MAJOR AWARD POLICY AND SELECTION CRITERIA FOR

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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY GENERAL CHARITIES APPLICATIONS

*For the period 1 January 2026- 31 December 2029*

Policy

The Worshipful Company of Butchers General Charity (WCBGC) is to support selected charities with awards using both a combination of investment income generated in each financial year and income raised through our regular donations of Freemen/Liverymen of the WCB (after governance costs). Due to the limited income generated, the policy is that two no more than three charities will be beneficiaries of Major Awards. One of these Major Awards will be labelled The Masters Award and will be suggested by The Master and subject to approval by the Trustees.

The awards will be assessed by the WCBGC following the criteria set our below and recommended to the Trustees for approval.

*The following guidelines will be adopted by the WCBGC Committee when considering the beneficiaries of Major Awards. It is suggested that three / four essential criteria need to be met before supporting a particular charity is agreed.*

**Major Awards Applications (**Excluding The Master’s Award)

Every three years, an invitation will be sent out for Freemen/Liverymen to put forward suitable candidates for consideration of a Major Award. A process will be undertaken by the WCBGC to review the long list of applications from which a short list will emerge. The short list will be presented to the Trustees and an invitation sent out to invite the candidates to make a short presentation. The Trustees will approve awards for two Charities. The amount of the award should be set at £20,000 per annum plus any additional sums during the period as may be available. All award payments are subject to periodic review dependent on the overall funds available and other commitments.

In the event of a close run race for a Major Award, the WCBGC could recommend a Minor Award subject to the overall funds available and other commitments, and subject to approval of the Trustees.

* Annual donations are linked to both investment income generated and through regular annual donations. Support should be provided for a minimum period of three years.. Dependent on successful relationships, consideration should be given to extending the initial period of three years by a further three years, subject to re-application and the approval of the Trustees.
* After a maximum period of six years, the Major Award will finish allowing other Charities to benefit form a Major Award.
* Charities that have benefited from a Major Award can be considered for a Minor Award at the end of the Award period. (This will allow the WCBGC to maintain a relationship with the charity, should there be a desire to do so).
* After a gap of six years, any Charity who has benefited from a Major Award in the past, can be considered for another Major Award but subject to the criteria and Trustees approval.

**Essential Criteria for applicants to the WCBGC Major Awards**

* WCBGC should have a demonstrable relationship with the charity and a suitable liaison identified from within the Livery. For example by WCBGC providing practical engagement as well as financial support but it is recognised that the work of some Charities may preclude this.
* Potential reciprocity, if appropriate, should be sought through hire of Butchers’ Hall and/or involvement and acknowledgement of WCB through PR and other events.
* The administrative expenses of the charity should be reviewed and considered reasonable in the context of the scope and size of the charity.
* Support to Charities where the support of the WCBGC can make a real difference.