

## Leaving a gift to the Conservative Party Foundation - what you need to know

Under the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (“PPERA”), the Conservative Party Foundation Limited (“the Foundation”) can only accept donations from what is considered to be a permissible donor. Set out below are some frequently asked questions and answers.

### Who can we accept a donation from?

We can only accept donations over £500 from permissible donors. A permissible donor is:

- an individual registered in an electoral register;
- a company:
  - registered under the Companies Act 2006 and
  - incorporated within the United Kingdom or another member State, which carries on business in the United Kingdom;
- a registered political party
- a trade union entered in the list kept under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 or the Industrial Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1992;
- a building society (within the meaning of the Building Societies Act 1986);
- a limited liability partnership registered under the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2000 which carries on business in the United Kingdom;
- a friendly society registered under the Friendly Societies Act 1974 or a society registered (or deemed to be registered) under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 or the Industrial and Provident Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969; and
- any unincorporated association of two or more persons which carries on business or other activities wholly or mainly in the United Kingdom and whose main office is here.

### Who can leave a bequest?

In relation to a donation in the form of a bequest an individual who was, at any time within the period of five years ending with the date of their death, registered in an electoral register can leave a bequest of over £500 to the Foundation.

### Can someone living overseas make a donation or leave a bequest?

The same rules apply as above and you will need to be on the electoral register as an overseas voter.

If you are a British citizen living abroad who has registered to vote within the past 15 years, you can apply to be an overseas voter. To apply to be an overseas voter you'll need to download and print a registration form from the About My Vote website (<http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk>). Once you have filled it in, you should send it to the electoral registration office for the area where you were last registered to vote.

## Aren't there rules over whether a company can make a political donation?

The Foundation must comply with PPERA on permissibility of donations from a company and the criteria are already noted above. However we would like to note that the Companies Act 2006 also places obligations on the company and its directors in relation to making political donations. Guidance can be obtained from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills via their website at:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/business-law/company-and-partnership-law/company-law/company-law-faqs/political-donations-and-expenditure>

Compliance with the Companies Act 2006 is the responsibility of the company and its directors and **not** the Foundation. If any doubt please seek guidance from your own accountants or auditors.

## Will my donation or bequest be made public?

For reporting purposes under PPERA, any donations or bequests to the Foundation are considered to be donations to the Conservative Party.

Certain donations must be reported to the Electoral Commission and made public. The Electoral Commission publishes details of the amounts and the donor on their website ([www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)). They don't publish the addresses of individuals who donate.

The Party must report:

- All permissible donations over £7,500.
- All permissible donations that add up to over £7,500 from the same source in the same calendar year (only individual donations greater than £500 are aggregated for this purpose)\*

*\* Remember that as any donations are considered to be to the Party any other donations you make to the Party, including constituency associations, over £500 will be aggregated together with your donation to the Foundation for this purpose.*

## If I have any questions concerning my eligibility as a Benefactor who can I speak to?

If you have any questions concerning your eligibility to become a Benefactor please contact Julian Nicholson on 0207 984 8037 or via email at: [julian.nicholson@theconservativefoundation.co.uk](mailto:julian.nicholson@theconservativefoundation.co.uk).

The Conservative Party's Compliance team is also always happy to provide advice or assistance on permissibility under PPERA. Please get in touch on 020 7984 8005 or email at: [compliance@conservatives.com](mailto:compliance@conservatives.com).