

Action against Medical Accidents

POLICY ON ACCEPTING CORPORATE FUNDING OR SUPPORT

Why have a policy on accepting corporate funding or support?

Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) recognises that financial income from a variety of organisations makes a vital and positive contribution to its ability to meet its charitable objectives, and warmly welcomes the support it receives. AvMA is a charity and places great importance on retaining its independence and the confidence of our beneficiaries, the public, of funders and other stakeholders. We strive to live up to the same level of transparency and integrity which we expect of other public bodies and professions. Having a policy ensures that we make careful decisions about who we approach for funding, what funding we will accept and on what terms. It also provides a transparent statement for the outside world about how we reach such decisions. We believe this to be in the interests of both AvMA and our funders.

What kind of arrangements does the policy cover?

This policy covers the following forms of funding from organisations:

- grants from charitable trusts or government departments/bodies
- contracts for the provision of services by AvMA to other bodies
- sponsorship of events, publications or websites
- donations from organisations
- secondments of staff

On what basis will AvMA seek or accept any of these forms of funding?

- AvMA will only accept funding on the understanding that the funder accepts that the provision of such funding will not influence policy positions, decisions or actions of the charity
- AvMA will not accept funding from an organisation if so doing is likely to bring the charity's name into disrepute. Examples include if the organisation concerned:
 - is known to act illegally or dishonestly
 - is known to seek undue influence through provision of funding
 - is of a particular party-political persuasion
- AvMA will only accept funding if so doing will not detract from the pursuance of its charitable objectives.
- AvMA will not accept funding in return for endorsement or recommendation of a product or service and funders will not be permitted to quote or imply AvMA's endorsement without prior permission

How will AvMA make decisions about sources of funding?

All managers in AvMA will be made aware of this policy and understand the requirement to implement it.

If there is a doubt about the suitability of a potential source of funding, the Chief Executive will consider the case on the above principles and make a decision. If the Chief Executive is not confident that the source of funding is acceptable under this policy he/she will refer the matter to AvMA's Council of Trustees.

Any organisation agreeing or offering funding to AvMA will be made aware of this policy before an agreement is entered into. Wherever possible, there will be a written agreement to this effect.

What if concerns arise after the acceptance of funding?

If AvMA becomes aware that an existing source of funding may not be within the spirit of this policy, the arrangement will be reviewed by the Chief Executive and if necessary, the Council of Trustees. If it is found to be unacceptable, steps will be taken to cease the arrangement and disassociate the charity from the funder as soon as is practical.

Other issues which AvMA will consider

In addition, AvMA will seek to avoid a situation where any single source of funding becomes so important to it that there is a danger of the charity becoming unduly influenced or afraid to challenge/offend the funder in the interests of the charity's beneficiaries. The Chief Executive and Trustees of the charity will keep this under review as part of the charity's risk assessment process.

In the case of secondment of staff, the staff concerned will be required to sign an undertaking on confidentiality and conforming with all other policies of AvMA.

Agreed: Council Meeting 26/04/06