

Gift Aid Explained

What is Gift Aid and how does it work?

Gift Aid works by allowing charities to take a donation (which is money that a donor has already paid income tax on), and then reclaim the tax on its 'gross' equivalent (this is its value before tax was deducted) at the basic income tax rate. This is 20% from 6 April 2008.

In practice this means that for every pound you donate to charity using Gift Aid, the charity can claim an additional 25p from HMRC. In addition, HMRC will automatically pay the charity a further 3p for every £1 Gift Aid donation it receives between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2011; this transitional relief has been provided by Government to allow charities to adjust to the recent reduction in the basic income tax rate from 22% to 20%.

This means that until April 2011, for every £1 you donate to Deafblind UK under the Gift Aid scheme; we will continue to receive an additional 28p.

Gift Aid can apply to one-off donations or to a series of regular donations.

How can I sign up to Gift Aid?

In order to claim Gift Aid we must have your name, including your first name or initials, and your full address including post code. Please ensure that your details are correct and up to date. Once registered for Gift Aid, we can claim 20% of ALL the donations you have made to Deafblind UK in the last 6 years and all future donations until you cancel your declaration. You can download a gift aid declaration form from our website:

<http://www.deafblind.org.uk/fundraising/makeadonation.htm>

Giving Online

You can tick the Gift Aid box when you donate online with Justgiving and they will inform us that you have decided to Gift Aid your online donation.

I am a pensioner, can I still Gift Aid my donations?

As long as you have paid enough tax during the year to cover your donations, i.e. 20% of the value of your gift, you can Gift aid your donations. As a pensioner you may still pay tax on a private pension plan or savings account or you may pay capital gains tax if you sell property or shares.

Our donations are made from a joint bank account, can we still Gift Aid? Yes, providing at least one person named on the account pays tax and has completed the Gift Aid declaration.

Is Gift Aid affected if I am a higher rate tax payer?

Deafblind UK can only claim at the basic tax rate, but as a higher rate tax payer you can reclaim the additional tax on your donations yourself. All you have to do is include your charitable gifts on your HMRC self assessment form to claim the additional higher rate tax.

What if I have already agreed to Gift Aid to another charity?

You can support as many UK charities as you like through Gift Aid. You will need to sign a Gift Aid declaration for each charity you support and you must have paid enough tax in any given tax year to cover your total donations made during that year.

What if my circumstances change?

If you change your name, your address, or you no longer pay tax, please notify us by writing to: **Deafblind UK, National Centre for Deafblindness, John and Lucille van Geest Place, Cygnet Road, Hampton, Peterborough, PE7 8FD**. Alternatively you can call us on 01733 358100 and ask for the Fundraising Team.