Cyber Essentials Voucher Scheme – Third Sector

The vast majority of cyber attacks exploit basic weaknesses in IT software and systems, which can easily be fixed. NCSC's Cyber Essentials show organisations how to address those basics and get a good level of online security in place.

As part of the Third Sector Action Plan on Cyber Resilience, the Scottish Government and the National Cyber Resilience Leaders Board will work with the UK Government and key third sector stakeholders to consider how best to strengthen incentives to support the uptake of cyber security standards/accreditation, and the adoption of good cyber resilience practice more generally.

This includes a **voucher scheme for grants up to £1,000** to support the achievement of Cyber Essentials or Cyber Essentials Plus by Scottish small and medium sized third sector organisations.

Cyber Essentials provides organisations of all sizes with clarity on good, basic cyber security practices that can help third sector organisations to better protect themselves against the most common cyber threats. Applying for a Cyber Essentials certificate and displaying the badge provide the independent assurance you have correctly implemented basic cyber security protections. It also allows you to bid for certain UK Government contracts. The technical controls set out in Cyber Essentials form part of the broader set of cyber security measures set out in the **Ten Steps to Cyber Security guidance**.

For more information, visit: www.cyberessentials.ncsc.gov.uk/
Accreditation Statistics can be found at: https://cyberinfo.co.uk/statistics/

An **OSCR Cyber Season** social media campaign with SCVO, Scottish Government and Cyber Catalysts will run for 6 weeks to promote voucher scheme to the wider third sector in Scotland.

You can access the first OSCR vlog delivered by SCVO **here**.

Further Information

The Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) are helping charities understand what it means to be cyber resilient and managing the **Cyber Essentials Voucher Scheme** on behalf of the Scottish Government to help small to medium sized charities achieve Cyber Essentials or Cyber Essentials Plus.

How to apply
The full criteria and application process for the Cyber Essentials voucher scheme, open only to third sector organisations (or their managed IT suppliers), is available at the SCVO website.

You can complete an online application **here**

Application dates
The first phase of applications closes 18 December 2018.

The sift panel will consist of Scottish Government, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and may include Third Sector Cyber Catalyst representation.

Further information
Any queries on the voucher scheme can be directed to digital@scvo.org.uk

You can find additional information on the ***SCVO website.***