

For immediate release

16 August 2013

RESPONSE TO QUERIES CONCERNING DONATIONS TO CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL
COMMUNITIES HEARTLAND

STEWARDSHIP SERVICES is a registered UK charity, which has been providing guidance and practical tools to help the British public make charitable donations since 1906. As a 'donor-advised fund', Stewardship receives donations from individuals and organisations to be passed to third party charities and charitable projects as requested by the donor.

As with all donor-advised funds, Stewardship aims to respect the wishes of its donors while complying fully with its charitable objectives, as governed by UK law. It also prides itself in undertaking extensive due diligence on all potential third-party recipients of funds to ensure the validity and propriety of the charitable organisations or projects to which their gifts will pass. Currently, some 19,000 charitable recipients have been recommended by donors and approved by Stewardship to our database of causes to support. Each year many others do not pass Stewardship's eligibility criteria and cannot therefore be supported by its donors.

In 2007 Stewardship was asked to register Christian Friends of Israeli Communities (CFOIC) to its database by a donor. Consistent with its usual policies, Stewardship carried out extensive due diligence into CFOIC. It made the responsible and reasonable decision, not least to ensure that funds were used solely for purposes that would be regarded as charitable activities under UK charity law, to limit funds provided to CFOIC so that they are used exclusively for the alleviation of poverty. Currently, donations made to CFOIC are allotted to a specific project that provides hot lunches to poor children, a proper use of charitable funds that Stewardship is pleased to allow some of its donors to support.

Stewardship distributes charitable grants each year totalling around £50 million. Since CFOIC was added to its database, the average annual grant payment to CFOIC, at the request of donors, is around £3,000 a year (or 0.006% of our grants). It should also be noted that in the same period Stewardship also provided charitable grants to other charitable organisations seeking to alleviate poverty amongst Palestinian children in the region.

Stewardship is a non-political charitable organisation with the sole intention of offering support to generous donors who seek to address suffering and poverty throughout the world.