

Legal Helpline

The Trust currently pays a legal helpline which is available to all U3A members and costs £19,000 a year. This presents two problems.

- The Trust support its' member charities in their growth and resilience. It's members are the U3As not the wider movement. Charities must ensure at all times that their funds are applied to promoting their objectives. This helpline is beyond our purposes and we believe it is not strictly within our legal constraints. Such insurance would not appear to be within the constraints of individual U3A's constitutions as they are educational charities.
- Usage is very small (around 2 a day) and dominated by personal matters most of which is readily available free or at low cost by other means. The cost of this service for a very small number of members is therefore high. However the Trust accepts that it has a duty to advise members on U3A legal matters. Hence we will ensure relevant U3A organisational legal matters continue to receive proper attention. This will be done on a case by case basis as appropriate through specialist lawyers and be arranged by the Office as and when necessary. Such support is not connected with the ARC service.

Hence the service provided through ARC will end on 30th September 2017 and U3As should take steps to remove any reference to this service from their literature.