

All about

Restricted Funds



As part of the MND Association you will occasionally receive restricted donations. Restricted donations can create challenges, so we have created a guide for you to support the finance practices within your group or branch.

You may see references to Regulator Codes throughout this guide, please don't let them be daunting, we want to demonstrate that as a registered charity regulated by the Fundraising Regulator, we follow these codes and are accountable. If you would like more detail on the sections mentioned, you can find them [here](#).

If you have any questions about this guide, or if you find you need support, please do let your Regional Fundraiser know, as they are here to support you.

What are restricted funds?

A restricted donation is one where the donor has specified where they would like the monies spent e.g. on a specific service, project or area.

Groups and branches can't influence a supporter's donations. If a donation is given to the group or branch, they will endeavor to spend it locally. However, sometimes this isn't possible and then the donation should be spent wherever the need is greatest as laid out by the Fundraising Regulators [code of practice](#).

Receiving funds directly to the group or branch does not mean that the donation is locally restricted unless the donor has independently specified their donation is used in a restricted way.

As one Association, if funds received locally cannot be spent locally, we would like your input as to where you would like it spent e.g. research, care centers etc.

If you receive a restricted donation for specialist equipment in the area, please do work with your ASC to find out how best to put this donation to work for our local MND community.



Get in touch with your Supporter Care Team by emailing incomeprocessingadminteam@mnassociation.org or calling 01604 611860

If a JustGiving page is changed to add a restriction, then the supporter care team at national office must be notified as soon as possible to make sure that all donations received for that event are properly allocated. Please talk to your Regional Fundraiser if you require support or further information.

Receiving restricted donations

Unrestricted donations are the preferred option but if we do receive restricted donations we have to be able to provide clear evidence of restrictions to comply with the [Charity Commission](#).

You can collect this evidence using a [restricted funds form](#) which should be returned to your Regional Fundraiser to review along with the the email/letter from the donor containing their wishes.

When shouldn't we accept restricted donations?

Sometimes donations will fall outside of the [Articles of Association](#) which will mean that we cannot accept the donation.

If it is the product of a boxing event we cannot accept the donation because of the connection between head injuries and MND. We do have an [Acceptance and Refusal of donations policy](#), so should you receive a donation of this kind please speak to your Regional Fundraiser for support.

If it is outside the scope of the branch, the donation must be sent to supporter care to allocate correctly; for example donations for research, donations for national care programmes e.g. Children and Young People Programme cannot be used by groups and branches. These donations, however, will be shown on your accounts as a soft credit so you will be recognised for all your fundraising efforts.

Fundraising should be for unrestricted funds unless the restriction is unavoidable. A branch committee cannot unilaterally decide to restrict a proportion of its funds (unless requested by the donor) and cannot hold activities with the intention of raising restricted funds unless this has been agreed in advance with the Head of Regional Care Partnerships or an Association Director.

Spending restricted income

If you receive a donation where the donor has specifically requested that it is spent in your group or branch area, you can use these funds for local support grants, support groups, AV expenses or your local Care Center. These restricted funds must be used for these purposes before unrestricted funds can be used for the same purpose.

Funding health and social care professionals

Working with their regional colleagues the Northern Ireland branch used their restricted funds to support the funding of new MND specialists including a Palliative Care Consultant, MND specialist nurse and MND coordinator post. These professionals will improve the quality of life for people with and affected by MND locally.

What if we can't spend it?

If you are unable to spend restricted income, for example:

- It's a specific restriction e.g., equipment and you have had no requests for this in your area
- The donor requested that it was spent in the area, but you haven't had sufficient outgoings.

We support our MND community by raising funds and then spending them on our community!

You must contact the donor and explain that you have been unable to spend their donation. We suggest you do this after 12 months. They may be happy for you to see if you can use it for that restriction in the next 12 months; or they may wish to change the restriction; or un-restrict their donation altogether. Please record this interaction on the Restricted Funds form so that it can be kept on file.

What's wrong with having lots of restricted income?

There are various challenges with having reserves of restricted income.

We receive donations in good faith that they will be spent on carrying out Association objectives, to support the MND community and helping to find a cure

As a charitable organisation we have an obligation to fulfill our donors wishes. If donations are sat in bank accounts, or being carried forward each year we aren't doing this. It's really important for you to communicate with someone who has made a restricted donation so that you can make sure it is spent as they wish and in a timely fashion.

Large reserves of restricted money make it harder to ask for donations


We have fundraising programmes in which we approach corporate donors and trusts for support and large reserves of restricted income hinder our case for support. Potential donors need to understand why we need support and seeing large amounts of restricted income that isn't spent they may come to the conclusion that the Association has funds to spend, and go elsewhere.

MND waits for no one

We all know how rapidly MND progresses, so it's vital we use funds to support people living with MND straight away and fund research so that we can find a cure quicker.

MND has no borders

Some areas are more affluent than others so are likely to have higher fundraising prospects. The joy of being part of a national Association is that if donations can't be spent in your local area, there will be someone in the next county or right across the country will benefit from your support.



Everyone who makes a donation wants to support the MND community and ultimately find a cure for MND. Money in bank accounts doesn't do this.

But we already have lots of restricted income, what do we do now?

Don't worry! Your local team are here to support you spending your restricted reserves. A great place to start is by speaking to your ASC, Regional Fundraiser and your Head of Regional Care Partnerships.

They can help you to support your local MND community or discuss larger projects that you may wish to support such as research projects, national care programmes or campaigning.

We are undertaking a vast amount of work in all of these areas and you can have a real impact by supporting these projects. You could also support your local Care Center with any donations that are specified for local use.

The garden of hope

The Wirral branch used some of their restricted funds to fund a public garden of hope in a local park. The garden was opened by the local mayor and is a permanent space highlighting the amazing work of the local group and bringing MND awareness into the heart of the community.

"This is a very symbolic and beautiful garden for everyone to enjoy and also to find hope and peace,"

"Everyone needs time to relax, and enjoying the beauty of nature is such a soothingly way to unwind which is why we are delighted to have this Garden of Hope." said group chair Debbie Williams.