

Quaker governance update

Quaker Life Network newsletter

Issue 10: Summer 2025



1. Welcome to Quaker governance update

Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of Quaker governance update for Quaker trustees, treasurers and other Friends involved in Quaker governance.

If you have questions about any of the items in the newsletter or about any other governance or finance related issue please get in touch with Quaker Life, supportmeetings@quaker.org.uk.



Photo by Ingo Doerrie on Unsplash

2. Quaker Governance support and guidance

2.1 Accommodation as a taxable benefit



Quakers in Britain staff have been looking into whether providing accommodation for employees or volunteers working in wardenship or similar roles in Quaker communities may be seen by HMRC as a taxable benefit. The question about this arose from a meeting looking into it for the purposes of their area meeting.

This issue also came up when Quakers in Britain staff worked with Bates Wells Solicitors to review occupancy agreements for employed and volunteer live-in wardens. Having done this work, we are pleased to be able to let you know that provision of accommodation should not be seen as a taxable benefit. However, there are some things that trustees should be aware of to ensure that charities are compliant.

- It must be clear that accommodation is provided for the better performance of the duties of the employee or volunteer, and that there is an established practice of this. The provision of any services / utilities apart from Council Tax, and Water and Sewerage could be seen as a taxable benefit.

Quakers in Britain has produced some guidance on this which is available using the link below. In addition to the guidance there are updated occupancy agreement templates for volunteers and employees on the Quakers in Britain website, www.quaker.org.uk/employers. These new documents have recommended wording and drafting notes to support their use based upon the advice from the solicitors. We advise all Quaker charities that provide accommodation as part of a paid or voluntary role to update their documents using the new templates.

www.quaker.org.uk/documents/er-guidance-accommodation-taxable-benefit

Abbreviations: CC – Charity Commission; CLAS – Churches' Legislation Advisory Service; BYM – Britain Yearly Meeting; LM – local meeting; AM – area meeting; ACAT – Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers; OSCR – The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator; YMG – Yearly Meeting Gathering; QLCC – Quaker Life Central Committee

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2.2 Password and security guidance



Source QiB staff, everyone

Quakers in Britain staff have produced some simple guidance on helping to be safe online. It has been produced as a guide for helping keep the digital lives of our charities safe and is also good practice for individual Friends, as our lives become ever more digitally focussed. It has suggestions on:

- Passwords
- Multi-factor authorisation
- Emails and Phishing

See the advice sheet, www.quaker.org.uk/documents/password-and-security-guidance.

2.3 Being trans inclusive – provision of facilities in Quaker premises



Following the judgement by the Supreme Court earlier this year there has been consideration by Quakers in Britain trustees and others on the provision of toilet facilities at Friends House. There is [a statement giving details of the consideration on facilities for Friends House](#) on the Quakers in Britain website.

In June a meeting was held for area meeting clerks and clerks to AM trustees to share the background and thinking to this. A [presentation was shared](#) which you can look at.

The presentation covered:

- **An introduction to the situation:** The Supreme Court Judgment and the interim and permanent guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC).
- **A reminder:** of the Quaker commitment to welcoming and affirming trans people.
- **Key points to remember:** What the law now does and doesn't say.
- **Principles:** which BYM Trustees and staff have used to agree an interim approach on toilets and changing rooms (*not legal advice*).
- **Question and answer session**

Key messages (which are also in the slides)

- You don't need to embark on big change work right now.
- Generally Quakers don't provide single sex services.
- Self-contained and therefore single sex facilities are helpful – in many meeting houses this will be what you have already.
- You may need to increase the circumstances in which people can use your accessible facilities – as these are generally self-contained, they are a flexible resource. There are a number of ways in which you could do this.

2.4 Raising a concern about a charity with the Charity Commission (CC47)



Source Charity Commission, England & Wales

The Charity Commission has updated its guidance on what to do when someone wants to raise a complaint about a charity (section 6) with the Commission. The guidance has been updated to make it clearer when to raise concerns about a charity with the Commission, as well as what the Commission can and cannot do in its capacity as regulator (sections 2 and 4).

See, www.gov.uk/government/publications/complaints-about-charities.

2.5 Trustee information: a reminder from OSCR



Source OSCR, Scotland

From 30 June 2025, OSCR began collecting charity trustee information through OSCR Online. Providing this information is now a legal requirement for all charities in Scotland.

Charity users must submit trustee details using OSCR Online. Any charity now completing a new online annual return is required to include trustee information as part of the submission.

Please make sure that you have:

- informed all trustees about this change,
- collected the required trustee information (see OSCR's website for a [list of the required information](#)),
- ensured that relevant individuals (up to three per charity) have [access to OSCR Online](#).

3. Events and training opportunities

3.1 Annual Treasurer Update Zoom Meetings



14, 15 and 22 October 2025, online, times vary

Each year in the autumn the Quakers in Britain Fundraising Team offers an opportunity for Friends to join a session with staff members and the Yearly Meeting treasurer. Join the meeting to find out the latest about BYM finance and the new contribution leaflet. You will be able to find out how to request new fundraising materials and engaging with Friends about money matters.

You can register here for all session here, <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/treasurersupdate>.

3.2 ACAT Annual Conference

Saturday, 1 November, 10:00-16:30 – St. John's House, Diocese of Manchester, 155–163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0ND and online

The Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers (ACAT) provides governance training and support for churches. Every year ACAT holds an annual conference with opportunities for learning and sharing between the church community.

Find out more and book your place, www.acat.uk.com/acat-conference.



Woodbrooke sessions

33 Community Surgery Hour for Treasurers

Monday 22 September, 12:30-14:00

Are you a treasurer for a Quaker meeting or organisation with questions about your role and responsibilities? This support and Q&A session is offered as a welcoming space to explore those questions.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/community-surgery-hour-for-treasurers



3.4 Community Surgery Hour for Trustees

Monday 20 October, 19:00-20:30

Are you a Quaker Trustee, or a Trustee of a Quaker organisation, with questions about your role? This support and Q&A session is offered as a welcoming space to explore those questions – facilitated by an experienced tutor, but shaped by the shared wisdom of everyone attending.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/community-surgery-hour-for-trustees



3.5 Quaker Trusteeship in a Nutshell

Saturday 15 November, 10:00-16:00

Are you a new or relatively new Quaker Trustee – or looking to increase confidence in carrying out your role within in a Quaker setting? Join us to explore the role of Trustee with a focus on both its spiritual grounding and practical responsibilities.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/quaker-trusteeship-in-a-nutshell

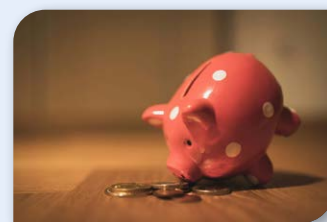


3.6 Quaker Treasurership in a Nutshell

Saturday 29 November, 10:00-16:00

Are you about to start or just started as a Treasurer for a Quaker meeting, group or organisation? This one-day online course offers clear guidance on what the role involves and introduces the basics to help you carry out your responsibilities with confidence.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/quaker-treasurership-in-a-nutshell



WOODBROOKE

3.7 Simpler Meetings 2025



Is your Quaker Meeting feeling stretched – too many roles and not enough energy?

Simpler Meetings 2025 is an online series offering space to reflect, connect, and explore spirit-led, practical ways to simplify meeting life.

The series begins on **11 September** with: *Starting With Fundamentals*, grounding us in the principles behind simplifying Meeting life.

Further sessions will explore sharing roles more simply (**25 Sept**), thriving as a small Meeting (**9 Oct**), and flourishing without a Meeting house (**23 Oct**). If you attended a Simpler Roles session in 2021, you're also invited to our Revisited gatherings this autumn to share your journey and hear from others.

For details and booking, visit:

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/simpler-meetings



3.8 Trustees' Week, Eastside People – Festival of Trusteeship

3–7 November 2025, online

This year Trustees' Week takes place from 3-7 November. As part of this year's event Eastside People is offering a week-long online series of events, full of exciting options for anyone who wants to become a trustee, for committed trustees who want to keep learning and developing, and for charity leaders who want to understand best practice in trustee recruitment and inclusive governance. Find out more and book to attend here,

<https://eastsidepeople.org/event/festival-of-trusteeship-2025>.



Celebrating,
supporting and
inspiring trustees



#TrusteesWeek

4. Grants and financial help

4.1 Meeting Houses Fund



The Meeting Houses Fund provides financial assistance for carrying out improvements to Quaker premises. Find out what can be applied for and the application process by visiting the BYM website, www.quaker.org.uk/mhfunds.

4.2 Listed Places of Worship Scheme (source CLAS / UK Gov)

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme has been extended until 31 March 2026. The terms of the Scheme have been modified allowing each place of worship to claim no more than £25,000 during the financial year, though that can still be spread across multiple claims.

Find out if your meeting could claim back VAT on any repairs to your meeting house, <https://listed-places-of-worship-grant.dcms.gov.uk>.



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

4.3 National Churches Trust

NCT offers a range of support from expert advice to financial grants. It provides training, access to specialist skills, and advice to develop an effective maintenance plan to protect buildings for future generations. Read the [NCT information leaflet to find out about their support to Quakers](#).



Visit the NCT website: www.nationalchurchestrust.org.

4.4 Adult and Further Education grants



Adult and Further Education grant applications for courses beginning this winter close on 1 August.

For more details please see www.quaker.org.uk/adult-education-grants or contact grants@quaker.org.uk 020 7663 1053.

4.5 Pastoral Care Grants



These grants supplement funds available to pastoral care role-holders locally and can be used in situations of hardship and suffering through old age, or to support Friends in need. Please contact the Grants Programme Officer (grants@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1053) for further information and an application form.

4.6 Hope Grants



These are small grants to improve the quality of life of Quaker members and attenders who are unemployed or unable to make a living wage. Friends in financial need can apply for a grant of up to £750 towards items or activities that will improve their quality of life. More information and the application form are available from our website: www.quaker.org.uk/hopegrants

Britain Yearly Meeting

Contributions update

Summer 2025



Meeting for Learning (MfL) about Quakers in Britain & Giving

Would your meeting like to know more about the work of Quakers in Britain and how it is funded? The fundraising team can deliver meetings for learning at local and area meetings. They work alongside your Local Development Worker, other members of Quakers in Britain staff or the Yearly Meeting treasurer (availability allowing).

Email, contributions@quaker.org.uk to find out more.

Free will writing service

This summer, Quakers in Britain has launched a new partnership with Octopus Legacy to offer the option of using a free will writing service. Writing a will can be an emotional time and one that some people put off. We are hoping that this offer may help encourage more people to think about what they want for their assets after they have died. We hope that when thinking about legacy, Friends will consider leaving a gift to Quaker work locally or nationally.

Please let Friends in your meeting know they can find out more, www.quaker.org.uk/free-will-writing.



Treasurers Survey

This has been emailed to everyone but just a gentle reminder that we'd be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete our annual Treasurers' survey – the deadline for responses is the 31 July.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTGLMT8

Giving Advocates

Giving Advocates are Friends from all over Britain supported by the BYM Fundraising Team. Some are treasurers or collectors in their areas. Others simply want to make sure that the work of their area and BYM is properly funded.

We meet three or four times a year via Zoom. We provide support to each other, discuss challenges and share ideas and resources. If you know someone in your meeting who might be interested in talking about money/giving, please suggest they get in touch with us to find out more. They don't need to be a treasurer but just be happy to support treasurers in talking about giving.

Email contributions@quaker.org.uk for more information.

How much should I give to Quaker work?

This helpful guide *How much should I give to Quaker Work?* was produced by Giving Advocates to support Friends consider how much to give to Quaker work. Please disseminate to Friends in your meeting in different ways or put it on your notice board! Email us at contributions@quaker.org.uk if you would like us to send you a printed copy.