

Unlock the potential of soft opt-in for charity email marketing

Email marketing soft opt-in coming soon for charities

In January 2025, the Data & Marketing Association UK (DMA UK) announced the government's acceptance of soft opt-in for charity email marketing in the Data (Use & Access) Bill, giving the UK charity sector the potential to earn an additional £290m annually.

As a DMA UK member, Wood for Trees, part of Salocin Group, provided data analysis in support of their lobbying.

Wood for Trees data analysis

Based on insights from 13.1m supporters across more than 20 UK charities:

- Emailable supporters generate £35 more over a seven-year average lifetime compared to nonemailable supporters
- Enabling the soft opt-in could increase annual charity revenue by 3%, equating to £252m per year in England and Wales (when considering donations)
- Including Scotland and Northern Ireland, this figure rises to £290m annually
- In the next 10-15 years, improved supporter journeys via email could drive an additional £840m in income (including legacy giving)

New legislation incoming

With new legislation expected as soon as mid-2025, is your charity ready to maximise the soft opt-in opportunity?

- **Compliance check:** Have you checked your email marketing strategy aligns with the incoming soft opt-in regulation?
- Legitimate Interest Assessment (LIA): Have you performed a balance test to assess whether your supporters would expect to receive email marketing from you?
- **Data and consent management:** Is your CRM system and data foundation robust? Do you have the mechanisms in place to collect consent based on legitimate interest?
- Engaging content: Is your email marketing content personalised and targeted to your donors?

Want to learn more? Join our webinar

Scan the QR code to register your interest for an upcoming DMA + Wood for Trees charity soft opt-in webinar:





Wood for Trees provides expert guidance to help charities navigate this change. We can help you:

Compliance and strategy

- Conduct Legitimate Interest Assessments (LIAs)
- Ensure your data and email marketing strategy align
- Develop a soft opt-in compliant framework





CRM and data optimisation

- Establish a robust data foundation
- Implement effective consent and preference mechanisms
- Enhance your CRM and supporter segmentation

Maximising engagement

- Craft high-impact email campaigns, with Al-powered personalisation
- Improve supporter journey mapping for connected experiences
- Increase email marketing ROI, with data-driven insights



Contact Wood for Trees to start preparing your charity for the soft opt-in era.

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