

Frequently Asked Questions – Gift Aid

What is Gift Aid?

Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows charities to reclaim the tax that you have already paid on your donations through income tax or capital gains tax. All donations (excluding those made through the Charities Aid Foundation and payroll giving), made in the last four years are eligible for the scheme - including regular gifts such as standing orders and direct debits.

When can Gift Aid not be claimed?

We cannot claim gift in the following circumstances:

- Payments for goods and services
- Donations of money from a company
- Gifts made on behalf of other people, for example, a membership subscription paid on behalf of somebody else
- Gifts in lieu of presents, flowers etc – *However if each separate donation is enclosed within an individual sealed envelope which the full details completed for each individual who has made the donation, these can be claimed. It is not possible to do one gift aid declaration for bulk of everyone's donation.*
- Gifts that come with a condition about repayment
- Gifts that come with a condition that the charity buys goods or services from the donor
- Payments received in return for goods or services for example admission to a concert or tickets for entry to an event
- A 'minimum donation' where there is no choice about payment
- Gifts made using 'charity vouchers' or 'charity cheques'

I am a pensioner, do my donations qualify?

You may still be paying tax on a private pension plan or a savings account, or capital gains tax if you sell either some property or shares. You are still eligible if you have paid enough tax during the year to cover the amount we are reclaiming on your donations.

What if I have agreed to Gift Aid to another charity?

You can support as many UK charities as you like through Gift Aid. All you need to do is to return a declaration to each charity that you support and ensure that you are paying enough tax during the year to cover your total annual donations.

Do I have to make a declaration for every donation?

No. You can choose to whether the charity can claim on your current donation, future donations or past donations, this is selectable on your Gift Aid declaration. There is no extra paperwork - we deal with the tax office to reclaim the tax. All we need is your form.

What if I pay tax at a higher rate? Can the charity claim back the full amount?

Unfortunately not, we can only claim back tax at the basic rate. But you can request a rebate for the difference when you submit your tax returns and you can then opt to donate this to a charity of your choice.

If you have any further questions about Gift Aid please contact the charity office on 01226 431650