

Quaker governance update

Quaker Life Network newsletter

Issue 4: Summer 2023



1. Welcome to Quaker governance update

Welcome to the Summer 2023 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.



2. Quaker Governance support and guidance

2.1 Safeguarding – IICSA response statement from the Government



CLAS, source the Home Office

On 22 May, the Home Secretary made a statement on the Government's response to the final report of the Independent Investigation into Child Sexual Abuse. The two key documents are linked below:

- Statement from Suella Braverman, Home Office – see [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse: Report](#) on Hansard web page.
- [Government Response to the Final Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#) (PDF)

CLAS included a 20-point summary of the Government's response. The points that may be most relevant to Quaker communities from the list CLAS provided are below. In these points 'We' refers to the government.

1. *A single set of core data relating to child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation:* "We accept that robust data collection on the scale and nature of child sexual abuse is critical to underpin and drive a more effective response to child sexual abuse."
2. *Creation of a Child Protection Authority in England and in Wales:* "We accept the need for a stronger safeguarding system. We will ensure the relevant actions included within our reform programme, Stable Homes, Built on Love, fulfil this recommendation."
3. *Extended use of the barred list of people unsuitable... for work with children:* "We accept subject to further assessment of feasibility and impact, taking into account the findings of the Bailey Review of Disclosure and Barring Regime, published in April 2023."

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; QSC – Quaker Stewardship Committee; YMG – Yearly Meeting Gathering; QLCC – Quaker Life Central Committee

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4. *Removal of the three-year limitation period for personal injury claims brought by victims:* “We accept the critical issue this recommendation seeks to remedy, and we will consult on strengthening existing judicial guidance in child sexual abuse cases and set out options to reform limitation law in child sexual abuse cases.”
5. *A code of practice for access to records pertaining to child sexual abuse:* “We accept the importance of access to records. We will engage with the Information Commissioner’s Office on implementing this recommendation.”

Mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse in England

On the proposal for mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse in England in particular – on which the Government had already announced its acceptance – the Home Office has launched a 12-week public call for evidence on how it should be implemented. The consultation closes on Monday 15 August.

So far as CLAS members are concerned, the mandatory reporting duty would apply “to any person working in a position of trust (as defined by the Sexual Offences Act 2003, as amended)”. On their reading, the mandatory reporting duty will therefore apply to CLAS members without exception.

2.2 Protective Security for Places of Worship – open for applications



CLAS, source the Home Office

The Home Office has announced the launch of a scheme to provide protective security at places of worship.

Through the scheme, places of worship can apply for measures such as CCTV, secure fencing, and intruder alarms to be installed at their site to improve security against hate crime. All measures provided by the schemes will be supplied and installed free of charge.

Applications can be made via the following link:

www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/powapply23

For more information on eligibility, further details on what the schemes cover, the application process and supporting guidance, please visit:

www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme

2.3 Charities Act 2022 – Implementation plan update (England & Wales)



CLAS, source Department for Digital, Media, Culture & Sport (DCMS)

The DCMS has updated the timetable for implementing the **Charities Act 2022**, as follows:

Provisions of the Act expected to come into force in June 2023:

- Sections 9-14 and 35(a): Permanent endowment.
- Sections 17, 19-22: Charity land.
- Sections 25-28: Charity names.
- Section 38 and 39: Connected persons.
- Part of Section 40 and Schedule 2: Minor and consequential amendments.

Provisions of the Act expected to come into force by the end of 2023:

- Section 1-3: Charity constitutions.
- Sections 18 and 23: Charity land.
- Section 24 and Schedule 1: Amendments of the Universities and College Estates Act 1925 (section 24 and Schedule 1 will be included in the phase 3 commencement regulations but they will come into force in Spring 2025).
- Section 29: Powers relating to appointments of trustees.
- Section 31: Remuneration etc of charity trustees etc.
- Sections 33, 34 and 35(b): Charity mergers.
- Section 37: For remaining purposes.
- Section 40 and Schedule 2: For remaining purposes.



Provisions under further consideration prior to commencement:

- Sections 15 and 16: Ex Gratia Payments.

[Read the full list, including those provisions already in force, with a press release.](#)

2.4 Charities Regulation and Administration (Scotland) Bill passed



CLAS, source Scottish Government

The Scottish Parliament has voted unanimously to pass the [Charities \(Regulation and Administration\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#). The Bill is intended to improve the accountability and transparency of charities and increase the powers of the independent Scottish Charity Regulator, and results from a consultation in the sector following proposals by OSCR.

Provisions of the Bill include:

- updating the criteria for the automatic disqualification of charity trustees and extending them to individuals with specific senior management positions in charities;
- removal from the Scottish Charity Register of unresponsive charities that fail to submit statements of account;
- a requirement for all charities in the Scottish Charity Register to have and retain a connection to Scotland;
- a requirement for OSCR to publish the statements of account for all charities in the Scottish Charity Register; and
- requirements for OSCR to include charity trustee names in the Scottish Charity Register, to keep an internal schedule of charity trustees' details and to create a publicly searchable record of charity trustees removed by the courts.

2.5 Items relating to HMRC or taxation



a) HMRC scam warning

CLAS, source HMRC

Tax scams seem to be a major growth industry; however, officials at HMRC are particularly concerned about the latest tax phishing scam and we have had an e-mail from them asking us to put out an alert.

The authors of the scam are targeting Government Gateway log-in details. Instead of offering the usual bogus “tax refund”, they ask recipients to click a link to “update their records” which, they say, are “out of date”. One version refers to recipients’ “Self-Assessment Online profile”.

HMRC has posted updates about the scam on its [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) accounts. It has also published guidance on GOV.UK on how to [identify tax scam phone calls, emails and text messages](#).

b) Charities tax guidance: update

CLAS, source HMRC

HMRC has updated its [detailed guidance page for charities on how the tax system operates](#).

Chapter 3, Section 3.4.5 has been updated to make it clear that donations made by an individual waiving a refund or a loan repayment due from a charity can be considered a donation of a sum of money where there is a clear agreement to cancel a loan or not accept a refund.

2.6 BYM Governance



a) BYM charities Memorandum of Understanding Project

BYM trustees have been working with staff and Friends to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which would set out the nature of the obligations between trustees of the organisations that form the Religious Society of Friends in Britain.

In April and May this year they held a consultation with Friends inviting them to give feedback on the draft. This feedback is being incorporated into the document and will be made available to Friends when at a point when it is ready to be shared. There are some key dates for you to be aware of.

- There will be an update at the trustee and treasurer conference (22-24 September) at which time we would like to have a draft available for Friends.
- The draft will be received and considered by Meeting for Sufferings (6-8 October) at which the hope is that the document will be adopted.
- In Spring 2024 (date tbc) the plan is that the Quaker charities that will form the MoU will be invited to sign it.

There is not a plan to make substantive changes to the document now that it has been offered for consultation. The hope is that Friends will have taken the opportunity to comment and that when it comes to making the agreement they will all be willing to do so.

b) BYM Trustees handbook revision

Quaker Life is working with Woodbrooke to revise the trustees handbook. The new book will focus more on the spiritual aspects of serving as a trustee. The plan for the new document is that it will not duplicate guidance that is held elsewhere, eg. on the charity regulators' websites.

A **draft edition of the new trustees handbook** is available for Friends to read and consultation sessions were held in July to receive comments. If you missed the sessions you can offer comments by email until 7 August. Email, Rhiannon.Grant@woodbrooke.org.uk.

3. Events and training opportunities

3.1 Trustee and treasurer conference 2023



Spirited governance: what does Quaker renewal require of us?

22–24 September 2023 – Kents Hill Park, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BZ

Quaker Life is holding a conference for area or general (GM Scotland, Crynwyr Cymru Quakers in Wales, YFGM) meeting trustees and treasurers. The conference will be held in-person and as an online blended event. We want to ensure that as many Friends can participate as possible.

Due to the capacity of the venue there is only one in-person residential place available for each area meeting or general meeting.

There are a limited number of day-delegate places on Saturday, 23 September. To come as a day-delegate you will need to arrange your own travel to and from the event and find your own accommodation if required.

Please note the following deadlines for booking:

- Book your in-person place by Sunday, 13 August 2023
- Online places available to book until 15 September 2023
- Payment to be made for in-person places by 1 September 2023

We will be holding a waiting list for area or general meetings wishing to book a second residential place. After Sunday, 30 July we will offer additional places to anyone on the waiting list.

We are required to give delegate numbers to the venue 28 days prior to the booking. Please ensure you observe these deadlines to guarantee your AM/GM can send a delegate.

Please book online, <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/ql-tt-conf-booking-2023>.



4. Grants and financial help



4.1 Grant aid to places of worship in England

CLAS, source Lords (Hansard, 14 July)

CLAS has reported previously and been concerned that the law on the powers of civil parish and town councils to grant aid local places of worship has been totally unclear. Both the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance and CLAS have been campaigning on the issue of clarification for several years. The nub of the problem has been that **s 8(1)(i) Local Government Act 1894** appears to prohibit such financial support and that – unlike other aspects of that Act – there has been no subsequent legislation that has decisively overridden the prohibition.

CLAS is delighted to report that it looks as if the issue has now been satisfactorily resolved, at least so far as England is concerned. **A new clause was agreed to by the Lords on 14 July**. Given that it was moved by the Government, it is unlikely to be resisted by the Commons.

5. Contributions and other BYM information



5.1 The Fundraising Regulator

The fundraising team at Quaker in Britain have been drafting guidance for meetings on the Fundraising Regulator. Whilst the **Fundraising Code of Practice** applies to all fundraising, registration with the Fundraising Regulator is not mandatory. Quaker Meetings can decide whether this is an appropriate step for them based on the size and type of fundraising they do. We recommend that trustees should be aware of Fundraising Code of Practice and try to follow it as best they can. This is particularly important if meetings are approaching members of the public outside their meetings for an appeal (e.g. for an appeal for a local meeting).

If you would like more information about this, please email Beth Follini at bethf@quaker.org.uk.

Britain Yearly Meeting

Contributions update

Summer 2023



Faith Will

Christian Aid is leading on an ecumenical campaign called Faith Will involving Quakers in Britain, Church of England and Church of Scotland. In September, churches and Quaker meetings will be asked to consider how leaving a gift in your will can leave a lasting legacy. By signing up to the campaign, you will be able to download a Quaker specific pack with activities, reflections and conversation starters to help Friends in your meeting discuss the legacy they want to leave in the world. You might want to have a short Afterword, hold a discussion group or deliver some prepared Ministry.

Go to www.caid.org.uk/faithwill where you there is more information and sign your meeting up.

You can also email Beth Follini, fundraising manager at bethf@quaker.org.uk.

Faith Will... ...live on through gifts in Wills



Giving Guide – How much should I give?

A group of Friends, called Giving Advocates have produced a new resource guide called How much should I give to support Quaker work. The aim of the resource is to help Friends discern how much they should give. It was developed by Friends for Friends and the hope is that it will inspire reflection, conversation and decision making around giving. It can be downloaded here: www.quaker.org.uk/documents/how-much-should-i-give.

If you are interested in becoming a Giving Advocate, please contact Beth at bethf@quaker.org.uk.

More information can be found at www.quaker.org.uk/giving-advocates.



Treasurer survey

Is that time of the year when we kindly ask you to complete the annual treasurer survey, to help BYM understand your meeting house challenges and to help us improve our communications with you.

Please take 10 minutes to fill in the 2023 survey here www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X8Z5RWW.

The deadline for filling this in is 6 August.

We will use your feedback to improve the contribution materials that we will send you in November.