



Policy statement

Corporate partnerships with tobacco companies

Introduction

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) is actively involved in tobacco control issues because of the strong association between smoked tobacco and ill-health including coronary heart disease (CHD). Smoking is a major risk factor for CHD, and smokers are almost twice as likely to have a fatal heart attack as non-smokers.

The activities of the tobacco industry act in direct opposition to the BHF mission of tackling heart disease and our vision of a world in which no-one dies prematurely of heart disease.

Policy statement

Smoking is a major risk factor for coronary heart disease and smokers are more than twice as likely to have a fatal heart attack as non smokers.

The British Heart Foundation does not have corporate partnerships or relationships with tobacco companies. Such partnerships would undermine the leading role that we have played in key tobacco control issues, including securing the ban on smoking in public places in 2007 and a ban on the sale of tobacco through vending machines.

While individuals who work for tobacco companies may wish to fundraise for the BHF, we do not offer any active encouragement such as providing fundraising materials for the workplace. Any funds raised by employees must be free from any association with the employer. The BHF does not accept any matched funding from tobacco companies for funds raised by their employees and employee fundraising cannot be represented as part of any corporate social responsibility commitments.

The British Heart Foundation does not, and will not, knowingly hold securities in any company in the tobacco industry.

The BHF will never knowingly allow its funds to benefit, or be associated with the tobacco industry. Under no circumstances should BHF equipment or facilities be used by researchers funded by the tobacco industry. We do not expect scientists who apply for BHF funding to be in receipt of support from the tobacco industry.

Where the BHF is considering major new funding, any association of the applicant or his/her institution with the tobacco industry will be taken into account.