

INDEPENDENCE PANEL  
Panel on the Independence of the Voluntary Sector



Sir Roger Singleton CBE  
The Panel on the Independence  
of the Voluntary Sector  
c/o The Baring Foundation  
60 London Wall  
London EC2M 5TQ

11 March 2015

Dear Andy,

Thank you for your letter of 4<sup>th</sup> March and also for your letter of 26 February to Caroline Slocock enclosing copies of your inquiry.

I think it was your decision not to meet with Caroline and Professor Deakin to give in depth evidence from your enquiry to the Panel, which we offered to allow time and opportunity to do so which was not available in our limited public sessions. When you decided not to take part in the related *Making Good* essays funded by the Baring Foundation, the reason you gave was the NCIA enquiry stood independently in its own right. This is also true of the Panel's conclusions, which are the result of four years work and much deliberation, as well as reflecting input from a very wide range of interests in the sector and sources. It would be a mistake in my view to seek to merge the two exercises, or engage in detailed critique of the different outputs, as both deserve respect and neither are identical or intended to be so. I hope that going forward the sector can build on points of agreement in order to tackle the challenges we both see.

The Panel sets out in detail in this latest and last year's report why it believes a Commission on the future of the voluntary sector is needed and the importance of it being genuinely inclusive of different groups and interests in the sector. Sir Stuart Etherington and Sir Stephen Bubb were invited to speak at the launch to give their responses to the recommendations in our report. At an earlier point, we had invited the Minister for Civil Society and the Opposition spokesperson to do this but this fell through because Lisa Nandy was called to Parliamentary business. It is quite natural to expect the NCVO and ACEVO to respond to our report, given that many of the recommendations related to the leadership of the sector and they lead the two most prominent umbrella organisations. Of course, leadership is widely dispersed across the whole sector but not everyone could be on that platform. Invitations went out widely to the launch, including to yourself, to ensure that all views would be heard, with time allocated on the agenda for this very purpose. I am very sorry you could not be there in the event.

As to the new Commission, can I refer you to this statement on the website of the Baring Foundation:

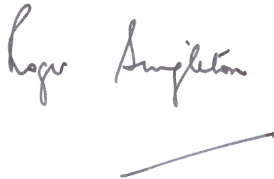
*Independent Commission on the Future of the Voluntary Sector*

*The Foundation welcomes the final report of the Panel on the Independence of the Voluntary Sector and its previous recommendation regarding the need to establish a Commission on the Future of the Voluntary Sector. The Foundation believes that the independence of the voluntary sector should be at the heart of such a Commission which will need to recognise the breadth and diversity of the sector. The Foundation will be seeking support to create a Funders' Collective to establish an Independent Commission on the Future of the Voluntary Sector and will contribute itself financially to such a Commission.*

I hope you and others will put your efforts into helping to influence the shape of an effective and independent Commission on the future of the voluntary sector, rather than attacking it for what you imagine it to be before it has even been established.

I am copying this to Panel members and to others to whom you copied your letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger Singleton". Below the signature is a single horizontal line.

Sir Roger Singleton CBE