

Quaker governance update

Quaker Life Network newsletter

Issue 2: Autumn 2022



1. Welcome to Quaker governance update

Welcome to Quaker governance update. This will be the last edition of this channel for Quaker trustees, treasurers and other Friends involved in Quaker governance in 2022.

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.

2. Quaker Governance support and guidance

2.1 Sending in your Trustees Annual Report and Accounts (TARA) documents

Thanks to everyone who has sent in copies of their 2021 TARA documents. I know that not all area meetings' financial years run January to December so you may not quite have them complete yet.

When they are ready and you have submitted a copy to your Charity Regulator, please remember to send a copy to BYM via email to supportmeetings@quaker.org.uk.

If your AM is an Excepted Charity (England and Wales) you will not be required to submit a copy to the Charity Regulator.

There is a brief document on the [trustees' page of the Quaker website](#) with details of [Quaker Life's support offer and what we ask AMs to report](#).

2.2 Taxation

Religious Buildings and VAT (CLAS)

A question over the government's commitment to ensure spending on repairs and renovations to listed places of worship are permanently exempt from VAT was raised by Valerie Vaz MP (Labour) on 26 October 2022. Stuart Andrew MP (Conservative) responded as follows:

"The Government recognises that listed places of worship represent some of the nation's finest heritage, and that there are particular burdens to the upkeep of such spiritual architecture. The Government funded [Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme](#) aims to support the works by giving grants that cover the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in use as places of worship. This supports the effective conservation of these sites."

You can read the full question and response on the government questions and statements website, <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-26/72246>.

Abbreviations: CC – Charity Commission; 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; QSC – Quaker Stewardship Committee; YMG – Yearly Meeting Gathering; QLCC – Quaker Life Central Committee

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2.3 Charities Act 2022: first set of changes come into force

England and Wales (CLAS)

The Charity Commission has **announced that the first set of changes being introduced by the Charities Act 2022** for England and Wales have now come into force, introducing a range of provisions including new powers for trustees. They include:

- an extended power for charities to **pay trustees for providing goods to the charity** under certain circumstances (in addition to services, and goods connected to services);
- a reduction in the administrative complexities surrounding **fundraising appeals that do not reach, or exceed, fundraising targets** (often known as ‘failed appeals’).

Read about the full changes online: www.gov.uk/guidance/charities-act-2022-guidance-for-charities

Information from CLAS says: “*The Government has said that new provisions on ex gratia payments originally intended to be commenced in the first tranche are now under further consideration prior to commencement because it appears that sections 15 and 16 have the effect of enabling national museums for the first time to restore items from their collections on moral grounds (for example, cultural items obtained by way of looting).*”

Trustee and treasurer conference 2022 follow-up

The slides from the presentations held at the Trustees and Treasurers Conference 2022 are available online at www.quaker.org.uk/trustees. There will be a film of the presentation made by Bates Wells Solicitors on changes being brought into force in England and Wales by the Charities Act 2022.

3. Events and training opportunities

3.1 Woodbrooke courses

Courses for trustees and treasurers

Dates for courses in the first part of 2023 should be advertised by the end of November.

Sign up for updates:

■ Being a Quaker Treasurer

This course provides all you will need to know about Quaker treasurership. Learn online over a period of time to build your knowledge and understanding of this essential Quaker role.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/product/being-a-quaker-treasurer

■ Being a Quaker Trustee

A six-week online course providing easy-to-understand information and enjoyable learning to make Quaker trusteeship approachable and rewarding.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/product/being-a-quaker-trustee



4. Grants and financial help

4.1 Financial help with energy costs

Government support on energy costs for charities and businesses

The Government has published details of the [Energy Bills Relief Scheme](#) for non-domestic customers. Discounts will be applied to energy usage for an initial six-month period between 1 October 2022 and 31 March 2023. The scheme will apply in England, Scotland and Wales. Customers do not need to apply as the discount will be automatically applied to bills.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has published [guidance on how households and businesses will be supported](#) by the Energy Price Bill introduced to Parliament on 12 October 2022.

Energy bills rebate: religious buildings (CLAS)

In response to the following question from Catherine West MP (Labour): “*To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment the Government has made of the adequacy of funding for (a) faith centres and (b) places of worship under the Energy Bills Support Scheme.*” Graham Stuart MP (Conservative) replied as follows:

“The Energy Bill Relief Scheme will provide a price reduction to all UK businesses and other non-domestic energy users including faith centres and places of worship on eligible energy supply contracts. This will help ensure they are protected from excessively high energy bills over the winter period.

The exact value of the savings for each non-domestic customer will vary depending on their contract type, the tariff and the volume used, but the scheme is intended to ensure broad parity and fairness.”

Britain Yearly Meeting

Update for Trustees and Treasurers

Autumn 2022



Annual treasurers survey

Every year, the fundraising team send out a survey to all local and area meeting treasurers. The survey helps the fundraising team understand your meeting's circumstances and the challenges you are facing ahead. This helps the fundraising team with their annual income projections and with their communication with treasurers and other Friends.

They have compiled the findings from the survey into a report which is now available on the website at www.quaker.org.uk/documents/2022-report-on-bym-treasurers-survey.

Some of the interesting findings include:

- 46% of meetings have or expect to see significant rises in costs of their meeting (primarily due to energy costs)
- 17% felt their level of reserves were too high
- 75% said their contributions to BYM would remain the same

A short film with ideas to help increase giving

This short film has been made to talk about how Friends' donations are used to develop our Quaker faith and do Quaker work in the world. If you have a laptop or computer hooked up in the meeting house, we encourage you to show it to Friends in your meeting.



How your support makes a difference to Quaker work

You can also send a link to the video out in your local newsletter. The video can be found online at <https://vimeo.com/759578718/3fc1893d00>.

There are many photos of Friends – see if you can spot anyone from your meeting!

Contributions 2023 material

The latest contributions material has landed!

If you go to www.quaker.org.uk/contributions you will find everything you need to support you in your annual contributions appeal including: the letter from outgoing BYM Treasurer Linda Batten, contribution leaflets, a PowerPoint presentation and a video which you can share with Friends in your meeting to help explain why their contributions are so important.

The fundraising team are available to help if you have any questions or need any support around giving or contributions.

Email contributions@quaker.org.uk

