

Relief Chest Scheme enduring Gift Aid declaration policy

What is an enduring Gift Aid declaration?

Previously, if you have completed a gift aid declaration for the Relief Chest and ticked the box asking us to claim gift aid tax on all of your future donations, we would continue to do so until instructed otherwise.

Now, we will continue to claim Gift Aid for 4 years from the date of your last enduring Gift Aid declaration – After this time, you will need to complete a further Gift Aid declaration.

Why has it changed?

The Relief Chest Scheme on average claims over £1million in gift aid tax relief per year, as a result of hundreds of thousands of tax claims.

HMRC is required to ensure that any tax repaid to a charity is properly due and correctly calculated. The Relief Chest Scheme must maintain a clear auditable record of declarations and of the making of those declarations, so that it's able to demonstrate that a donor has in fact made an appropriate declaration. As your tax status may have changed since your last declaration, refreshing the declarations regularly will ensure that we hold valid enduring Gift Aid declarations from our donors, and as a good practice/housekeeping exercise.

Therefore, in addition to the statutory compliance requirement, but also as good governance, risk management and best practice we have introduced an internal process of refreshing enduring Gift Aid declarations.

Although it is up to the donors to notify the charity of any changes, the Relief Chest Scheme is taking a proactive approach.

What if my tax status changes?

If your circumstances change and your donations are no longer eligible for gift aid, it's important to let us know. If you don't let us know and you pay less tax in the tax year than the amount of Gift Aid we've claimed on your donations, you will need to pay any difference back to HMRC.

What if my Gift Aid declaration has expired?

The Relief Chest representative will be notified when a donation is made where the donor no longer holds a valid declaration.

How do I renew my Gift Aid declaration?

You can update your Gift Aid declaration by completing and returning the Gift Aid declaration form attached.

If you would like any further information or to check if you have a current valid Gift Aid Declaration with us, please contact the Relief Chest team by email at reliefchest@mcf.org.uk or call 020 3146 3352.