



External Statement: Use of Artificial Intelligence in Grant Assessment

Our approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI) in grant assessment

We recognise that artificial intelligence (AI) tools are becoming increasingly embedded in grant-making practice and can offer opportunities to improve efficiency, consistency and accessibility within our processes. However, we are committed to ensuring that all funding decisions are made in a way that is fair, transparent and grounded in human judgement.

Use of AI within our assessment process

We may use AI tools to support administrative and operational aspects of the grant assessment process. This may include:

- Screening applications against basic eligibility criteria
- Supporting due diligence checks (such as reviewing publicly available organisational information)
- Providing summaries or highlighting key information to assist assessors

These uses are intended to improve efficiency and consistency, particularly where we receive a high volume of applications.

Human oversight and decision-making

All funding decisions are made by appropriately qualified staff and/or assessment panels. AI tools are not used to:

- Make funding decisions
- Score or rank applications without human review
- Replace professional judgement or lived experience insights

Human oversight is maintained throughout the process to ensure that applications are assessed fairly and in line with our funding priorities and values.

Fairness, transparency and accountability

We are committed to:

- Ensuring that the use of AI does not introduce bias or disadvantage any applicant group
- Being transparent about where and how AI is used within our processes



- Regularly reviewing our use of AI to ensure it remains appropriate, proportionate and aligned with best practice

Applicants will not be treated differently based on whether they have used AI in preparing their application.

Confidentiality and data protection

We take the confidentiality of application information seriously. We do not input confidential or sensitive application content into public or unsecured AI tools. Any use of AI is managed in line with UK data protection legislation and our internal data governance policies.

Ongoing review

As an organisation with strong ethical values and environmental commitments, we understand the challenges inherent in the rapid development and spread of AI technology. We have made the judgement that the benefits of AI to our own organisation, and our ability to deliver our charitable purpose, are significant, but that we will only use AI where it genuinely brings significant value. We will also keep this position under review as the technology and the regulations around it continue to evolve.

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