responsibilities specifically defined by the powers and responsibilities conferred on them by the Royal Charter and Bye-laws. A similar position exists in the case of those Countries and Regions which have a Council.

### **Holding or custodian trustees**

These are typically local trustees (see below), or the Guide Association Trust Corporation, who provide the legal vehicle for the ownership of land or buildings belonging to units or areas.

Girlguiding UK requires that freehold or leasehold land and buildings must be held in the names of (holding or custodian) trustees for the unit or area which ultimately owns them.

**Managing trustees (Property management committee members)**

These have the responsibility for the day to day management and administration of the guide property held by the custodian or holding trustees for the benefit of the unit or area. Generally they would be the members of a property management committee and, to avoid confusion, should be referred to as committee members rather than trustees.

Some of their functions involve trustee responsibilities delegated to them by the unit or area for whose benefit the property is held, and they would be expected to perform those responsibilities to the standard expected of a trustee. An example is the obligation to see that the guide property is properly insured.