

Bat Conservation Trust



BAT CONSERVATION TRUST – FUNDRAISING POLICY

Bat Conservation Trust is sensitive to the general concerns of supporters and stakeholders regarding ethical issues of fundraising. BCT trustees, managers and staff are prohibited under the general principles of charity law from allowing their personal political or moral beliefs to influence decisions as to whether to accept or refuse donations, gifts or sponsorship.

Bat Conservation Trust will review any fundraising by looking at any the potential harm caused to bat conservation or to BCT by accepting sources of funding deemed unethical. The best interests of bats will lie at the core of the decision making process.

Risks associated with not managing the ethical issues of fundraising include:

- Reputational damage arising from association with organisations or individuals perceived to be engaged in unethical activities;
- Actual damage to bat conservation and/or BCT arising from protests against BCT's association with such individuals or organisations;
- Acceptance of tainted donations and consequential reputational damage arising from complicity with illegal activities;
- Financial loss arising from a failure to effectively manage relationships with potential donors or sponsors;
- Failure to carry out BCT's statutory obligations as a result of relationships with donors or sponsors.

POLICY

Bat Conservation Trust is actively engaged in fundraising and receives voluntary and corporate support from a variety of sources. There are occasions when it is not possible for BCT to accept a gift or sponsorship.

BCT will consider each gift and sponsorship on its own merits. Gifts and sponsorship are assessed according to whether:

- a. There is a significant risk that harm may be caused to bat conservation or BCT
- b. Any such harm is likely to be disproportionate to the benefit that bat conservation and BCT will derive from the gift or sponsorship

A gift or sponsorship will be considered for rejection if either of these conditions is shown to exist.

Harm is defined as:

- Where acceptance of a gift or sponsorship interferes with or has the potential to interfere with BCT's ability to fulfil its charitable aims, statutory obligations or other objectives;

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- Where acceptance of a gift or sponsorship and any terms attached to it might lead to an undue and inappropriate third party influence, or impression of such influence, on the corporate decisions of BCT;
- Where accepting a gift or sponsorship , BCT will incur a level of criticism from the media, public or any other relevant group resulting in damage to BCT's reputation;
- Where accepting a gift or sponsorship will be jeopardize existing and future relationships with donors and supporters
- Where there is any reasonable suspicion of money laundering or any other illegal activity ;

The Director of Communications & Fundraising should be notified of any donation that warrants further investigation. The Director is responsible for monitoring gifts/sponsorships that are received by the Bat Conservation Trust and will report to the CEO and Senior Management Team any suspect donation/sponsorship. Where appropriate, the matter will be referred to the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

The acceptance of gifts is also covered in BCT's Anti Bribery policy.

All employees and any other individuals or agencies acting on behalf of BCT are required to familiarise themselves with this policy and refer decisions to the Director of Communications and Fundraising.

BAT CONSERVATION TRUST – FUNDRAISING STATEMENT

Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) was established to promote the conservation and study of bats in the British Isles and elsewhere in the world, and to disseminate information relevant to these objects. BCT is committed to these charitable aims, and fundraises in order to fulfil these. BCT respects the rights of its members and supporters to have clear, truthful information on the work we are involved in; to openly report how we spend donated and statutory funds and to manage donors' information responsibly. We will comply with the Charity Commission and UK law in every respect, including those regarding openness and honesty with our supporters and members of the public. We respect the privacy and contact preferences of all members and donors. We will respond promptly to requests to cease contacts or complaints and act to address their causes.

At BCT we do not, pass on contact details of our supporters and donors to anyone else, including other charities. We respect the wishes of our members, supporters and donors who ask for no further contact from us, and we adhere to Data Protection Law. We employ reputable companies to assist with membership renewals and in distributing membership material . We do not employ fundraising or marketing agencies to target people by telephone, or in the street, to persuade them to set up regular donations to BCT.

BCT has a small fundraising team which works hard to gain funding for our work. We also support others who choose to make donations or take part in fundraising activities in whatever way they can.