

# The Order of Malta Volunteers – Reserves and Investment Policy

(registered company no. 09801949, registered charity no. 1164242)

<b>POLICY REFERENCE</b>	
<b>Function</b>	For information and guidance
<b>Status</b>	Approved & issued
<b>Scope</b>	Trustees/directors
<b>Owner</b>	Robert Coke
<b>Date approved by board</b>	January 2026
<b>Date for next annual review</b>	January 2027
<b>Date for review</b>	September 2029

1. The Order of Malta Volunteers (“OMV”) are blessed to have received significant donations from a number of benefactors over the years. We offer Mass for them annually. These donations give the charity stability over the long term and we therefore hold them as reserves for times in the future when we might have fundraising difficulty or new activities that may require funding.
2. The charity has one fundraising event each year, the White Knights Ball, which has historically covered the shortfall from the annual Lourdes pilgrimage. The failure of this event represents our largest single financial risk.
3. The annual pilgrimage to Lourdes is our largest expenditure. Although most of this cost is recouped from the participants, the cancellation of the event or low take up would pose a financial risk for the charity.

## Minimum level of reserves

4. The OMV may expect to host the Order of Malta’s annual International Holiday Camp once every eight to ten years. This event typically requires a separate major fund-raising campaign. The Trustees would expect the costs to be met mostly from funds raised specifically for the purpose. However, the Trustees feel it is prudent to include a contingency in their reserves of £100,000, which can be invested, rather than held in cash.
5. The Charity will maintain additional reserves of £100,000 to cover funding shortfalls or unexpected costs.
6. Of these two reserves totalling £200,000, the Charity will hold at least £100,000 in the form of either bank deposits (with a maturity of no more than three months), liquid money market instruments (including AAA-rated liquidity funds) or cash (including, for clarity, its current account).

## Investment of the reserves

7. All capital in excess of the liquid reserves of at least £100,000 referenced above, will be known as the “endowment reserves” and will be invested in a pooled fund selected by the trustees and reviewed annually.
8. The Trustees will aim to maintain the real value of these endowment reserves and therefore it is likely that the endowment reserves will be invested in equity markets.
9. Consideration will be given to the liabilities of the charity – most of its expenses, currently, occur in France – and so diversification away from sterling assets will be considered.
10. However, it is likely that the denomination of the endowment reserves will be

sterling for accounting and management purposes.

11. An income will be taken from the endowment reserves, annually, to support the mission of the OMV. The directors of the Charity will monitor the level of cash at regular intervals during the year and will review the appropriate level of income. Currently 4% is seen to be a sustainable amount while preserving the value of the reserves.
12. Trustees may delegate these responsibilities to an Investment Committee, but that Committee will report to the full board of Trustees with any recommendations for change.
13. The Trustee in charge will review this policy annually and the Board must formally review and re-approve this Policy every five years.