



Acceptance and Refusal of Donations Policy

HOPE for Epilepsy

Acceptance and Refusals of Donations Policy

Purpose of this Policy

HOPE for Epilepsy's (also referred to in this document as 'us' 'we' and 'the charity') acceptance and refusal of donations policy applies to all members of our charity, including trustees. It is to be brought to the attention of anyone who is involved in accepting donations.

Compliance

As a registered charity, HOPE for Epilepsy complies with all relevant UK laws and regulatory guidelines, including those issued by the Charity Commission, HMRC, and the Fundraising Regulator (with whom we are registered).

In the process of fundraising, we will not knowingly mislead or provide false information, nor put undue pressure on a donor, particularly if s/he may be vulnerable.

We will also take all reasonable steps to avoid asking for regular donations (for example, by direct debit) from anyone under the age of 18.

Acceptance of Donations

HOPE for Epilepsy accepts donations on a good-faith basis. That is there is a presumption that a donation is acceptable unless there is evidence to the contrary. We carry out appropriate risk-based due diligence to mitigate this risk to an acceptable degree.

In deciding to accept, or reject, a donation we balance the impact on our beneficiaries of not accepting the funding, against the impact on our charity of accepting a donation that could go against our charitable aims and objectives or could adversely affect our reputation. That may include risks such as harm to our beneficiaries' interests, reputational damage, loss of public trust, and the risk of breaking the law.

Factors we will consider in making a decision will include any physical or mental health condition, disability, or learning difficulties the person may have, whether the person is facing times of stress or anxiety, whether a donation is likely to affect the person's ability to sufficiently care for themselves or leave them in financial hardship, how well the person can speak and understand English, whether the person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs and the person's age.

Refusal of Donations

HOPE for Epilepsy will not accept a donation where there are reasonable grounds to believe:

- The individual or organisation holds views or is involved in activities incompatible with our values as a charity.
- The donation may be an attempted scam, or to launder money or evade tax, or is in some other way illegal.
- There may be private benefits linked to the donation, such as an obligation to purchase goods or services from a specified company.
- Conditions attached to the donation are so inflexible that they undermine our independence.
 - or are so onerous as to compromise our effectiveness.
 - or restrict who may benefit to the extent of undermining our public benefit obligation.
- The cost of accepting the donation would exceed its value.

The Role of Trustees

The Charity Commission emphasises that the views and beliefs of an individual, or external pressures should not overly influence these decisions.

Recently updated guidance about decision-making in a Trustee role 'Decision-making for charity trustees' (CC27) will be referred to in terms of decisions to the acceptance/refusal/returning of donations.

Regulatory Guidance

HOPE for Epilepsy has sight of, and will regularly check and refer back, to the following sources of information on regulatory guidance (as recommended by the Charity Excellence Framework).

- Charity Commission - [advice on suspect donations](#).
- Fundraising Regulator - [behaviour when fundraising](#).

And the Chartered Institute of Fundraising's advice.



Date	Action	By whom
October 2022	Created, formatted and reviewed	Louise Miller (Trustee, Secretary)
October 2022	Reviewed and checked	Dr Nadine Gurr (Chair of Trustees)
September 2023	Reviewed and checked links work	Louise Miller (Trustee, Secretary)
October 2024	Changed name from 'HOPE for Paediatric Epilepsy: London' to 'HOPE for Epilepsy'	Louise Miller (Trustee, Secretary)
	General editing	
	Updated to include membership of the Fundraising Regulator	
	Checked hyperlinks still work	
	Updated to include March 2024 guidance from the Charity Commission	
<i>October 2025</i>	<i>Date of next review</i>	