

## Working with Faith Groups – Feedback from Jewish Charities

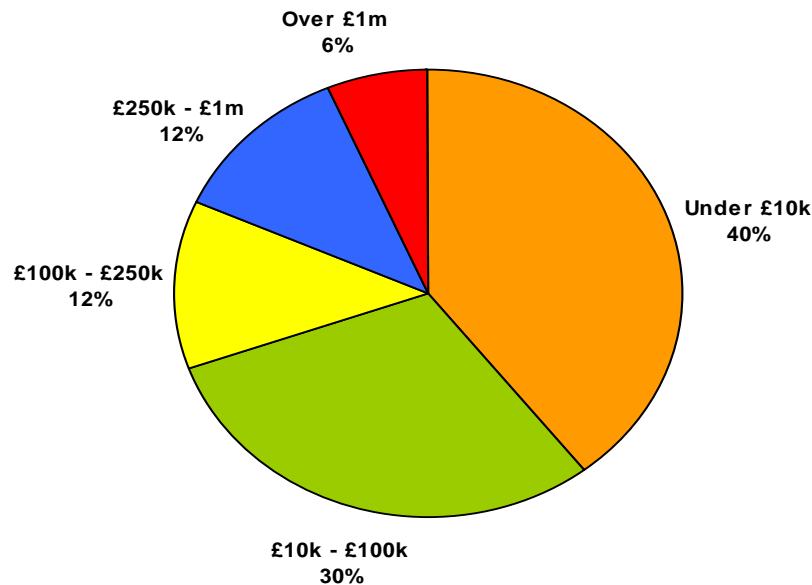


### A picture of Jewish charities in England and Wales:

There are approximately 2,351 Jewish charities on the Central Register of Charities, with a combined income of around £708 million.<sup>1</sup>

### Breakdown of Jewish charities by income band:

Almost half of Jewish charities have an income of less than £10,000 per year, and only 6% of charities have an income above £1m.



### The rate at which Jewish charities have been registering:

- 600 Jewish charities have registered with the Commission in the last five years, with an average of 120 charities registering with us every year.

#### The largest registered Jewish Charity

##### Jewish Care

Jewish Care registered with Charity Commission in 1989, and has an annual income of over £47 million. The charity engages in a wide range of activities, providing residential care homes, services for young people with mental health issues and those with physical or sensory disabilities. It also offers practical and emotional support to holocaust survivors through its holocaust survivors' centre. For further information about the charity's work, please see: [www.jewishcare.org](http://www.jewishcare.org)

<sup>1</sup> The statistics are based on information taken from the Register of Charities in England and Wales October 2007.



### The Charity Commission's consultation with Jewish charities:

#### The consultation events:

2 events were held: one in Manchester in October 2006 and one in London in November 2006. In total 136 people attended these events, representing 541 organisations. Delegates represented a huge variety of organisations, from academic organisations like the Institute of Jewish Studies to national bodies like the Anglo Jewish Association.

#### Key issues raised at the events:

The issues that delegates raised with us broadly fell within five common themes:

##### On communication:

- delegates believed that face-to-face meetings and events were very effective and that there should be more of them;
- many delegates considered that reliance on the website, might mean that those who don't use the web are excluded, and asked that this be addressed.

##### On fundraising:

- delegates raised concerns that the faith-based nature of their charities made it difficult to access some funding streams;
- there was a belief that the Commission should work more closely with HM Revenue & Customs on issues like gift aid, and how it can be used by different faith groups.

##### On trusteeship:

- delegates believed the Commission should establish a programme of trustee training.

##### On Commission staff:

- delegates felt that the Commission should have staff with a better understanding of the nature of Jewish communities and the cultural context within which they operate.

##### On safeguarding public trust and confidence in charities:

- many believed that the Commission should be more proactive in speaking out against verbal and written anti-Semitic attacks on Jewish charities.

#### Feedback from delegates at the event:

"Dialogue between faith charities could improve the individual charities and have a wider effect on society."

"I found the different needs of our welfare and religious charities very enlightening."

"Personal interaction with Commission personnel in this event was great."

"This is the beginning of the process."