



20-22 Wenlock Road  
London  
N1 7GU

A democratic alternative to the monarchy

[www.republic.org.uk](http://www.republic.org.uk)  
[twitter.com/republicstaff](https://twitter.com/republicstaff)  
[facebook.com/republiccampaign](https://facebook.com/republiccampaign)

Charity Commission  
102 Petty France  
London SW1H 9AJ

June 27, 2022

To Whom It May Concern

I understand from press reports that the Charity Commission will be reviewing the cash donations made to the Prince of Wales Charitable Fund by Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jaber Al Thani. The reports suggest that at this stage you are simply assessing whether the commission has a role in investigating the matter. I am writing to set out a number of questions the donations raise, in the hope that these are matters you will look into. I trust, as always, that the Charity Commission will discharge its duties in this case just as you would with any other charity, without fear or favour and with no concern for the charity's connections to Prince Charles.

The information currently in the public domain raises the following questions:

- While the charity knows that the donation came from Sheikh Hamad, do they (and how can they) know where the money originated?
- How can the charity be satisfied that they are not being used for the purposes of money laundering, given the lack of transparency about the origin of the cash?
- Given Prince Charles, Michael Fawcett and the Prince's Foundation are being investigated regarding the apparent promise of honours in exchange for charitable donations, can the charity be sure that similar promises haven't been made in connection with these or other donations?



- Has the charity confirmed that no other large cash donations have been offered or accepted?
- You'll be aware that Sheikh Hamad is a former prime minister of Qatar, a country with a dreadful record on human rights and democracy. Is the Commission satisfied that the donations in question do not damage the reputation of the charity and the wider charity sector?
- The Sunday Times report quoted one trustee as saying they were not aware of the donations, despite the legal obligation of trustees to ensure good financial management of the charity and to protect the charity's reputation. This raises questions about the charity's practices and the relationship between the charity and Prince Charles. Charities are required to be independent, with trustees being responsible for their governance and financial probity. Charles is neither a trustee nor an employee of the charity, yet appears to be able to facilitate a questionable donation without the knowledge of at least one of their seven trustees.
- The report also says the charity provides funds for the upkeep of one of Charles's estates in Scotland. This raises obvious questions about conflict of interest and personal gain by Charles and why the charity is spending its money on someone's private estate.

Your guidance document, *The Charity Commission strategy for dealing with fraud, financial crime and financial abuse of the charity sector*, acknowledges the Commission's role in protecting the reputation of the charity sector, and cites serious fraud and money laundering as the kind of 'high end' financial abuse that you focus on tackling. So it would be surprising, to say the least, if the Commission did not investigate this matter and, for the purposes of maintaining public confidence in the sector, ensure full disclosure of the details of this case.

Regards

Graham Smith  
CEO  
Republic