

OPTIMI Policy on receiving donations

Background

Several organisations operate schemes to collect money on behalf of charities or donate a portion of their turnover to charities and OPTIMI has been approached by some of these. There is a concern that some of these organisations have business models that are not considered to be ethical by all. This policy is drawn up to address this concern after considering advice from The Charities Commission at <https://charitycommission.blog.gov.uk/2019/06/06/thanks-but-no-thanks-when-should-charities-refuse-donations/>

The related blog includes the statement “The Commission’s starting point is that charities should normally accept donations and use them to further their purposes. We want to see charities flourish – and cash is always going to be critical to that.

We also understand that if you dig deep enough, every penny will have its baggage. We do not therefore generally expect trustees to refuse or return donations, though we understand that there may be some rare cases where trustees may wish to consider doing this.”

In light of this advice OPTIMI will accept future requests to register for such schemes, when offered, unless there is clear evidence that to do so may be unlawful.

As at May 2021 our donation page reads:

“ Please support us

Optimi is a Not for Profit Registered Charity. Although we hope that it will be self-financing through the purchase of its training material, it is recognised that this may not always be possible. In situations where clinicians can demonstrate that they would benefit from our training material but are unable to access the required funding, we hope to subsidise these activities and enable Targeted Training to benefit more children. Please support us in this aim by donating funds.” A statement will be added to include the words “OPTIMI accepts donations from a variety of organisations but does not necessarily endorse their operational methods.”

OPTIMI includes a route for donations via a PayPal button.