

**Immediate Release 04/10/06...**

# **TORY MPs MORE IN TUNE WITH GOVERNMENT THAN LABOUR MPs OVER CHARITY DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES**

## ***PLUS: INCREASED SECTOR EFFORT ON REGULATION & ACCOUNTABILITY WINS BROAD MP APPROVAL***

**Over 7 in 10 (71%) Tory MPs polled agree with the Government's official position that charities can often deliver public services more effectively and efficiently than can Government itself, compared with just 1 in 6 (15%) Labour MPs and 1 in 10 (10%) Lib Dem MPs - according to new research out today.**

In his Letter of Appointment (20 May 2006) of Hilary Armstrong to the post of Minister for the Cabinet Office and Social Exclusion, Prime Minister Tony Blair has clearly stated:

"In many areas of public service delivery, the third sector has the potential for better user focus, better reach and better outcomes than the state - both in terms of service quality for users and value for money for the taxpayer."

Leading not for profit sector think tank and research consultancy's nfpSynergy's latest Charity Parliamentary Monitor surveyed a representative sample of 150 MPs and 100 Peers, exploring their attitudes to the regulation of charities and fundraising; and whether or not they think charities can deliver public services better than Government. The study follows on from previous waves of research dating back to January 2002.

Other findings are that 96% of Tory Peers polled also agree with the Government's broadly-stated stance that "charities can probably deliver public services more effectively and efficiently than Government", compared with just over a third (36%) of Labour Peers and 2 in 5 (40%) Lib Dem Peers; and that Peers, in general, are twice as likely as MPs (62% v 32%) to think this. Interestingly, in the light of ongoing sector efforts towards greater accountability and regulation, MPs are significantly less inclined to think that charities (37% in 2006 v 60% in 2002) or fundraising (47% in 2006 v 64% in 2002) should be "more closely regulated" than they felt four years ago, although opinions still fall along predictable party lines.

## **SOME KEY REPORT FINDINGS**

### **Charities' Ability to Deliver Public Services More Effectively & Efficiently than Government**

- Almost a third (32%) of all MPs polled think "charities can probably deliver public services more effectively and efficiently than Government" – more than the 28% who thought the same in 2002.
- 3 in 5 (62%) of all Peers polled think "charities can probably deliver public services more effectively and efficiently than Government".
- Over 7 in 10 (71%) Tory MPs polled think "charities can probably deliver public services more effectively and efficiently than Government" - compared with just 1 in 6 (15%) Labour MPs and 1 in 10 (10%) Lib Dem MPs.
- 96% of Tory Peers polled think "charities can probably deliver public services more effectively and efficiently than Government" - compared with just over a third (36%) of Labour Peers and 2 in 5 (40%) Lib Dem Peers.

### **Charity Regulation**

- Less than 2 in 5 (37%) of all MPs polled think “charities should be more closely regulated” – significantly down from 3 in 5 (60%) who thought the same in 2002.
- Almost 1 in 5 (18%) Tory MPs polled think “charities should be more closely regulated” - compared with almost half (46%) Labour MPs and over a third (35%) of Lib Dem MPs.

### **Fundraising Regulation**

- Almost half (47%) of all MPs polled think “fundraising should be more closely regulated” – significantly down from almost two thirds (64%) who thought the same in 2002.
- Over a quarter (27%) of Tory MPs polled think “fundraising should be more closely regulated” - compared with almost 3 in 5 (58%) Labour MPs and 2 in 5 (40%) Lib Dem MPs.

### **Investing in Fundraising to Build Long-term Income**

- Over 5 in 6 (87%) of all MPs polled think “charities are justified in investing in fundraising to build long-term income” – down slightly from the 92% who thought the same in 2002.
- Over 9 in 10 (93%) of all Peers polled think “charities are justified in investing in fundraising to build long-term income”.
- 4 in 5 (80%) Tory MPs polled think “charities are justified in investing in fundraising to build long-term income” - compared with over 9 in 10 (91%) Labour MPs and 93% of Lib Dem MPs.
- Over 9 in 10 (92%) Tory Peers polled think “charities are justified in investing in fundraising to build long-term income” - compared with 95% of Labour Peers and 87% of Lib Dem Peers.

### **Investing in Fundraising to Gain Informed Long-term supporters**

- Almost 4 in 5 (79%) of all MPs polled think “charities are justified in investing in fundraising to gain informed long-term supporters” – down slightly from the 84% who thought the same in 2002.
- 93% of all Peers polled think “charities are justified in investing in fundraising to gain informed long-term supporters”.
- 4 in 5 (80%) Tory MPs polled think “charities are justified in investing in fundraising to gain informed long-term supporters” - around the same as 79% of Labour MPs and 79% of Lib Dem MPs.
- 96% Tory Peers polled think “charities are justified in investing in fundraising to gain informed long-term supporters” - slightly more than the 90% of Labour Peers and 87% of Lib Dem Peers.

### **nfpSynergy’s Driver of Ideas, Joe Saxton, said:**

“The sector will, I am sure, be encouraged that its own ongoing efforts towards greater regulation and increased accountability have resulted in MPs now expressing less need for charities or fundraising to be more closely regulated than they thought to be the case four years ago.”

nfpSynergy conducts a whole raft of syndicated, cost-effective monitors, delivering subscribers with regular insights into key stakeholders including politicians, business leaders, health professionals, journalists, young people and the wider public.

**For more information about nfpSynergy:** [www.nfpsynergy.net](http://www.nfpsynergy.net)

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**MEDIA INTERVIEWS: To interview nfpSynergy’s Joe Saxton about the research findings (available in full on request), please contact:**

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# **Notes to editors:**

## • nfpSynergy

*nfpSynergy* ([www.nfpsynergy.net](http://www.nfpsynergy.net)) is the UK's *only* think-tank and research consultancy dedicated to the charity sector and not for profit issues. It provides ideas, insights and information to help voluntary and community organisations thrive in an ever-changing world. Regularly harvesting the social and charity-related views of public and parliament, media and business - not to mention not for profit organisations themselves - *nfpSynergy* has a vast and ever-growing knowledge pool from which to extract and deliver insights.

## • Joe Saxton

Joe Saxton co-founded *nfpSynergy* in 2002 after fifteen years experience in the voluntary sector, including as a director of the RNID (Britain's largest charity for deaf and hard of hearing people) and as a trustee of the RSPCA.

He is Chair of the Trustees of the Institute of Fundraising ([www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk](http://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk)) - the professional body for fundraising and the largest individual representative body in the voluntary sector, with 4000 individual members and 200 organisational members. Joe was recently named one of the hundred most influential people in UK social policy by *The Guardian* and has been repeatedly voted one of the ten most influential people in UK fundraising by *Professional Fundraising*, weighing in at the Number 1 slot for the last two years in a row.

A well-known and respected voice within the charity world and frequent face at sector conferences, Joe has contributed - via original research, opinion pieces and interviews - to a wide range of specialist and mainstream media, both print and broadcast, from *Third Sector* and *The Guardian* to *BBC Breakfast* and *BBC Radio 4*.