



Safer Giving - Advice for the public

Do not be put off giving to charities- they do really important work, helping those in the greatest need - but be vigilant and take the following steps to make sure you are safely giving to legitimate charity collectors:

Before giving, check the charity's name and registration number. You can verify this at the Charity Commission's website.

Be more cautious about people collecting for general charitable causes, such as 'it's for local sick children'- make more enquiries about what exactly the money would be used for and by who. If in doubt, ask the collector for more information.

Genuine fundraising materials should feature the charity's name, registered number and a landline contact number. Be wary of those that list only a mobile number.

Look for the FRSB tick logo indicating that the charity is signed up to fundraising regulation, encouraging you to give with confidence. www.givewithconfidence.org.uk/

Check whether a collector has authority to collect. A permit or license is usually required if raising money in a public place.

When dealing online with charities, exercise the same caution as with any other internet transaction, For example, to donate online visit the charity's own website and always type the website address into the browser yourself.

Be wary of unsolicited emails from charities you have never heard of and do not click on links contained within them. Also, you should ignore requests to donate through a money transfer company as this is a popular scam

After making these checks, if you think that a collection or appeal is not legitimate, report it to the police; and if you think the collection is fraudulent report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or through their website at www.actionfraud.police.uk

[Giving Safely](#) - guidance by the Fraud Advisory Panel for the public on how to give safely to charities.

For more information on fundraising go to www.frsb.org.uk

To find names and contact details for registered charities go to <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/find-charities/>



Safer Giving - Advice for Charities

Although most people who fundraise and support charities are honest, there are some unscrupulous people who will abuse a charity's name and exploit the trust and confidence the public has in charities. Trustees may not be able to detect and stop all fraudsters, but there are procedures and safeguards that charities can put in place to help detect any suspicious activities:

If you give people who fundraise for you official charity material, such as identity badges and collecting tins make sure you collect everything back as soon as you can. Check that nothing is missing and nothing has been tampered with.

Remember that people who fundraise for you by conducting street or house to house collections need a licence to do so.

Make clear to them that they need to comply with the fundraising regulations.

If people fundraise for you, consider providing your volunteers with a basic information pack or leaflet about what they must do and should not do if they are collecting on your behalf.

If your charity never uses or does not want to encourage donations in the form of cash or street collections, let your donors and supporters know this by making it clear on your website

If you are made aware that supporters are collecting on your behalf without a licence, do not ignore it; contact them to let them know this is not permitted and that they need a licence. Under the provisions of the Charities Act 1992 a charity may also apply to court for an injunction to prevent a person from fundraising without its consent.

Any concerns contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or through their website at www.actionfraud.police.uk

Further guidance

More advice and information is available in our guidance [Charities and fundraising - CC20, Compliance toolkit chapter 2 - Due diligence monitoring and end use of funds](#) and on the Institute of Fundraising website www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk.

[Charity Fraud: A guide for the trustees and managers of charities](#) - guidance produced by the Charity Finance Group in partnership with 15 public law enforcement and charity sector organisations, including the Charity Commission, as part of our partnership work with the sector, aiming to safeguard charitable donations and encourage giving.

Guidance for trustees on how to [Prevent and deal with online fraud](#) has been published by the advice organisation Get Safe Online, in partnership with the Charity Commission.

We publish [advisory alerts](#) to raise awareness of particular risks or vulnerabilities which may affect charities when we become aware of these. A number relate specifically to safer giving, either generally, or in response to a particular crisis.