

**Speech by Peter O'Donnell
Launch of Unum UK CSR Report
Parliamentary Reception, 30 November 2017, 7.15pm**

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me start with some thank you. First of all, Lord Hayward, thank you for your speech, your support, sponsoring the reception and for being with us this evening. I look forward to continuing our work together.

I'd also like to thank the Unum UK board independent Directors and my executive team. They continue to give wholehearted support to Unum's CSR agenda. Finally, I have a number of US colleagues in the audience led by Rick McKenney our Group Chief Executive. It's a busy time of year, as Rick knows travel is not easy but they have extended their trip to be here tonight and support for efforts.

I am also delighted to welcome colleagues from other insurance companies, parliamentarians, officials, journalists, academics, business partners and customers. For many of you, Unum's CSR work may not be that well known and I hope this evening gives you a better insight of the work we do in our communities.

But this evening is not about Unum senior management or stakeholders it's about my team, the work they do and the charities that we have the privilege to work with.

I am delighted to see so many here this evening representing the people at Unum who organise our charitable work and also the charities and voluntary organisations that Unum has partnered with this year and indeed in many cases over a number of years.

As Malcolm said, this is a special evening for us at Unum and one that makes us very proud. Not only are we launching our CSR report and celebrating the work carried out this year and indeed the new friendships we have made, I also am able to announce the new national and regional charities that Unum will partner with in 2018 and 2019. But let me look back first.

For the last two years, the Guide Dogs has been Unum's national charity, while St Michael's Hospice, Children's Hospice for the South West and The Rainbow Trust have been our regional charities. Over that time, the team at Unum have raised over £100,000 for them collectively, an amazing effort but sadly, in a months' time, this formal relationship will come to an end.

Personally and on behalf of my colleagues, I would like to thank you for working with us and I do hope we have been able to make a small contribution to your important work. We've loved working with you and we wish you every success for the future. I know we will continue to work together. The reason I know that is even though we are only just over 700 people in the UK, this year we supported almost 100 charities through fundraising, volunteering, mentoring, cake sales and many other activities. In 2017, across all our charities we raised almost £250,000 and had almost 4,000 volunteering hours to support them and there's still a month to go!

Turning to the future, as I said we have chosen our local and national charities for the next two years. Unusually perhaps within business and more in keeping with our venue this is a democratic process.

In September, colleagues nominated national and regional charities that they would like to see us partner with for the next two years. This year, over 100 different charities were nominated. In October, we shortlisted the charities and in November, over a two weeks' period, colleagues had the opportunity to look at the presentations submitted by the shortlisted charities and vote for their preferred charity. Almost three quarters of Unum's staff took part in the voting process including me. As always the team made some great choices.

I am pleased to announce for 2018 and 2019, nationally Unum UK will partner with Child Bereavement UK and in Basingstoke we will partner with Ark Cancer Centre and in Dorking with The Halow Project. We are really looking forward to working with you.

Also in 2018, we will be entering in a number of new strategic partnerships including: Carers UK, Greenhouse Sport, Birkbeck College and Working Families. We also really look forward to working with you too.

The CSR work we do is not altruistic. I believe as does Rick and Malcolm that there are many tangible benefits for private sector organisations to have a robust CSR programme. For example, I am pleased to announce that Unum UK is currently undertaking a review of its policies and programmes to ensure that colleagues in our emerging leadership programmes are able to join charities and various organisations as board members.

I believe this benefits the charities which gain access to people with sound business and professional skills and the individuals will gain valuable experience and develop oversight, leadership and stewardship skills, vital to leaders of today's businesses. We will be writing to charities in the near future to inform them of our plans and whether they might have any vacancies on their boards that they would like Unum colleagues to consider.

I want to end by thanking both personally and on behalf of Unum Group all my team who have worked so tirelessly for our charities and voluntary groups and thanks again to all those who attended tonight.

Enjoy your evening.