**Chesil Sailability**

**Acceptance/Refusal of Donations & Grants Policy**

1. **Bckground**

The ultimate responsibility in respect of the acceptance or refusal of all donations & grants rests with the Trustees of the charity. There is no specific statute to guide Trustees in law on this, but there are relevant legal principles that Trustees must follow when making such decisions. The Charity Commission sets out Trustee responsibilities around raising funds:

‘You and your co-Trustees are responsible for deciding how your charity will obtain funds. You should think about:

* how much money the charity needs
* the costs, benefits and risks of different methods of generating income
* any legal requirements that the charity must comply with, including fundraising regulations, and restrictions on commercial trading
* any potential reputational issues
* whether you need advice’

# (extract from: ‘The essential Trustee; what you need to know, what you need to do’, Charity Commission, July 2015)

1. **Acceptance/Refusal of Donations**

The legal principles require Trustees to consider which course will, taking an overall view, be in the charity’s best interests. The law allows practical & ethical factors to be taken into account as long as they are likely to affect the specific interests of the charity.

Where it can be shown clearly that the cost, e.g. in reputation, to the charity of accepting a donation will be greater than the value of the donation itself, the Trustees, in promoting the best interests of the charity, can refuse the donation. Trustees will need to have at least a reasonable expectation of detriment arising, e.g. reputational issue, before taking it into account in their decision.

Where the potential donor is an organisation whose activities are not directly related to the charitable objects of the charity, but the charity nevertheless wishes to avoid association with the donor, great care should be exercised in coming to a decision. In such cases the Trustees are potentially answerable to the Charity Commission, and must be able to demonstrate clearly to the Charity Commission how ‘the best interests of the charity’ have been served in accepting or refusing the donation in question. In making these judgements, Trustees must not allow individual political or commercial interests, nor personal views on political or ethical issues, which are not directly related to the interests of the charity, affect their judgement.

1. **Criteria for Acceptance/Refusal of Donations**

There are two main criteria for the Refusal of Donations:

* Relating to purpose of Chesil Sailability.

Where a donation or grant is from an organisation which clearly discriminates against people with disabilities.

* Reputational risk

Where a donation or grant is from an organisation, where there is or likely to be a clear reputational risk and negative publicity for Chesil Sailability from accepting funding from that organisation.

In assessing these, due diligence will be:

* Looking at the Companies House website or equivalent
* Doing a simple Google search and looking at the first two pages which come up

Any decisions to refuse a grant or Donation will be made by the Board of Trustees, and that decision, with the reasons, will be recorded

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1/3/2018