



Foundation
Derbyshire



Artificial Intelligence

Statement.

Last Updated Jan 2026.



The Use of AI.

Foundation Derbyshire recognises that AI tools and technologies are becoming increasingly accessible and hard-wired into many systems and platforms.

Whilst we acknowledge that AI offers new opportunities and benefits, we are also mindful that AI raises a wide variety of issues and considerations, including data privacy, unintended data memorisation, as well as ethical and environmental considerations.

At the moment, based on the following guidance, Foundation Derbyshire is neutral on the use of AI by applicants.

This statement will therefore be constantly reviewed and may be amended as technology and/or our approach changes.

An authentic application

Our donors are individuals and families that care about Derby and Derbyshire and want to 'put back' into our local communities. At a donor panel meeting, all applications are read and considered carefully.

Bids that resonate with our donors on a personal level are often more successful; these bids have an authentic voice, conveying the dedication of volunteers and staff or sharing personal stories and testimonies about the impact that the organisation has had.

AI tools and technologies can assist in removing barriers to bid writing, where there are communication hurdles to overcome (for example for those for whom English is an additional language or where physically writing or typing is a challenge).

However, the use of AI tools to create applications can lead to generic content and your unique perspective being lost. If you do use AI-generated content, make sure you review and edit it, so that your authentic voice can be heard and it provides a genuine insight into what your group represents.

There are other issues you must be aware of when using AI tools that could lead us to assess your application less favourably. For example, AI-generated content can:

- Contain errors or made-up information
- Uses sources that it cannot check for credibility or accuracy
- Include bias that could exclude or misrepresent communities, data or opinions



- Misrepresent financial information
- Include images that misrepresent people places and communities
- Always double-check your content

Data Security

AI tools often store the data you input and may also utilise the data for the ongoing training of commercial technology models – sharing with third parties and escalating use of your data.

This could compromise confidentiality so it's imperative that before entering any data into AI tools, regardless of their origin or cost (especially if they are free products) you check your organisation's policies and relevant legislation such as UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in relation to personal data. Also ensure that you find out how your data is used by reading the terms of service of individual AI Tools.

We advise that you don't put information into publicly available generative AI tools that you would not put into a public post on social media. Always make sure that you are confident that the tool you are using is secure and won't store, use or share the data you input.

Environmental Impact

AI software uses a significant amount of energy and fresh water to power its data centres, and it is generally understood that AI uses more energy than traditional search engine methods (particularly if used to produce images and videos). We encourage you to think carefully about when and how you use AI, to ensure it contributes meaningfully to what you are trying to do without potential negative environmental impact.

Understand the Risks and Benefits

As with any software, the use of generative AI is your own responsibility. Ultimately, the content included in your application or report, and the proposed or delivered activity, must be owned by you as the applicant doing the work.

If you do choose to use AI tools and technology, it's crucial your committee / board or fellow volunteers think about the values of your organisation and explore the risks up front. If you are the organisation's bid writer or are involved in the running of an organisation / charity / voluntary group, these risks need to be understood and discussed.

Does Foundation Derbyshire Use AI as Part of Grant-making?

The grant-making process, including the assessment of applications, is carried out by our trained Grants Officers, who collectively have over fifty years' experience in the craft of grant



Decisions are made by donors, Trustees and trained volunteers who are embedded in the many different communities that we serve and bring both local knowledge and understanding to their deliberations.

At present, we do not use AI technologies in our assessment process or decision-making. If this changes, we will tell you.

Assessment and decision-making are, however, distinct from the administration of applications. We may explore using AI over the coming years to help us carry out some administrative tasks more efficiently and effectively, such as note-taking, checking and verifying information.