Prince Andrew's Charity Patronages:

Analysis of The Effects on the Charities

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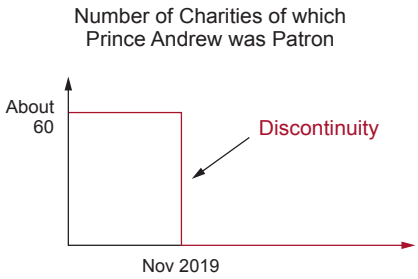
Summary

Many UK charities have Royal patrons and probably many more would like to have them, thinking that a Royal patron would help to secure profile, donations and other useful resources.

Giving Evidence's analysis suggests that this thinking is misplaced. In 2020, Giving Evidence published ground-breaking analysis of the effect of seven 'senior' (their term) Royals[1] on UK charities of which they are patrons. We could find no effect.

Giving Evidence has now extended that analysis. Prince Andrew "stepped back" from all public duties in late 2019 after his interview with BBC Newsnight, ending all of his ~60 charity patronages at once (see graph below). That created a unique opportunity for analysis: in the language of statistics, that ending is a 'discontinuity' experienced by multiple organisations simultaneously. Using that discontinuity, Giving Evidence has analysed the data to find the effect of Prince Andrew's patronages ending, which indicates what the effect of his patronages was. Now is the first juncture that enough 'after' data have been available for this analysis to be possible.

Picture credit: BBC



Note: we mean specifically UK charities of which Prince Andrew was the sole royal patron

The answer is the same. **We find no evidence that Prince Andrew's patronage of charities helped the charities in terms of revenue:** there was no discernible decline in their revenue when his patronage ended. Though we did some complex analysis (presented in this report), a simple fact points that way: when Prince Andrew's patronage ended, about half of his patronees charities saw their revenue rise and about half of them saw revenue fall.

In other words, our analysis implies that **charities which want revenue may be wasting their time in seeking, securing and/or servicing a Royal patron**. Charities may gain other value from Royal patrons, such as reputation: there is no reliable data-set about that so we cannot comment on that. This analysis covers the period since 2019. That includes the deaths of both Prince Philip and Queen Elizabeth, so a change of monarch, plus Covid, so were eventful and unusual times. But our analysis compares the changes in revenues of patronee charities with those of all other relevant charities, of whom there are tens of thousands, so we are confident that our findings are robust.

1 Those seven are: the late Queen Elizabeth, Prince Charles, Camilla, Prince William, Kate, Prince Harry, and Prince Andrew.

For avoidance of confusion, we refer to Members of the Royal Family (MRFs) by their actual name, e.g., Prince William. This is not out of disrespect but rather for ease for the reader. First, people (especially non-UK readers) may not know who the Duchess of Cornwall is/was; and second, various MRFs changed title after Prince Philip and the late Queen died, so using their titles would be confusing. For instance, during the period which we will be discussing, "the Prince of Wales" has meant both Prince Charles (now King) and Prince William.

The rationale for that choice of seven MRFs is explained in our report of 2020, available at www.giving-evidence.com/Royal-findings. In short, it was because they were the most 'senior' working Royals (Prince Philip retired in 2017), minus Meghan Markle who had married into the Royal family too recently (in May 2018) for the effect of her patronages to be research-able.

This lack of any effect may be because **a Royal patronage is a very weak intervention**. We asked the Palace what a patronage comprises and it declined to answer. So we looked at the record of official engagements which the Palace publishes (the Court Circular): for Giving Evidence's previous report, we analysed that for the whole of 2019 (then the most recent full year). This showed that:

- Most (74%) charities with Royal patrons got no official engagements with them at all in that whole year; and
- Existing charities which Royals take on get particularly few official engagements. The Royals' official engagements with charities are overwhelmingly with charities that they founded themselves (The Prince's Trust, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, etc.): those are 2% of their charity patronages, but get 36% of their official engagements with patronee charities.

Giving Evidence takes no view for or against the Royal family in general. Rather, Giving Evidence is interested in the effectiveness of charitable giving and charitable activity. We provide empirical research to enable evidence-based decisions. All of our work seeks to move beyond anecdote, and to look analytically and empirically at the relevant data.

People interested in the usefulness of a Royal family may be interested in the finding about their official engagements. Our analysis in 2020 of the Palace's record for the whole of 2019 found that official engagements with charities were 26% of all official engagements by the seven Royals, so presumably about a quarter of their workload. We could find no effect of that.

Contents

What are Royal patronages, and who gets them?

For our 2020 report, Giving Evidence investigated what Royal patronages of charities comprise, which charities get them, and how those charities are chosen. We asked the Palace the first and third questions, but it declined to comment. So we did our own research, using the only data which is available on all the patronees, i.e., publicly-available information.

What is a Royal patronage?

This is unclear. We looked at official engagements, as listed in the Court Circular. As mentioned, most charity patronees get very few if any official engagements with their Royal patron: 89% of them got one or none in the whole year that we analysed.

Note that an 'official engagement' is not necessarily a 'public engagement' such as a visit: it could be private meetings e.g., at a palace. 'Public engagements' are even fewer than official engagements.

What is the process for choosing patronee charities?

We don't know: we asked and there was no answer, and nothing was published about this. Some are historic (e.g., the monarch is always patron of The Royal Society); some are 'inherited', e.g., Queen Elizabeth took on patronage of Thistle Foundation from her mother[2].

The process sometimes reflects geography of the home or title of the member of the Royal family (MRF): e.g., Camilla became patron of Cornwall Air Ambulance while Duchess of Cornwall, and Prince William became patron of London's Air Ambulance Charity while living in London.

It sometimes relates to the MRF's interests, e.g., King Charles is / was patron of the Foundation for Common Land, "a charity whose aim is to conserve and enhance common land", which clearly fits his environmental interests.

The monarch seems to always be involved in the hand-over: the Royal family talks about patronages being "returned" to them to be re-allocated[3].

We have not heard of any strategy for selecting patronee charities, e.g., balance by sector or geography, discussed below.

Which charities get Royal patronages?

Overwhelmingly, they are larger ones: the revenue of charities with Royal patrons is (on average) nearly 30 times larger than the average UK charity. The charities with multiple Royal patrons are larger still: on average, their revenue is over 80 times the average revenue of UK charities.

On geography, patronage charities are disproportionately in London, the South East and South West of England – where the Royals' main residences are. More deprived regions seem under-represented.

On sectors, patronee charities are concentrated in 'environment and animals'[4] and 'culture and sport' - relatively uncontroversial causes. The sectors with fewest Royal patronages are housing, employment, social services, and religion.

All these data are discussed in more detail in Giving Evidence's 2020 report about Royal patronages, available at www.giving-evidence.com/Royal-findings

2 When we did our research in 2020, this inheritance was cited on Thistle Foundation's website at https://www.thistle.org.uk/who-we-are/our-team/our-patron. At the time of writing, that page is blank: presumably it no longer has a Royal patron.
3 For example, see: https://inews.co.uk/inews-lifestyle/people/prince-andrew-military-titles-list-stripped-duke-of-york-Royal-patronages-1400734?srsltid=AfmBOorcWDMxa5l1I2LgQI3SlqogVSruGASdMVkb9uoFKP5V36KjePeA and https://metro.co.uk/2021/02/21/rugby-bosses-want-prince-william-to-take-over-from-harry-as-Royal-patron-14121162/#:~:text=The%20patronages%20have%20returned%20to,be%20favourite%20for%20the%20role. (Accessed 5th May 2025.)
4 Giving Evidence used the codes in the International Classification for Non-Profit Organisations, discussed later. These terms are from there.

The specific charity patronages that we analysed

To best match Giving Evidence's analysis published in 2020, we analysed Prince Andrew's patronages of[5]:

- ***UK registered charities***. We use this because charities all report their financials annually and to a regulator: so the financials are accessible, in a standardised format[6], and presumably correct. We thus exclude patronages of other types of entity: Prince Andrew was patron of various golf clubs, parts of the military and other types of entity[7]. Pitch@Palace, with which he did many engagements, is not a registered charity, so is excluded from this analysis.

- ***Charities of which Prince Andrew was the sole Royal patron***. Some charities have multiple Royal patrons (for instance, four MRFs are / were associated with the Royal Society of Edinburgh). We were best able to 'isolate' (identify) the effect of Prince Andrew's departure - and therefore the effect of his patronage - by looking only at charities where he was the sole Royal patron.

- ***Charities which have not acquired a different Royal patron since Prince Andrew stepped back***. The Royal family reports having done "a major review"[i] of patronages since King Charles' accession, in which many patronages have been re-allocated. The Palace no longer publishes a full list of who is patron of what, but there were ten charities of which Prince Andrew was patron until 2019 for which we found references (in the press or the charities' website) to another Royal having become patron. We excluded those, again to 'isolate' the effect of Prince Andrew's departure / patronage.

- ***Charities where Prince Andrew's patronage had started in or before 2014***. This was because we needed enough 'before' data. (Charities' financial reports are published with quite some lag after their financial year ends.) This excluded ten charities, including several where Prince Andrew's patronage started during 2019, and five where we could not find a start date.

Figure 1 below shows the set of charities that we included: we analysed the set of charities shown in blue, which we call Patronees of Prince Andrew (PPAs). They are 35. Four of those are schools / universities: because those mainly compete for funds in completely different ways than most charities (through school fees or research grants), we analyse the PPAs both including them (Group A) and excluding them (Group A-B). [Spoiler alert: it makes no difference.]

5 For our analysis published in 2020, we included only charities which were not founded / co-founded by the MRF, e.g., the Prince's Trust (now King's Trust, founded by the then Prince Charles). That is because (a) there are not reasonable comparators, and also (b) understanding the effect of a Royal patron on a charity that they create is not useful to other charities in deciding whether to seek and retail a Royal patron. We recite this here simply for completeness.
6 It so happened that all Prince Andrew's UK patronee charities were in England: none was in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. This is mildly interesting of itself, given that Prince Andrew was for a long time second in line to the throne of the United Kingdom of Great Britain (which includes Wales and Scotland) and Northern Ireland. For our purposes, this was convenient because it meant that we only needed financial data from one regulator, the Charity Commission for England and Wales: there are separate charity regulators in Scotland and in Northern Ireland, and their financial reporting requirements differ somewhat. It is also striking that there were only two charities in Yorkshire of which he was sole Royal patron, given that he is Duke of York.
7 At that time, in late 2019, Prince Andrew was also listed as patron of: at least six parts of the military (e.g., the Royal Irish Regiment), at least 30 golf clubs / societies, and various other non-charitable entities (e.g., The Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta.)

Important note about the data of which Royal is patron of what

When Giving Evidence first researched Royal patronages - in 2019/20 - the Royal family published a full list of them. In fact, it published several lists: sadly they were inconsistent, as well as each incomplete and containing errors. For example, at that time, the main Royal.uk website listed patronage of all members of the Royal family (MRFs); Prince Charles and Camilla had their own website which listed their patronages; and Prince Andrew had a website which listed his patronages. Those lists were not consistent. There were also omissions, e.g., the list on Royal.uk included some charities as having Royal patrons but didn't say which MRF they were. There were also some errors, e.g., Prince Andrew still listed as a patron of NSPCC (the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) long after NSPCC said that that had ended (and it told us that it had asked to be removed from that list). The lists were unclear: for several organisations cited as having Royal patrons, the name belonged to either no identifiable organisation or to several.

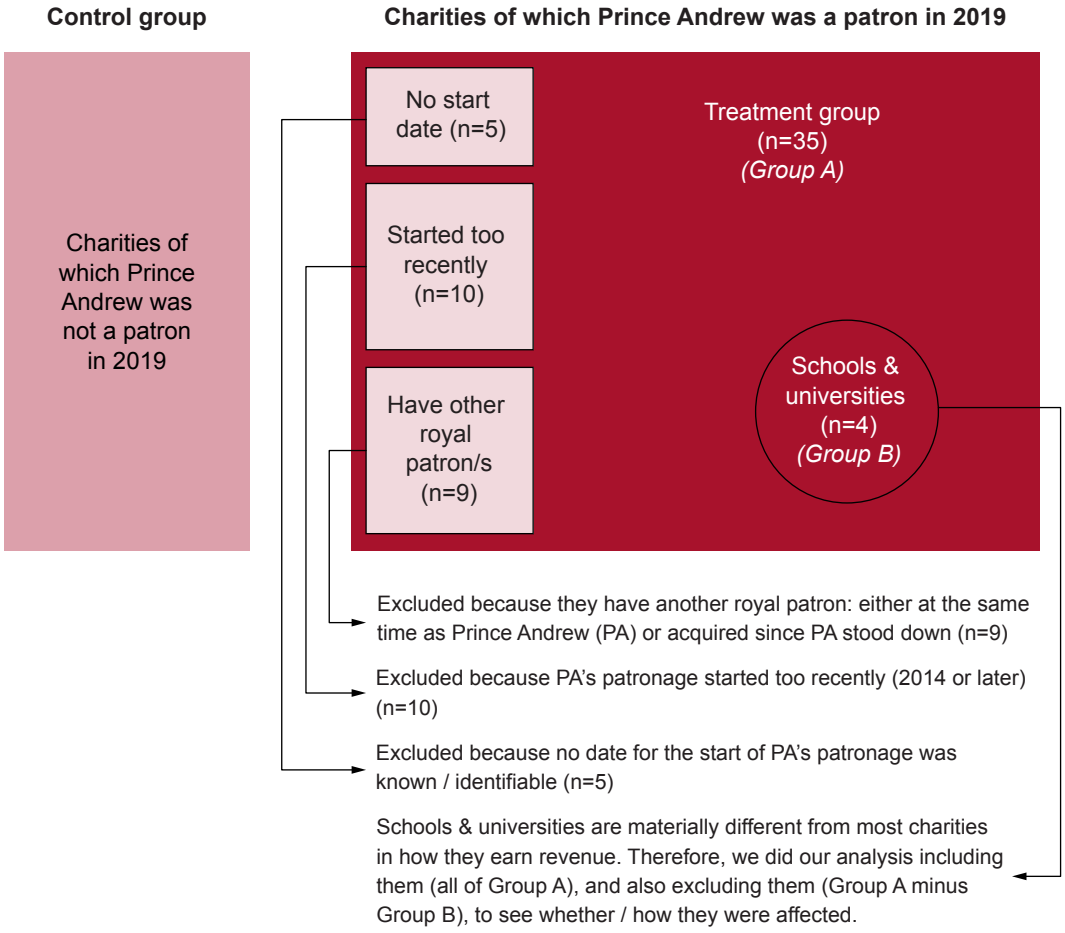
At the time, the main Royal website and/or Prince Andrew's website listed him as patron of eight entities which we found had been removed from the charity register.

We asked the Palace for the list but they did not provide it, so we scraped their websites and compiled the list ourselves. Therefore, the list of charities with Royal patronages is Giving Evidence's work.

Prince Andrew's website disappeared soon after his Newsnight interview. Since King Charles' accession, the main Royal.uk website no longer has anything approaching a complete list of patronee charities, nor information on which Royal is patron of what: it lists only a few examples[ii].

Full methodological detail is in Giving Evidence's 2020 report about Royal patronages, available at www.giving-evidence.com/Royal-findings

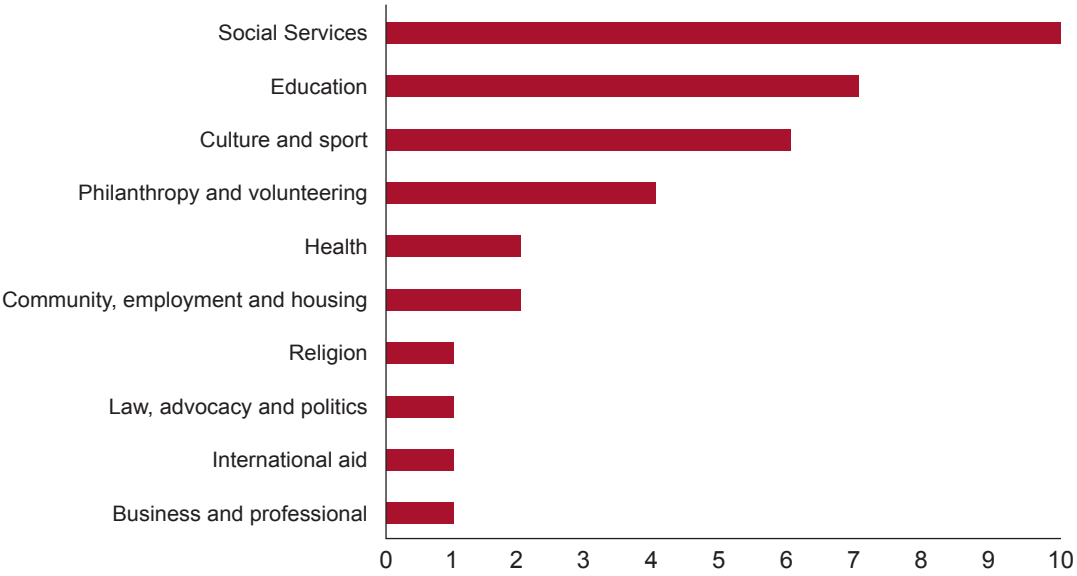
Figure 1: Diagram showing the set of charities which we count as patronees of Prince Andrew (PPAs): the ones in the dark red box



The list of patronees of Prince Andrew (PPAs) that we analysed is in Appendix 1.

Size and sector of Prince Andrew's Patronee charities (the PPAs)

Figure 2: Number of charities (PPAs) in each sector of which Prince Andrew was patron

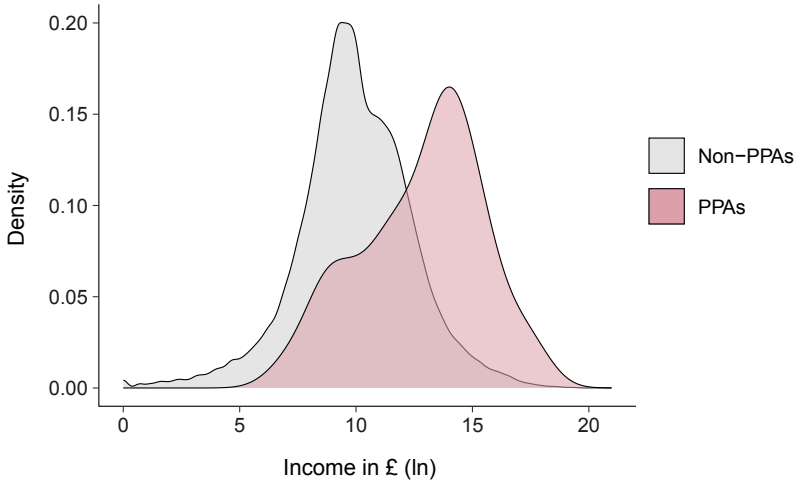


(This chart uses the ICNPO categories, discussed later.)

The charities of which Prince Andrew was patron are, on average, larger than most charities in England and Wales: over eight times larger. This is directionally consistent with the finding from our previous report when we looked at charities with any of seven senior Royal patrons: their revenue was around 30 times the revenue of UK charities on average.

Figure 3 below shows the distribution of income for 2019 of PPA charities (in red) versus non-PPA charities (in grey). (We show this on a logarithmic scale because charity incomes vary hugely, from a few thousand pounds to hundreds of millions. A logarithmic scale shows patterns across such a wide range more clearly.) It clearly illustrates that many PPAs have incomes higher than those of non-PPAs. (This pattern was true in each of the years that we examined.)

Figure 3: Distribution of income of charities of which Prince Andrew was patron (PPAs) vs. non-PPA charities (logarithm) for 2019



Research method, in summary

Research method: difference-in-differences

We used the 'difference-in-differences' method. Essentially it asks: does anything happen to the PPAs around the time that Prince Andrew stepped back which didn't also happen to all other charities?

It works like this. Suppose that you want to investigate whether introducing minimum wage legislation leads to job losses. (Some people thought that it would do, because employers would not be able to afford to retain so many staff.) One method would to find a region (say, a US state) which introduced a minimum wage, and look at the employment rate before and after the introduction (that's one "difference"); then find another region (another US state) where employment patterns were pretty similar but which didn't introduce a minimum wage, and look at the employment rate there before and after the first region made that change (that's the other "difference"); and then compare them (to find the difference between those differences). That will tell you whether anything happens to the employment rate in the first region which didn't also happen in the second one at that time: the second region acts as the 'control group' which allows us to identify the effect of the minimum wage introduction.[8]

In our case, we:

- Looked at change in revenue of PPAs, before vs. after Prince Andrew stepped back (that was the first 'difference' that we calculated); and
- Looked at change in revenue of other comparable* charities before vs. after that time (that's the second 'difference' that we calculated); and
- Compared them. This gives the difference-in-differences which answers our question of whether there was any change to the PPAs' revenue around the time that Prince Andrew stepped back which didn't also happen to all the other charities. That shows the effect on the patronee charities' revenue of the ending of Prince Andrew's patronage.

*The difference-in-differences method uses non-PPAs as a comparison. We did various analyses (detailed in the appendices) which used two levels of comparator:

1. All charities registered in England and Wales of which Prince Andrew was not a patron in November 2019. (These non-PPAs are shown in light red in Figure 1.) In November 2019, there were 145,109 of these. For the entire analysis period (2011–2023), we analysed 279,841 non-PPAs charities.
2. There is a system of codes for classifying non-profit organisations: the International Classification of Non-Profit Organisations (ICNPO). This divides charities into 12 broad 'groups', such as health, education, etc., and also into 40 finer categories called 'descriptions' which are sub-sets of groups. For example, the group 'health' comprises five 'descriptions' which include 'hospitals and rehabilitation' and 'nursing homes'. The ICNPO categories are listed in Appendix 2. We used ICNPO groups (the larger categories). We tried to use ICNPO descriptions, though this did not work because they were too dispersed: for some ICNPO descriptions, there were only one or two PPAs.

8 This roughly describes a real study, which contributed to its authors getting a Nobel Prize in economics.

If Prince Andrew's patronage had been helpful to charities' revenue, when he stepped back, we would see:

- PPA revenue falling faster than revenue of non-PPA charities; or
- PPA revenue falling whereas non-PPA charities' revenue was stable or climbing; or
- PPA revenue growing less fast than revenue of non-PPA charities.

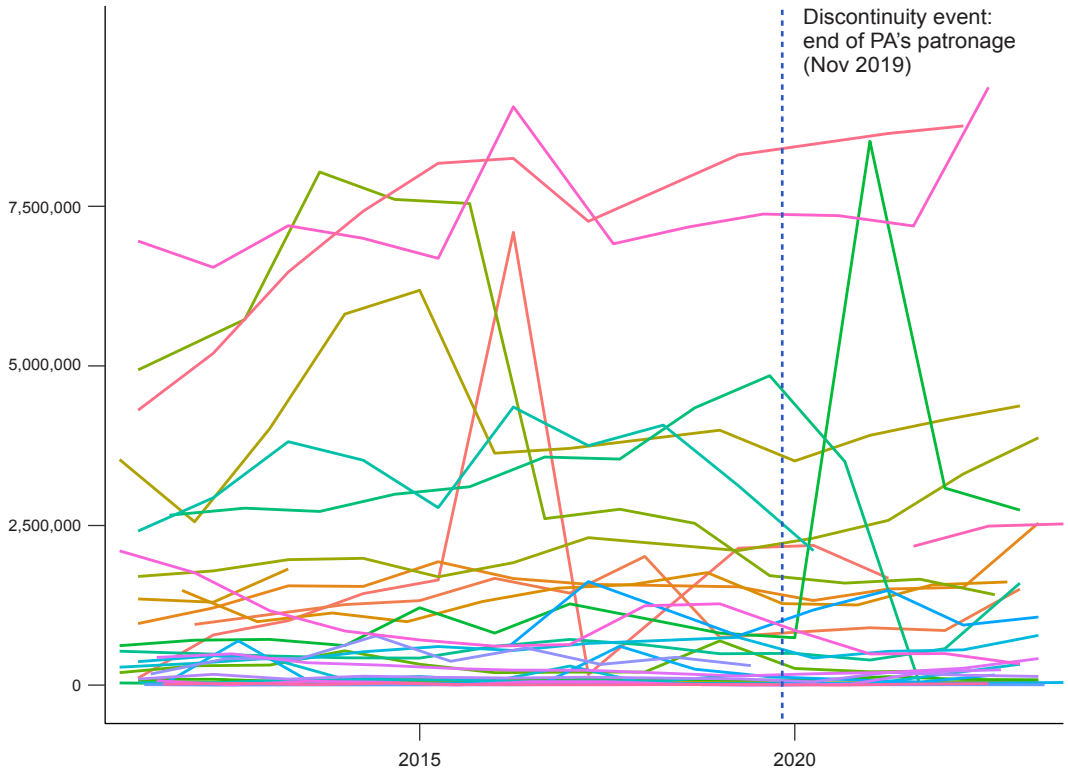
We did six separate difference-in-differences analyses (regression analyses), using three regression models which vary in how they control for various factors and treat the data, and two types of control group. The results are in the following section, and full methodological detail is in the appendices.

Why revenue was the only outcome that we analysed

We analysed the effect of Prince Andrew's patronage on the charities' revenue. The only outcomes which are analysable and comparable across the wide set of charities are those which are reported in charities' annual reports and accounts (published by the regulators). Of those, we used revenue because the potential to increase revenue appears to be a criterion which the Palace uses, as well as being a benefit that charities sometimes cite. There may be other benefits of Royal patronage, including press coverage or staff morale, but we could not analyse these because they are not reported consistently or comparably across charities.

Charities' revenue is somewhat difficult to work with. Figure 4 below shows how it bounces around[9]. This is partly because it can be affected by legacies, which obviously are unpredictable and can arise long after the charity's contact with the donor.

Figure 4: Total Income Over Time for PPA Charities with Income below £10,000,000



- Army Museums Ogilby Trust
- Baker Dearing Educational Trust
- British Deaf Association
- British Exploring Society (BSES Expeditions)
- Broughton House Home for Ex-Service Personnel
- Catalyst Inc
- Centre for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence
- Children North East
- City Gateway
- Faldo Junior Series
- Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust
- Fly Navy Heritage Trust
- Friends of the Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's)
- Horris Hill School
- Intercontinental Church Society
- Jubilee Sailing Trust
- Kohima Educational Trust
- Maimonides Interfaith Foundation
- On Course Foundation
- Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust
- Royal Hospital School
- Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital
- SickKids Foundation
- Sound Seekers
- Staffordshire Regiment Trust
- TeenTech
- The Children's Foundation
- The Duke of York's Community Initiative
- The Peter Jones Foundation
- The Place (CONTEMPORARY DANCE TRUST LIMITED)
- University of Huddersfield
- Whitgift School
- Yorkshire Air Ambulance

Why did we not also analyse Prince Harry's patronages, given that he also left

They are too few. We considered doing this, as a comparator for Prince Andrew, but it turned out to be impossible. Prince Harry was the sole Royal patron of only eight charities, of which he founded two (Sentabale and Invictus Games), and he remains patron of some charities, e.g., WellChild[iii]. A sample of five is too small to support reliable analysis of an effect which may be small.

9 This graph shows only charities with revenue <£10m in order to make the lines legible. There are a few charities whose revenue is much larger, so including them requires having a larger scale, which squashes all the smaller charities' lines together making them largely unreadable. The pattern for the larger charities is the same.

Findings

We find no convincing evidence that Prince Andrew's patronage positively affected charities' revenue. Our various difference-in-differences (DiD) analyses show no statistically significant effect of his patronages on charity revenue.

If his patronage had brought substantial revenue to the PPAs, we would see a clear and statistically meaningful difference in the pattern of revenue of PPAs vs. non-PPAs following his departure. We don't.

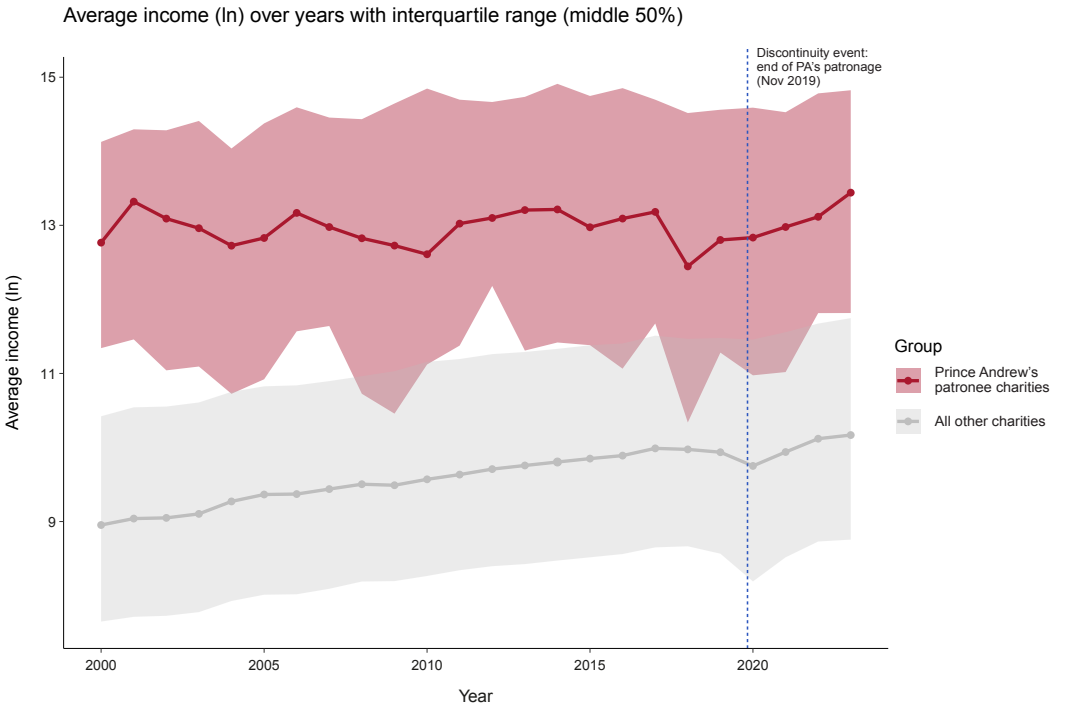
That suggests that Prince Andrew's patronage did not help charities to raise money.

1. Analysis by inspection

A starting point is simply to look at the data by eye and see whether (referring to our research question) anything seems to happen to the revenue of PPAs around the time of Prince Andrew stepping back which does not also happen to other charities.

Figure 5 below shows the average income of PPAs (in red), and of all other UK charities (in grey): this is shown on a log scale (which reduces the 'bouncing' that we saw earlier, so makes the graph easier to read). The lines are the average revenue of all the charities in each set. The shaded area shows the range of income: to avoid misleading outliers, it shows just the middle half of each set: each range goes from the bottom of the second quartile (the 25th percentile) to the top of the third quartile (the 75th percentile). This is "the interquartile range".

Figure 5: Average income of PPAs vs. other charities over time



What this says:
First, as discussed, the grey line (and most of the grey area) is below the red one: because PPAs are larger than other charities, on average.

Second, starting with the grey line, the average income of all England and Wales charities rises steadily upwards. A noticeable dip occurs in 2020, which is presumably an effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, from which the revenue has recovered by 2022.

In contrast, the average income for PPAs, represented by the red line, is more volatile, which is unsurprising given their smaller number. But **there is no sudden decline or a significant slowdown in growth following Prince Andrew's involvement ending**, suggesting that his patronage did not have a clear, direct benefit on their average income at an aggregate level.

As mentioned earlier, when Prince Andrew's patronage ended, revenue for about half of his patronee charities fell and revenue for about half of them rose.

However, it's important to acknowledge that this figure shows only the *average* income per year for each group. The overall average for PPAs could be influenced by a single large charity experiencing an unusually large change in income, potentially skewing the visual representation. Furthermore, there is much in statistics which can deceive the eye[10]. So, to definitively assess whether / how Prince Andrew's patronage affected patronee charity income, more sophisticated statistical methods are necessary.

2. The difference-in-differences analyses

The basic idea is to see whether anything happened to the revenue of PPAs around the time that Prince Andrew stepped back which did not also happen to revenue of all the other charities. This is called the 'difference-in-differences' method. It is complex and uses advanced statistics.

We ran three types of analysis:

- Model 1: The 'basic' difference-in-differences model, in which we treat all charities in the same way;
- Model 2: This is like Model 1 but controls for external events which may have affected all / many charities, such as economic recession, Covid, or new regulation;
- Model 3: This is like Model 2 but, as well as controlling for external events, this also controls for the sector in which the charity operates e.g., health, education. We used ICNPO groups as our sectors.

For each of those three models, we looked at:

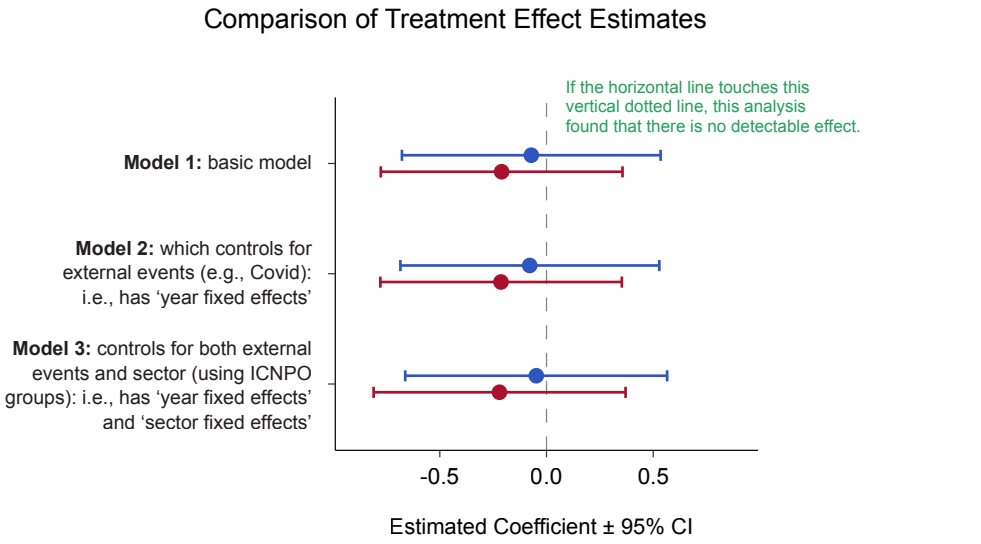
1. the full set of PPAs (Group A, in Figure 1) for which results are shown in red in Figure 6 below; and
2. the PPA charities excluding the four schools and universities (Group A–B, in Figure 1) for which results are shown in blue in Figure 6. We did this because schools and universities have a materially different way of raising funds than most operational charities (e.g., school fees and research grants differ from 'normal' donations).

10 "The real purpose of the scientific method is to make sure Nature hasn't misled you into thinking you know something you don't actually know", Robert M. Pirsig, in *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*.

Thus we had six analyses. The results of all six analyses are in Figure 6 below. For each one, there is a range of values (the horizontal line): all the ranges include zero (the vertical dotted line): in other words, each analysis finds that the effect of Prince Andrew's patronage on revenue might have been zero or a benefit or a harm: the maths says that the effect was (with 95% certainty) anywhere between a 56% decrease in revenue and a 45% increase in income. So none of these various analyses could find convincing evidence that Prince Andrew's patronage affected patronee charities' revenue.

If Prince Andrew's patronage had a statistically significant benefit to charities' revenue, these horizontal bars would all be entirely to the left of the vertical zero line. They are not. The conclusion is therefore clear: the patronage of Prince Andrew did not benefit the patronee charities' revenue enough for his withdrawal to produce a meaningful negative effect on their revenue.

Figure 6: Results from the various analyses of the effect of Prince Andrew's patronage on the patronee charities' revenues



Data Set

- Group A: all 35 PPA charities that we analysed (i.e., including the four schools and universities)
- Group A-B: the 31 PPA charities which are not schools and universities

Conclusion

Our research found no link between Prince Andrew's patronage and the revenue of UK charities of which he was patron: there was no discernible effect of his stepping back. This matches the finding of Giving Evidence's research published in 2020, which looked at the effect of seven senior Royals on revenue of patronee UK charities: that too could not find any effect.

For Prince Andrew, a simple observation illustrates the finding: when Prince Andrew's patronages ended, roughly half of his patronee charities saw revenue increase and half saw it decline. Furthermore, when we compare the movements in revenue of his patronee charities around that time with that of all other charities, there is no noticeable difference. Our various advanced statistical analyses find the same thing.

We cannot exactly say *why* there is no effect. It may be because a Royal patronage is a very weak intervention, not comprising much involvement.

Prince Andrew's instantaneous departure from all of his roles simultaneously created a unique opportunity to see the effect of his patronages - a 'natural experiment'. Prince Andrew was patron of 59 UK charities when he stepped back (as far as we can tell: the data about patronages published by the Royal family at that time was patchy, and almost none is published now).[11] He was also patron of non-charitable entities, such as dozens of golf clubs and parts of the military. We analysed data for 35 of his patronee charities - the others were not includable, for various reasons, e.g. they started too recently. We compared them to all other charities in the country, and found no material differences in revenue patterns when Prince Andrew's patronages ceased. We looked hard, using various groups of his patronee charities, various comparison sets, data across 23 years, and well-established rigorous tools for analysing 'natural experiments' such as Prince Andrew's departure.

All of the patronee charities that we could analyse were in England - none was based in Wales, Scot-land or Northern Ireland, which is curious given that the Royal family covers the whole UK. This too matches a finding from our 2020 research, that the geographic distribution of Royal charity patron-ages does not match the population distribution, and that Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are among the 'under-patroned' regions.

Giving Evidence's interest in this arises because we work on improving the effectiveness of charitable resources by enabling decisions to be based on reliable evidence. We observe charities being interested in securing and maintaining Royal patrons, in the belief that this will attract revenue. We have sought to provide some - apparently unprecedented - evidence as to whether that belief is correct.

Implications

For charities, the implication is that they should be careful about spending time or money seeking or servicing Royal patrons. It is far from clear that they help to raise funds.

For the Royal family, we recommend greater transparency about who is patron of what, how patron-ages are selected, and what they comprise. That could help to reveal benefits that are not currently visible.

11 A previous version of this document stated the number of charities of which Prince Andrew was patron in 2019 as 64. This number is defensible. The number of 59 is also defensible, and is more natural, hence is used in Figure 1.

Avenues for future research

There is no shortage of areas for further research. They include:

a. Exploring why charities take patrons, what they expect from them, and what they get from them

Interviews with charity executives and fundraisers could shed light on perceptions of the role and value of patrons. This might reveal many benefits which did not occur to us. Of course, even if charities feel that they have received these benefits, these statements may not be true or testable, not because of lying but because people's perceptions are often an unreliable guide, and there is still the challenge of gathering robust data across charities in a wide range of sectors to test those claims.

Relatedly, qualitative research with charities that of which Prince Andrew was patron could offer a more textured understanding of his patronage relationships.

b. Analysing non-Royal patrons

Many charities have non-Royal patrons. Their roles and levels of involvement vary hugely, and probably their benefits do too. It might be useful for charities to know which types of patron - and which types of arrangements / roles - work best for charities in particular sectors or circumstances.

An obvious difficulty here is making a list of who is patron of what, and when the patronage started, because there is no central register. Making such a list would probably require finding mentions on charities' websites, which might be laborious and unreliable.

c. Quantitative assessment of outcomes other than revenue

One limitation of our study is that we only used revenue as the outcome variable. Patrons may affect other dimensions, e.g., public perception of the charities, staff turnover. Though obtaining robust data is challenging, repeating our analysis with different outcomes might usefully demonstrate for charities whether and when they should consider having patrons.

Appendices

Appendix 1: List of charity patronees of Prince Andrew included in this analysis

Description	Name	Reg Charity Number	Prince Andrew's role	Group that this patronage is in
Reg charity	Army Museums Ogilby Trust	250907	Patron	A
Reg charity	Baker Dearing Educational Trust	1138894	Patron	A
Reg charity	British Deaf Association	1031687	Patron	A
Reg charity	Broughton House Home for Ex-Service Personnel	227864	Patron	A
Reg charity	Catalyst Inc	1054580	Patron	A
Reg charity	Centre for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence	1133396	Patron	A
Reg charity	City Gateway	1078360	Patron	A
Reg charity	Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust	1037942	Patron	A
Reg charity	Intercontinental Church Society	1072584	Patron	A
Reg charity	Kohima Educational Trust	1102045	Patron	A
Reg charity	On Course Foundation	1136618	Patron	A
Reg charity	Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust	234902	Patron	A
Reg charity	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital	1166129	Patron	A
Reg charity	Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC)	233480	Patron	A
Reg charity	Staffordshire Regiment Trust	1096944	Patron	A
Reg charity	Faldo Junior Series	1102719	President	A
Reg charity	Fly Navy Heritage Trust	1117272	Patron	A
Reg charity	The Place (CONTEMPORARY DANCE TRUST LIMITED)	250216	Patron	A
Reg charity	The Children's Foundation	1000013	Patron	A
Reg charity	The Duke of York's Community Initiative	1119460	Patron	A

Reg charity	The Peter Jones Foundation	1110288	Patron	A
Reg charity	Yorkshire Air Ambulance	1084305	Patron	A
Reg charity	Friends of the Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's)	1133333	Patron	A
Reg charity	SickKids Foundation	1126331	Patron	A
Reg charity	TeenTech	1182557	Patron	A
Reg charity	British Exploring Society (BSES Expeditions)	802196	Patron-in-Chief	A
Reg charity	Children North East	222041	Patron	A
Reg charity	Jubilee Sailing Trust	277810	Patron	A
Reg charity	Sound Seekers	1013870	The Duke of York, Patron	A
Reg charity	Maimonides Interfaith Foundation	1044028	Patron	A
Reg charity	Action on Hearing Loss	207720	Patron	A

Universities / schools:

Description	Name	Reg Charity Number	Prince Andrew's role	Group that this patronage is in
School	University of Huddersfield	exempt	Chancellor	Groups A and B
School	Whitgift School	271320	Patron	Groups A and B
School	Royal Hospital School	1157146	Patron	Groups A and B
School	Horris Hill School	307331	Visitor	Groups A and B

Appendix 2: Definition of ICNPO groups and descriptions

ICNPO group	ICNPO description
Culture and sport	Culture and Arts
	Sports
	Other Recreation and Social Clubs
Education	Primary and Secondary Education
	Parent Teacher Associations
	Educational Foundations
	Playgroups and nurseries
	Higher Education
	Student Unions
	Other Education
	Research
	Medical Research
Health	Hospitals and Rehabilitation
	Nursing Homes
	Hospices
	Mental Health and Crisis Intervention
	Other Health Services
Social Services	Social Services
	Scouts, guides and other groups
	Social services for children, young people and families
	Social services for older people
	Social services for adults with learning disabilities
	Social services for people with disabilities
	Emergency and Relief
	Income Support and Maintenance
Environment and animals	Environment
	Animal Protection

ICNPO group	ICNPO description
Community, employment and housing	Economic, Social and Community Development
	Village Hall
	Housing
	Employment and Training
Law, advocacy and politics	Civic and Advocacy Organizations
	Law and Legal Services
Philanthropy and volunteering	Grant-making foundations
	Other philanthropic intermediaries and voluntarism promotion
International aid	International activities
Religion	Religious congregations and associations
Business and professional	Business associations
	Professional associations
Other	Not elsewhere classified

The classification of UK charities into the ICNPO categories (both levels) was done by the UK's National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). We obtained a list of 340,000 UK charities (current and removed from the register), each with their registered charity number, and their allocated ICNPO 'group' and 'description'.

Appendix 3: Research method in detail

As discussed, the objective of this study was to estimate the effect of Prince Andrew's patronage on the patronee charity's revenue. We used data from the unique 'natural experiment', when Prince Andrew stepped back from all public duties in November 2019, which simultaneously ended his patronage of around 60 UK charities. Prince Andrew stepping back enabled us to use econometric methods to estimate the causal effects of Royal patronage on charities' revenue.

Research question

What effect did the ending of Prince Andrew's patronage have on the revenue of his charity patronees (PPAs)?

To answer this, we used a difference-in-differences (DiD) approach. This is a quasi-experimental method that compares changes in an outcome variable over time (here: revenue) between a 'treatment group' (the group of charities of which Prince Andrew was patron: the PPAs) and a control group (non-PPAs). Essentially it asks: what (if anything) changed in the revenue of PPAs around the time he stepped back that did not also occur in comparable charities without his patronage?

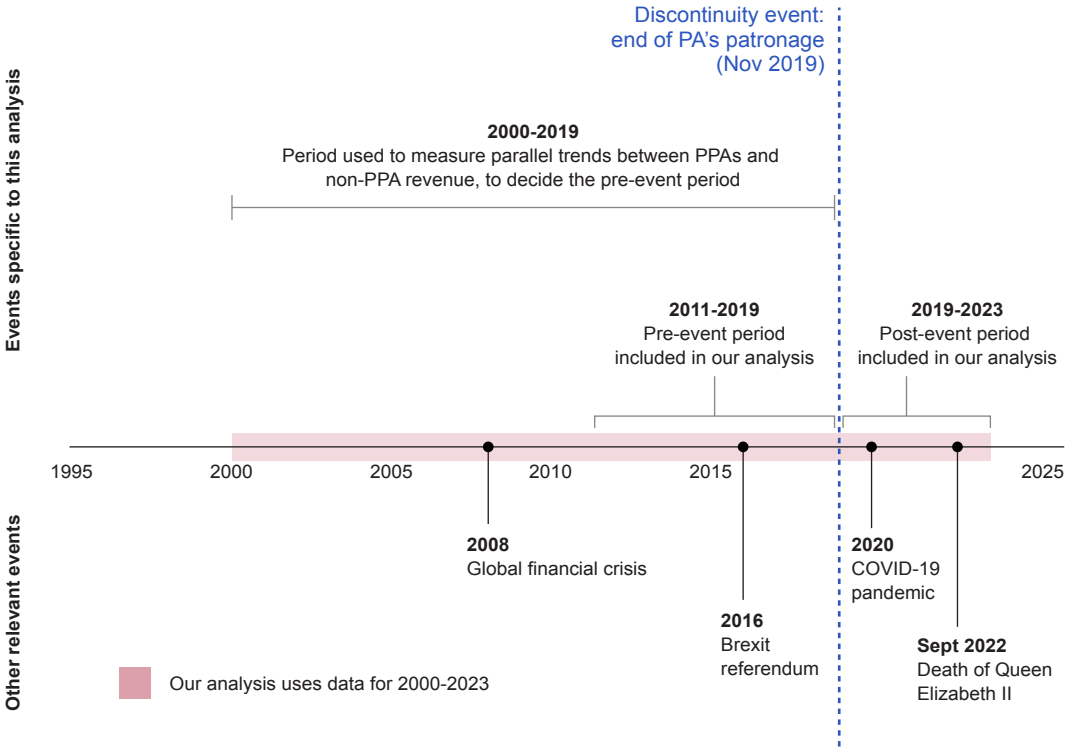
We used three models (defined below). In terms of control groups, some of the models use all non-PPA charities, whereas others split them by sector using the ICNPO groups.

Possible scenarios

There were various types of results which we might have found from the analysis. The following table details them and their interpretation.

Possible Scenarios	Interpretation
PPA revenue falls more than that of the control group	Implies that patronage is financially beneficial
Both PPA revenue and control revenue decrease at same rate: no effect	Suggests no added value from patronage as this change is likely due to external factors
PPA revenue is stable, but control revenue grows	Support for patronage being financially beneficial as PPAs underperformed relative to expected trend
PPA revenue grows, but less than control	Support for patronage being financially beneficial as PPAs underperformed relative to expected trend
Both PPA and control revenue grow at same rate: no effect	Suggests no added value from patronage
PPA revenue grows faster than control	This suggests that a loss of patronage helped, i.e., that the patronage was harming revenue.

Figure 7: Timeline of our DiD research design



Control groups

Our control groups include charities of which Prince Andrew was not patron, or not sole Royal patron in November 2019 (which we call non-PPAs). We compare the average change in revenue for the treated charities before and after the end of patronage to the corresponding change among control charities. This enables us to isolate the effect of his patronage from trends or events which might have affected all charities and/or non-PPAs, such as economic conditions, sector-wide reforms, and Covid, which happened during this period.

The broadest definition of our control group includes all England & Wales charities, of which Prince Andrew was not a patron in November 2019. There were 145,109 of these.

To account for sector specific variation, in the next level, we draw on the International Classification of Non-Profit Organisations (ICNPO), which categorises charities into 12 broad groups (e.g. health, education).

Definition of terms for the difference-in-differences design

The following provide an overview of the research design:

1. We define the discontinuity event as Prince Andrew stepping back which ended his time as sole Royal patron. (We call his patronage 'the treatment'.)

2. The post-treatment period begins in November 2019.

3. We classify a charity's fiscal year as post-treatment if it ended at least 182 days after 1 November 2019. This threshold ensures that at least half the fiscal year occurred after the patronage ended, capturing any resulting impact. Fiscal years ending less than 182 days after that date, or on or before it, are considered pre-treatment, as most of their activities would have been planned before the discontinuity.

4. The PPAs ('the treatment group') is UK-registered charities of which Prince Andrew was the sole Royal in November 2019, and for which he had been a patron for at least three years before that.

5. Pre-treatment period is 2011–2019.

6. Post-treatment period is 2020–2023.

Data used

We used three quantitative datasets:

1. All known charities supported by Prince Andrew as of 2019/2020. This was compiled and cross-validated by Giving Evidence in 2019/20 for the analysis which we published in 2020.

2. The International Classification of Non-Profit Organisations (ICNPO), which provides standardised sector codes and descriptions, and the classification attached to each UK charity which had been done by NCVO.

3. Financial data for registered charities in England and Wales, retrieved from the Charity Commission for England and Wales.[12]

By combining these sources, we built a dataset covering historical financial data for registered charities in England and Wales from 2000 to 2023. This dataset forms the basis of all the analyses presented. The treatment group, Group A, comprises 35 charities. When we exclude schools and universities, we are left with Group A–B, which comprises 31 charities. The size of the control group varies slightly by year, with an average of 141,485 over the years, and 145,109 in the year 2019.

Our various difference-in-differences models

Our goal is to identify ('isolate', in the jargon) the effect of Prince Andrew's patronage. So we need to avoid mistaking that effect for the effect of something else, such as the charity's sector, size, age, or external events like economic downturns, Covid or new regulations which can affect all charities in a particular year. To deal with these issues and see the effect of the patronage, we used three difference-in-differences (DiD) models. They variously control for these factors. All three analyses use linear regression models with multiple group fixed effects. They are increasingly complex, to account for potential confounders and thereby improve the robustness of inference. They are:

1. Model 1 is the simplest of our DiD models. It compares average changes in revenue over time (i.e. from before and after Prince Andrew withdrew as patron) between PPA and non-PPA charities. It treats all years as the same as each other; treats all PPAs as the same as each other; it treats all non-PPAs as the same as each other.

2. Model 2 adds 'year fixed effects': This model builds on Model 1, by including 'year fixed effects'. That means that it accounts for external events any given year that might affect all charities, such as economic changes, or Covid. This helps us avoid mistaking the effect of those external events for the effect of Prince Andrew's patronage.

12 All data and code used in this study, including detailed descriptions of sources, cleaning procedures, and all DiD models, are publicly available on GitHub: (github.com/clemensjarnach/prince_andrew_charity_analysis).

3. Model 3 with 'year fixed effects' and also 'sector fixed effects'. This final model is like Model 2 but includes also 'sector fixed effects'. Charities in the various sectors, such as health or education, may vary in their financial trends or the effect on them of external events. So including 'sector fixed effects' enables us to compare changes within the same type of charity, resulting in more precise estimates. We grouped charities into sectors according to their ICNPO group. In other words, in Model 3, each PPA is compared to non-PPAs within its ICNPO group, allowing for a more meaningful like-for-like comparison.

Figure 8 below provides a detailed breakdown of the models.

We did these various analyses to make sure that we compare like with like, to show the effect of Prince Andrew's patronage on the income of charities.

We ran each model twice:

1. For the full set of PPAs (Group A). These results are in the column in Figure 8 below entitled 'Group A DiD Estimate'. They are the red lines in Figure 6.

2. For the set of PPAs excluding the four schools and universities (Group A-B). These results are in the column in Figure 8 below entitled 'Group A-B DiD Estimate'. They are the blue lines in Figure 6.

Appendix 4: Results in detail

Figure 8 is a summary table listing the results from three difference-in-differences (DiD) models.

For each model, the effect estimate (labelled DiD Estimate) shows the 'point estimate'. We also show the standard errors (SE, in brackets). The range of values (with 95% certainty) is in the range defined by: that point estimate +/- the SE.

The point estimate is the blob on the relevant line in Figure 6: and the range is the horizontal line.

Models 1, 2, and 3 all produce negative point estimates - and for both Group A and for Group A-B, suggesting a potential drop in charity income following the loss of Prince Andrew as patron. However, all the confidence intervals (the ranges) include zero. This means the true effect could be negative, positive, or zero; so we can't be sure. There's a 95% chance that the true effect lies within the range shown by the horizontal lines on Figure 6, but because this range includes zero, the findings do not offer convincing evidence of a meaningful or reliable effect.

Although the Group A estimates suggest slightly stronger negative effects than those for Group A–B, and the Group A–B estimates lie closer to zero, the overall picture remains unchanged: even with a robust model design and additional controls to isolate the effect of Prince Andrew's patronage, we found no clear evidence that his involvement made a discernible difference to charity income.

As a robustness check, we also re-ran all three models with the standard errors clustered at the charity level to account for potential auto-correlation within charities. This did not materially change the results or reveal any statistically significant effects.

None of the models yield a statistically significant treatment effect at the 5% level. Thus, none of our DiD analyses suggests any detectable effect of Prince Andrew's patronage.

Figure 8: Summary table of regression DiD estimates of Prince Andrew's patronage on charity income

Model	Year Fixed Effects (FE)	Sector Fixed Effects (FE)	Group A (n=35) DiD Estimate (SE)	Group A-B (n=31) DiD Estimate (SE)	Stat. Sig. at 5% ?	Interpretation
1. Basic DiD, as naive benchmark model			-0.210 (0.289)	-0.072 (0.309)	No	No conclusive evidence
2. Model 1 with added year fixed effects to adjust for shocks / events (e.g., Covid) which could have affected any / all charities	✓		−0.213 (0.289)	-0.078 (0.309)	No	No conclusive evidence
3. Model 2 with ICNPO Groups (as sector fixed effects). So each PPA is compared to non-PPAs in its sector.	✓	✓	−0.220 (0.301)	-0.049 (0.313)	No	No conclusive evidence

Notes:

The table reports estimates from difference-in-differences (DiD) models predicting the natural logarithm of charity income. The key independent variable is an interaction between treatment status and a post-2019 indicator (Post), which equals 1 for observations after 2019 and 0 otherwise. FE stands for Fixed Effects. SE stands for Standard Errors. Statistical significance is evaluated at the 5% level.

Data are from 2011 to 2023.

About Giving Evidence

Giving Evidence is a consultancy and campaign, which enables and encourages charitable *giving* based on sound *evidence*.

Through consultancy, Giving Evidence helps donors and charities in many countries to understand their impact and to raise it. Through research, campaigning and thought-leadership, we show what evidence is available and what remains needed, what it says, and where the quality and infrastructure of evidence need improving.

Giving Evidence has advised many donors and operational non-profits in many sectors and many countries over many years.

Giving Evidence was founded by **Caroline Fiennes**, one of the few people whose work has appeared in both *OK!* Magazine and the scientific journal *Nature*. A former award-winning charity CEO, Caroline wrote the *How To Give It* column in the Financial Times for three years, the first column about philanthropy in any major newspaper globally. She is author of the acclaimed book *It Ain't What You Give, It's The Way That You Give It*, which is a guide for donors. She is a Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University's Centre for Strategic Philanthropy, and has also written about charities and philanthropy in Freakonomics, Forbes, the Daily Mail, The Economist, The Times, the British Medical Journal and elsewhere.

Dr Clemens Jarnach is a data scientist and political sociologist, with a master's and doctorate from the University of Oxford. His interests lie at the intersection of technology, causal inference, and social networks and their influence on political behaviour, (mis-)information, and democracy. He has worked with the German Parliament and with NASA, among others.

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