

The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem



Order Honours and Awards Committee: Guidance Concerning Philanthropy

1. Introduction

Philanthropy is the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed by the generous donation of money or goods to support good causes. As a working charity with an operational output in First Aid, an Eye Hospital, and other healthcare activities St John relies upon philanthropic giving to finance and support its administration and operations.

2. Risk

As a working charity St John is unique in that it is also a Crown Order of chivalry issuing honours and awards, and as a Crown Order of chivalry it is unique in having a charitable output. These two sides of the St John coin have the potential to lead to reputational risk if giving and rewards are directly linked or perceived as linked in any way. Unambiguous guidance to Order officials needs to be set out to manage philanthropic giving and the chivalric honours and awards.

3. Overarching Principle

The Order is a Christian Order, and its work and values are based on Christian principles. Accordingly Philanthropic support is welcome in the Order as it gives expression to these principles and enhances St John's ability to serve the community. The Order should therefore be able to provide philanthropists with the opportunity to express their support for the aims of the Order, as expressed in its motto 'For the faith and for the service of humanity'. This means that, unless it would not be in its best interests, the Order is obliged to accept philanthropic gifts.

4. The concept of philanthropy and the Order

There is no expectation of admission into the Order when a volunteer offers practical service, in the context of St John Ambulance for example, and the same philosophy should apply to philanthropy. Admission or promotion of philanthropists, and others, depends on the impact of their contribution to the St John charitable output having examined - in the same way as all admissions and promotions - that their values match the Order's values. Membership of the Order is a lifetime award for past service and an expectation of future service. Philanthropists, like volunteers or anyone else being considered for membership, will be known to the nominator, and philanthropic service should be assessed in the same manner as any other service when evaluating the merits of admission or promotion.

5. Guidelines

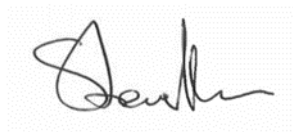
Accepting that the Order is obliged to accept philanthropic gifts, and philanthropists should be considered in a manner no different from other candidates, the guidelines that apply to all nominations to the Order apply to philanthropists. That is: the support should have demonstrated commitment by being given over a period of time considered to be at least five years. Specifically regarding philanthropy, the giving should be low key, and any generosity should be perceived in proportion to overall wealth. If the giving was linked to a particular project, then that project should be completed, or be up and running, in order to assess the impact of the contribution.

6. St John Fundraising Policy

The St John Fundraising Policy was adopted by the Grand Council in 2018. The ultimate responsibility for acceptance or refusal of donations rests with Trustees. Each Establishment must draw up their fundraising policy in line with national laws and norms.

7. Philanthropic Recording

St John is committed to Openness and Transparency. The International Office and Establishments must record any philanthropic admissions and promotions from the OHAC and delegated PHACs in the annual Measurement Exercise.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Wilson', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Steven Wilson
Head of Chancery
13 December 2022