



Christmas Appeal 2023

"I want to thank you for your essential and kind support, over the last 2 years. It has been utterly crucial to my family."

Dear Colleagues

Every December, the Cameron Fund sends a small grant to each of our beneficiaries to help them over the Christmas period. This message of thanks is from one such beneficiary, who was unable to work following an acute Covid infection. She had used up her savings and accumulated credit card debt whilst trying to support her family. The Fund was able to help while the GP waited for her NHS ill health pension to start.

There are many reasons why our colleagues reach out to the Cameron Fund, including ill health, relationship breakdown and professional issues. We continue to assist colleagues who have been affected by Covid, as well as those struggling with mental health difficulties. Sadly, we are also receiving an increasing number of applications from individuals who have experienced domestic violence.

Applications for assistance continue to increase and in the first six months of 2023 we have already awarded grants totaling £235,000 – 93% higher than in the same period last year. However, while the number of applications is growing, the number of donations that we receive has decreased. This year we are facing a deficit of income over expenditure. Trustees have already agreed to use some reserves and are now taking the unprecedented step of considering whether we need to limit the amount of support we can give applicants.

As you know, we are dependent on Local Medical Committees, other medical organisations and individual GPs for about half of our income and, as always, I would like to thank all of you who continue to support the Cameron Fund. Your generosity really makes a difference to our colleagues in need.

Please can I ask you to distribute this letter and ask your committee and constituent GPs to consider supporting the Fund? If your LMC has not given a donation in the past, or for some time, would you consider this an urgent appeal for funds? We also ask that, if you are planning to send Christmas cards by email instead of post this year, you consider making the Cameron Fund your nominated charity for any donations.

We gladly accept donations made directly into the Fund's Account (CAF Bank Sort Code 40 52 40, Account Number 00015215) or by cheque if you prefer. Thank you.

Wishing you, and your family, a happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

Dr Ian Winterton, Cameron Fund Treasurer