



Ethical Fundraising & Partnerships Policy

Last Updated: 13 Mar 24

Introduction

FEAST With Us (hereby known as FEAST) works towards the relief of financial hardship and the protection and promotion of health among vulnerable people living in the UK by providing such persons with regular nutritious meals, which they could not otherwise afford due to lack of means and expanding its recovery response by offering nutritional education and practical experience for those people experiencing food insecurity, giving opportunities to help people become independent from food aid services.

FEAST maintains its environmentally focused objectives by reducing food and packaging waste by sourcing and redirecting surplus food to meal production adopting a reduce, reuse, recycle approach as well as utilising biodegradable food containers and adopting low carbon delivery methods such as cycling, minimising this way our overall environmental impact.

FEAST's Key Principles

IMPROVE THE NUTRITION & HEALTH OF THOSE VULNERABLE TO FOOD POVERTY & INSECURITY

- Provide regular access to nutritious community meals which meet the recommendations of the Eatwell Guide.
- Empower individuals to better meet their nutritional needs, make informed choices and improve their dietary behaviours.
- Deliver our Healthy Eating on a Budget Programme to help upskill people & support their journey out of food insecurity in the long term.
- Pioneering research to investigate the nutritional needs of vulnerable people, make recommendations about effective dietary programmes and inform food policymakers.

BUILD COMMUNITY & CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO SOCIALISE

- Inviting people to cook with and for others in inclusive and informal settings, using existing infrastructure and resources.
- Facilitating social interactions between diverse members of society.
- Building and sustaining local community partnerships.
- Eating together.
- Creating awareness of our services for vulnerable people who are at risk of food insecurity.
- Providing opportunities and skills through our Healthy Eating on a Budget Programme.

ENHANCED SUSTAINABILITY

- Sourcing and redirecting food surplus to vulnerable people, which would otherwise have ended up as waste.
- Adopting a reduce, reuse, recycle approach to minimise operational waste.
- Using recycled, biodegradable, and recyclable food containers.

Policy Scope

This Policy sets out a framework for how FEAST engages with funders, new partners, and reviews existing relationships.

- FEAST is pleased to collaborate with external organisations and individuals to achieve shared objectives that observe our charity's mission, visions, and values.
- This policy has been devised to ensure clarity and openness to those from whom we will accept either money or other benefits, those with whom we will collaborate and form partnerships as well as our wider audiences and stakeholders.

Subject to the exceptions below, this policy applies to all partnerships, associations, sponsorship's, grants, and other contractual relationships that FEAST may become involved with, including donations in-kind (such as food, drink, time, equipment, facilities, and people) and commercial relationships (such as corporate sponsorships, corporate partnerships, and licensing).

Exceptions: The policy does not apply to contracts for goods or services at market rates.

- It applies to relationships with individuals, companies, trusts, and private foundations but not to statutory bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund or any UK government support.
- This policy does not apply to any collections management activity, including acquisitions, disposals, or borrowed or loaned items for exhibition purposes.

These activities are governed by their own policies and procedures.

FEAST's Fundraising Principles

Mission Alignment: All fundraising activities must align with the FEAST With Us charitable mission and values.

Transparency: We are committed to being open and transparent about our fundraising efforts, including how funds are used.

Donor Privacy: We respect the privacy of our donors and adhere to all applicable data protection laws and legislation as detailed in this policy.

Diversity and Inclusivity: We will actively seek support from a diverse range of donors and ensure inclusivity in our fundraising practices.

Due Diligence

Before any contractual commitment is entered into by FEAST, the Fundraising team and CEO will carry out an initial assessment through desktop research. Additional research will be triggered if the initial assessment indicates any areas of concern. All prospective supporters with a proposed gift level of over £5,000, or those under this gift level that have triggered additional due diligence, will be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration and final approval.

We have in place a Partnerships Framework and a Partnerships Agreement for our partnerships which includes an explicit commitment to articulating and reviewing the Vision, Practice and Goals of the partnership. In line with UK law any anonymous donations of £25,000 or more will be reported to the Charity Commission.

Due Diligence Checklist

The following checklist can be used to gather the relevant information needed to inform a decision of whether or not to seek/accept a donation. The amount of information available will depend on whether the donor is an individual or an organisation. All this information can be obtained for free, via public records – see useful links below the checklist.

Yes	No	Regulatory Checks
		Are they registered with the relevant regulator e.g. Companies House, Charity Commission, Financial Conduct Authority?
		Are they compliant and up to date with required returns or?
		Are they under investigation?
		Is their governing document available to view?
		Can you view their accounts?

		Are the directors/trustees/individual connected to any other organisations under investigation or with repeated late returns?
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Internet & Social Media Checks	
	Are they present and active on platforms such as X, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok? How often do they post content?
	Have they received any adverse publicity*? How long ago? What for?
	Is their brand well known? What is their reputation with the public and FEAST With Us stakeholders?
	Who else do they donate to or support in other ways?
	Is the source of their wealth publicly known and potentially problematic?
	Are they publicly part of any networks, societies, membership organisations or political parties?
	What policies do they have e.g. anti-slavery, environmental?

Reviewing Partnerships & Donations

FEAST will follow our code of ethics and the Institute of Fundraising’s guidance and will refuse a donation if:

- It would be unlawful to accept it (e.g. the Organisation knows or suspects that the gift comprises the proceeds of crime); or
- Accepting the donation would be detrimental to the achievement of the purposes of the charity, as set out in our governing document. Such detrimental or anticipated detriment must be set against the benefit of having the funds from the donor, which enables the charity to pursue its purposes.
- Funders that hold or express extremist views and/or corporations that hold extreme political or religious views, and religious organisations that are not open to the wider community.

FEAST will consider relevant legislation and regulation including (and any regulations superseding) the following:

- The Charities Act 2011 – in relation to seeking the advice of the Charities Commission on whether to accept or refuse a particular donation.

- The Data Protection Act 1998 – in relation to processing of personal data.
 - The UK GDPR – in effect from 1 January 2021 – in relation to processing of personal data.
 - The Bribery Act 2010 – in relation to bribery offences.
 - The Finance Act 2011 – in relation to tainted charity donations.
 - The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 – in relation to suspected money laundering.
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Managing Reputational Risk

Any proposed or unsolicited donation from or relationship with a business in any of the sectors or industries set out below, or one where a member of the Operational Team considers there is a potential reputational or ethical risk, such that accepting the donation would be detrimental to the achievement of the purposes of the charity, will not be accepted.

Sectors that funds will not be accepted from:

- Tobacco
- Arms and Weapons Manufacturers
- Politically/State Controversial Entities
- Gambling
- Extractive Industries

Sectors that funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis include:

- Pharmaceutical industry
- Fast food industries

Additionally, FEAST will refrain from accepting funds from organisations engaged in the following practices:

Harmful Environmental Practices: We will not accept contributions from companies involved in activities that harm the environment, as it contradicts our commitment to sustainability.

Modern Day Slavery: Funds shall not be accepted from organisations implicated in, including any suspicions or allegations of, modern-day slavery, as it contradicts our principles of ethical and fair treatment.

Companies Engaged in Discrimination: We will avoid funding from companies associated with discriminatory practices based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or disability to uphold our stance on equality and inclusivity.

Organisations with Unethical Fundraising Practices: We will not engage with entities known for unethical fundraising practices, such as fraud or misleading tactics, to maintain the integrity of our fundraising efforts.

Board Approval

All funding decisions that have triggered concerns and been escalated to Board level will require approval (majority vote) by the Board of Trustees.

Vulnerable Donors

FEAST recognises that it has an obligation to protect those in vulnerable circumstances. Whenever we suspect that someone we engage with is lacking capacity or is in vulnerable circumstances, we will take steps to terminate the contract and/or decline or return (as applicable) the donation in a way which seeks to protect that person and their dignity, having due regard for any desire they have expressed to support FEAST.

High Value Donations

Should a donation (either to restricted or to unrestricted funds) total more than 10% of our annual income, acceptance of this donation will need to be agreed upon at the Board level and additional risk assessments carried out.

Conditions

FEAST will reserve the right to withdraw from any relationship if:

- It becomes apparent that information given to FEAST with regards to the supporter's position was misleading in a way that materially affects our assessment of their suitability under this policy.
 - As a result of the supporter's actions subsequent to entering into the relationship, other stakeholders or funders withdraw their support.
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Transparency

A full list of supporters giving over £1,000 in a particular financial year will be maintained on the FEAST Annual Accounts unless anonymity is requested.

Contacting Us

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact us at info@feastwithus.org.uk.

Reviewed and approved on 19 March 2024 by Caroline Monkhouse Flower, CEO, and Helen Burgess, Chair of the Board of Trustees, on behalf of the board.

Signed by:



Helen Burgess
Chair of the Board of Trustees

FEAST With Us, Registered Charity in England and Wales
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