



## Agreed changes to Quaker faith & practice

At its meetings in December 2025 and March 2026, Meeting for Sufferings accepted various minor changes to the text of Quaker faith & practice. These changes will take effect from May 2026 and they mainly reflect the laying down of Meeting for Sufferings and new governance arrangements that have been agreed in consequence. There are also changes to bring up to date the establishment of Quakers in Scotland, and changes to the Scottish ecumenical organisation, the change of name to General Meeting of Young Friends in Britain (previously Young Friends General Meeting), and removing references to standing committees, as that is no longer a helpful phrase.

Changes are being suggested to chapters 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 15.

Where relevant, headings are shown directly above the paragraph to which they relate.

More changes are anticipated to reflect further agreed changes to our structures. They will be brought to future sessions of Yearly Meeting.

Proposed changes to chapter 6 can be found in Agenda & notes 2.

Available on request from [ym@quaker.org.uk](mailto:ym@quaker.org.uk) or [gfp@quaker.org.uk](mailto:gfp@quaker.org.uk) is an additional document containing more detail.

This document contains the new agreed text.

Any observations, or suggestions for improvements to the text can be sent to the Church Government Advisory Group via its secretary, Michael S Booth at [gfp@quaker.org.uk](mailto:gfp@quaker.org.uk)

Qf&p section	Agreed new text
<p><b>3.09</b> <b>End note</b></p>	<p><i>For regulations on attendance of non-members at meetings for church affairs see <a href="#">4.08</a> for area meetings, <a href="#">4.32</a> for local meetings, <a href="#">5.03</a> for Quakers in Scotland, <a href="#">5.04</a> for Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales &amp; <a href="#">6.15</a> for Britain Yearly Meeting.</i></p> <p><i>See also <a href="#">11.28</a> for sojourning membership</i></p>
	<p><b>Practice</b></p>
<p><b>3.28</b></p>	<p>Yearly Meeting statements issued on behalf of Friends in Britain require the full discernment of Yearly Meeting in session and will be recognised as carrying the full authority of the yearly meeting. Other public statements or comments may be called for at short notice in response to current events</p>

Qf&p section	Agreed new text
	<p>using the full range of media. In such cases, the Recording Clerk, in consultation with appropriate clerks of Yearly Meeting or Trustees, is authorised by yearly meeting to issue such a message, as long as it is in line with an established and discerned Quaker position. Press releases publicising the yearly meeting's core work are authorised by the Recording Clerk. At area and local meeting level it should be made clear whenever local initiatives relate solely to area or local meetings. Individual Friends or groups, such as those referred to in 13.19, must be careful not to claim to speak for Friends as a whole, but just for themselves or their group, unless specifically authorised to do so. Other forms of public action undertaken in the name of Friends should similarly be authorised by the appropriate meeting for church affairs.</p> <p>Friends should be sensitive when participating in vigils or demonstrations to the possibility that they may be heard as speaking on behalf of Quakers, and should take care how they respond.</p> <p>On occasion it may be necessary for the clerk of a meeting, or another appointed Friend, to take urgent action to correct misleading reports in the press or other misunderstandings in the public domain. This section is not intended to hamper such necessary action undertaken responsibly in the interests of a meeting or group.</p> <p>Full guidelines and details of procedures, originally agreed by Meeting for Sufferings, are available from the Recording Clerk or online at <a href="http://www.quaker.org.uk/qfp">www.quaker.org.uk/qfp</a>. These cover the yearly meeting, area and local meetings, matters delegated to Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales (5.04–5.05) or to Quakers in Scotland (5.03), as well as other Quaker groups. A summary policy document for meetings and groups is also available. Additional support or guidance can be obtained from the <a href="#">Recording Clerk (offsite link)</a>.</p>
4.09	<p>Area meetings will from time to time have to consider minutes or papers from Yearly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees or the committees through which they work. Other new area meeting business will normally come through a local meeting or through an area meeting committee or a representative of the area meeting on another body. It will usually be appropriate for an individual Friend with a concern to bring that concern to their own local meeting before approaching the area meeting. If the local meeting recognises the concern, it should forward a minute to the area meeting (see 13.09–13.18).</p>
	<p><b>Relationship to other meetings for church affairs</b></p>
4.16	<p>An area meeting shall provide Britain Yearly Meeting and any general meeting or Quaker gathering (see 5.02) to which it belongs, with such</p>

Qf&p section	Agreed new text
	nominations, appointments or information as may from time to time be required.
4.17	An area meeting is required to appoint Friends to serve, normally for a period of 3 years, as representatives at yearly meeting sessions to provide continuity of representation and help keep the work flowing smoothly. (See 6.16). Area meeting business should give a high priority to preparation of its representatives and receiving reports from them. Another opportunity for regular involvement with the wider work of Britain Yearly Meeting is provided by the appointment of area meeting representatives to Quaker Life Representative Council (8.09). The functions of this body and Yearly Meeting and the duties of the area meeting representatives to provide an effective two-way channel of communication should be made clear to those being appointed. Conferences and other occasional gatherings which provide further opportunities for wider communication and fellowship will benefit from a wide representation from area meetings.
4.18	An area meeting may communicate formally by minute with its constituent local meetings, with any general meeting or Quaker gathering (5.02) to which it belongs (including Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales (5.04–5.05) or Quakers in Scotland (5.03) where appropriate), with Yearly Meeting (6.06.a, 6.25) and with meetings with which it does business through its representatives appointed to joint committees. The area meeting has an obligation to receive minutes from those bodies. There may occasionally be circumstances in which it will be helpful to circulate other minutes for information only.
4.19	In considering concerns which their members may bring before them, area meetings should exercise care to ensure that their own consideration is adequate and that in forwarding the matter to another meeting they are truly recognising a leading that the subject be considered further. Area meetings should also consider what action they themselves could take before forwarding the concern to another meeting. Area meetings must beware of evading their own responsibility for reaching a united judgment. This responsibility may involve consideration at more than one session of the area meeting. It is essential that before forwarding a concern the area meeting should consult at an early stage with the relevant committee or department (see 8.08; 8.11–8.13) in order to find out what facts and experience can be offered to its consideration of a concern. (See 13.09–13.18.)
4.20	The relationships between area meetings Britain Yearly Meeting, Trustees and committees can be delicate and complex.

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
	<p>If there is sometimes tension in the relationships this is not necessarily unhealthy. It is unhealthy when a matter is shunted from one body to another because a group of Friends lack the spiritual energy and courage to wrestle with a matter which they know may result in uncomfortable plain speaking to a fellow member whose concern, however deeply held, is not shared by the meeting. It is equally unhealthy when any individual or meeting is preoccupied with status, with 'getting things through', with efforts to predetermine how another body shall act. We can only be delivered from these dangers by a constant relearning of the nature of true concern.</p> <p>Meeting for Sufferings, 1978</p>
	<b>Right of appeal against decisions</b>
<b>4.25</b>	<p>If a member is dissatisfied with a final decision of an area meeting affecting them personally and adversely, and provided that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the decision concerns the termination of membership; and</li> <li>2. the grounds of the appeal are that the decision was not made in right ordering, or was not made with knowledge of the relevant facts, or was unreasonable; and</li> <li>3. experienced mediators have been involved and the matter is not resolved;</li> </ol> <p>the member may appeal to the Recording Clerk against the decision of the area meeting. On receiving such an appeal, the Recording Clerk shall report this to the area meeting and shall request Central Nominations Committee to nominate an appeal group of five Friends, who should be independent of the area meeting concerned. The Yearly Meeting clerks shall appoint the appeal group generally on a between meetings basis.</p> <p>Once appointed the group shall make all such enquiries as seem to them desirable, from the member concerned and from others having relevant knowledge, to consider and determine whether or not the appeal should be allowed and whether any further recommendations should be made. In conducting such enquiries the healing power of worship will be helpful. The decision of the Friends so appointed shall be final and be communicated directly to the parties concerned. The appeal group shall inform the Recording Clerk that it has reached a decision and communicated it to the parties concerned</p> <p>Guidelines for the conduct of an appeal group are obtainable from <a href="#">the Recording Clerk (offsite link)</a></p>

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
<b>4.40</b>	<p>It is advised that the following be preserved in Friends' ownership or custodianship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. minute books or signed minutes of yearly, general, area and local meetings;</li> <li>b. minute books or signed minutes of elders and pastoral care teams and of committees of meetings for church affairs;</li> <li>c. official registers of members (<a href="#">11.37</a>), printed lists of members and attenders (<a href="#">11.39</a>), marriage registers (<a href="#">16.62</a>), registers of burials (<a href="#">17.12</a>), burial ground plans (<a href="#">14.31</a>), registers of properties and trusts (<a href="#">15.18</a>);</li> <li>d. such other documents as it is reasonable to expect may be needed for future reference.</li> </ul> <p>It is an essential part of the stewardship of the meeting's assets that the custodian should maintain a full catalogue of records and where they are located, whether kept in meeting house safes or strongrooms or elsewhere. It is advised that area meetings should check the accuracy and completeness of their catalogues at least triennially.</p>
<b>5.02</b>	<p>Among general meetings that are continuing and are managing independent activities and financial accounts are Quakers in Scotland, the successor body to General Meeting for Scotland (see 5.03) and Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales (see 5.04 &amp; 5.05). They represent Quakers in their respective nations and are part of Britain Yearly Meeting's structure with certain delegated powers from Yearly Meeting. Other distinct types of general meeting are any Quaker school general meeting that functions solely as that school's responsible body, and the General Meeting of Young Friends in Britain (see 5.08).</p>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Quakers in Scotland</b>
<b>5.03</b>	<p>Quakers in Scotland has national responsibilities on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting, to represent and advance the life and witness of Quakers in Scotland. It meets at least quarterly. Former members of General Meeting for Scotland became members of Quakers in Scotland on confirming their individual wish to do so. Membership of the Society continues to be overseen by the area meetings within Scotland until they are laid down, in which case membership will be held by Quakers in Scotland subject to individual consent having been given. Provision is made for members of other meetings and attenders to be present at meetings as in 4.08. The responsibilities of Quakers in Scotland include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. promoting spiritual life and witness, facilitating contact between Friends of all ages, and providing opportunities for training and</li> </ul>

Qf&p section	Agreed new text
	<p>mutual support for those with special responsibilities, in conjunction with the associated area meetings and Quaker bodies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. encouraging communication from Scottish area, local and other Quaker meetings on matters which in their judgement merit interchange of views (see 4.18), including testimonies to the life and service of deceased Friends, discerning whether the latter be forwarded to Yearly Meeting for the benefit of the Society as a whole (see 4.27–4.30);</li> <li>c. representing Britain Yearly Meeting in Scotland, including: acting on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting in relation to the Scottish Christian Forum) (see 9.09–9.12) and other church and faith groups; acting on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting and of Friends in Scotland in dealings with the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Government and the Scotland Office, and on such procedures as may be required by the Scottish legal system;</li> <li>d. encouraging communication from Scottish area, local and other Quaker meetings on matters which in their judgement merit interchange of views (see 4.18), including testimonies to the life and service of deceased Friends, discerning whether the latter be forwarded to Yearly Meeting for the benefit of the Society as a whole (see 4.27–4.30);</li> <li>e. representing Scotland to Britain Yearly Meeting, liaising with yearly meeting committees and departments where appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>Quakers in Scotland will provide information and nominations or appointed representatives to Quaker and other bodies when required. The meeting may communicate by minute with Yearly Meeting through its Agenda Planning Committee (6.18)<sup>1</sup> as well as with remaining area meetings in Scotland. It also has the obligation to receive minutes from these bodies.</p> <p>Where area meetings in Scotland have been laid down, Quakers in Scotland will exercise all the functions of an area meeting in relation to local meetings within those areas (see chapter 4). Some functions may be delegated by Quakers in Scotland to a grouping of local meetings.</p>
<b>5.07</b>	<p>Quaker gatherings or regional meetings may be set up by two or more area meetings, by a mix of area and local meetings, or by two or more general or regional meetings. The constituent meetings are those that choose to take the responsibility for organising and funding such gatherings or conferences. The members are the members of the sponsoring meetings. They may choose to change their status or area, or local meetings may</p>

<sup>1</sup> This cross reference will be correct if the Yearly Meeting accepts the proposed text of Chapter 6.

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
	<p>wish to come together in different combinations to support the work and witness of Quakers in the area. If such changes are contemplated, or if a newly formed gathering is intended to have an ongoing structure and regular meetings, the Recording Clerk should be informed and appropriate guidance obtained from Quaker Life Central Committee.</p> <p>All gatherings (including those that continue from pre-existing general meetings) must inform Yearly Meeting of any substantial changes they may make including their setting up and laying down, and, if the latter, of how they intend to discharge or transfer their responsibilities and deposit their records. They should forward to the Recording Clerk the minute by which they are finally laid down.</p> <p>Quaker groupings which are independent charities may need to register with the Charity Commission and should obtain advice from the Recording Clerk.</p>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>General Meeting of Young Friends in Britain</b>
<b>5.08</b>	<p>General Meeting of Young Friends in Britain <del>General Meeting</del> is open to Quakers between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five who need not be formally in membership of the Religious Society of Friends. Area meetings may appoint representatives to Young Friends General Meeting. The general meeting usually meets for three weekends a year to worship and live in community with each other. It may communicate formally by minute with area meetings, Yearly Meeting through its Agenda Planning Committee, and the committees of Yearly Meeting.</p> <p>General Meeting of Young Friends in Britain <del>General Meeting</del> appoints representatives to Yearly Meeting (see 6.16).<sup>2</sup></p>
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Yearly Meeting</b>
	<b>Proposed changes to chapter 6 can be found in Agenda &amp; notes 2.</b>
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>History of the central organisation of the Yearly Meeting</b>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Meeting for Sufferings</b>

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<sup>2</sup> This cross reference will be correct if the Yearly Meeting accepts the proposed text of Chapter 6.

<p><b>7.01</b></p>	<p>For many years until Yearly Meeting May 2026, Meeting for Sufferings was the standing representative body entrusted with the general care of matters affecting Britain Yearly Meeting and, in the intervals between Yearly Meetings, the making of decisions and the issuing of statements in the name of Britain Yearly Meeting. Within our church government it exercised discernment on priorities and received regular interim reports for information and consultation on the Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees' work. It played a part in developing a visionary and prophetic role for the whole yearly meeting and in fostering communication throughout the yearly meeting.</p> <p>Yearly Meeting in July 2024 accepted proposals brought by a Group to Review Yearly Meeting, Yearly Meeting Gathering and Meeting for Sufferings that with effect from Yearly Meeting 2026, Meeting for Sufferings should be laid down and that Yearly Meeting should thenceforward meet several times a year. The functions of Meeting for Sufferings would from that date be undertaken by the Yearly Meeting unless delegated elsewhere. The arrangements for the yearly meeting are set out in Chapter 6.</p> <p>The remaining paragraphs of this chapter set out the historical development of the central organisation of the yearly meeting within which Meeting for Sufferings played such an important role.</p> <p>The yearly meeting's local organisation was settled in the years 1667–9. The 1670s saw the development of central organisation. Apart from Yearly Meeting (1668), three bodies deserve special mention – Six Weeks Meeting (1671), Morning Meeting (1673) and Meeting for Sufferings (1675). All were basically meetings of London Friends; all, to a greater or lesser extent, undertook national responsibilities. Six Weeks Meeting was the most metropolitan of the three, though even it engaged on occasion in such national business as the wording of the marriage certificate. The Morning Meeting may have had its origin in the 'meeting of ancient Friends' said to have started about 1656 or the general meeting of ministering Friends in and about the city, established in 1661. It comprised men 'publick' (or ministering) Friends in and about the city, and when, later, elders were appointed, men elders became eligible for membership of the Morning Meeting, which met each Monday.</p> <p>It was the Morning Meeting which took the initiative in calling a conference in October 1675 to consider what steps could be taken to secure redress from sufferings. At that meeting it was agreed 'that certaine friends of this City be heere nominated to keep a Constant Meeting about Sufferings 4 times a year, with the day and time of each meeting here fixed and settled'. Twelve Friends, two from each of the London monthly meetings, were then listed with 'as many as are free of the Second dayes morning meeting of publick Friends to meet together as aforesaid', and that 'at least one friend of each County be appointed by the quarterly meeting thereof to be in</p>
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readiness to repaire to any of the same meetings at this Citty, at such times as there urgent occasions or sufferings shall require'. The constitution of Meeting for Sufferings agreed by Yearly Meeting 1702 was set forth as: 'Publick Friends and such that are appointed or approved by the severall Quarterly Meetings of the Countyes & other Countrys that Correspond with this meeting in all Places, and are entred as such in the Correspondent Book.'

The full Meeting for Sufferings was to meet at the beginning of each law term and one quarter of the membership was to meet weekly (each Friday) until the next full meeting. The minutes begin on 22 June 1676. At the outset some eight to ten Friends attended the weekly meetings and the speed with which, backed by information from the quarterly meeting correspondents, the meeting was able to put Friends' case to good effect before members of both Houses of Parliament is indeed impressive. The meeting was not restricted to the efforts to obtain redress in particular 'Cases of Suffering' (though this was the first item in the minutes until about 1750). Yearly Meeting entrusted it with the task of trying to obtain relief from the oath, in which it was successful under the Affirmation Acts of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Yearly Meeting likewise asked it to try to secure a reduction of the burden suffered under tithes, which the meeting attempted by the promotion of successive Quakers Tithe Bills in the 1730s. It was the same closely-knit relationship of county quarterly meeting correspondents and London members of Meeting for Sufferings that enabled Friends to campaign with such success in the movement towards the abolition of the slave trade. Meeting for Sufferings, meeting weekly (as it continued to do until 1798), was able with great effect to carry out Yearly Meeting's instructions. So swift and smooth had its organisation become that it would be tempting to describe it as highly efficient parliamentary lobbying. Although it was primarily a London body its effective correspondent system enabled it to speak with an authoritative national voice.

The nineteenth century saw a steady increase in the work of Meeting for Sufferings and a corresponding growth of its committees. The Parliamentary Committee had existed from the early eighteenth century. The Slave Trade Committee of 1783–92 was followed by other and more permanent committees – the 1817 Minden & Pyrmont Committee became the Continental Committee, serving for over 100 years as a link between Friends in Great Britain and small groups on the continent of Europe, in Australasia, in Calcutta, southern Africa and other places; the administrative committees charged with the care of the premises and with printing were supplemented by others responsible for the library and for finance; other committees took up particular concerns of Friends – several undertook successive efforts at relief work, an anti- slavery committee was re-established, in 1888 the Peace Committee was formed, and subsequent

committees were set up to express Friends' views on the opium traffic and on betting and gambling.

Alongside this steadily widening stream of interests, the constitution of the meeting was changing. The era of railway travel made it increasingly easy for Friends to attend, and the system of London and country correspondents gave place to that of quarterly meeting representatives. This was reflected in revised constitutions of 1856 and 1883. In 1884 the meeting had an appointed membership of ninety-eight with representatives from all but six quarterly meetings. In 1898 (following a decision of Yearly Meeting 1896) the first women Friends took their seats in Meeting for Sufferings. Anna Littleboy, one of those then appointed, recalled thirty years later that 'while kindly and courteously received, it was evident that the presence of women was not exactly welcomed by most of the older members, and the clerk impressed upon them that the meeting was for the conduct of business and not for speeches'.

Another change was the laying down in 1901 of the Morning Meeting and the transference of its functions to Meeting for Sufferings. Henceforward the consideration of personal concerns for service overseas and the welcoming of travelling Friends from other yearly meetings was added to already increasing business. Preoccupation with relief work, and still greater growth of the range of Friends' concern, added to the length of agenda. The days of the meeting which began at eleven o'clock and was over by late lunchtime had passed.

The twentieth century therefore witnessed a steady trend of delegation of routine matters to subcommittees, but it also saw a gradual growth in the meeting's function in drawing together and relating to one another the different strands in the yearly meeting's life and service. This process was helped as some of the nineteenth-century 'independent associations' (the Friends Foreign Mission Association and the Friends Tract Association for example) became or were merged with official committees of the yearly meeting, gradually accepting the responsibilities and discipline that this involved. It also became increasingly clear that the distinction between committees of Yearly Meeting and Meeting for Sufferings had outlived its usefulness, and Special Yearly Meeting 1965 agreed that all standing committees should be appointed by Meeting for Sufferings which, in periodic review of their work, would be enabled 'to become more sensitive to the insights of the committees and thus ... promote that knowledge and understanding by means of which both the meeting and the committees should be able more effectively to enter into and to discharge their responsibilities'.

The additional tasks laid on Meeting for Sufferings as 'a central body which can act on behalf of the Society between Yearly Meetings' necessitated, in the words of Special Yearly Meeting 1965, that 'such a body must be representative of Friends both geographically and as to diversity of our

Qf&p section	Agreed new text
	<p>membership'. This led to representation from monthly meetings rather than quarterly meetings, to three-year appointments rather than annual, to a change in the day of meeting from Friday to Saturday and, in 1974, to the withdrawal of the automatic right of elders to attend. In furtherance of 'the essential unity of the work undertaken in the name of the Yearly Meeting', staff employed by the yearly meeting and by seven separate employing committees were unified and became employees of Meeting for Sufferings. The anomaly remained that while the yearly meeting's essential central services were funded by means of a 'quota' contributed by monthly meetings, central committees were issuing separate financial appeals which had the effect of competing one with another. The financing of all the central work was unified between 1986 and 1988, placing further responsibility on Meeting for Sufferings for the testing of concern and for the allocation of available resources to the wide variety of religious service undertaken in the name of the yearly meeting.</p> <p>In 1984 Meeting for Sufferings revived the practice of maintaining a register of Friends before the courts or imprisoned for matters of conscience.</p> <p>In 2006 Yearly Meeting confirmed the setting up of a body of trustees (8.17) separately from Meeting for Sufferings for the centrally managed work. Meeting for Sufferings had previously exercised the trusteeship function. The role of Meeting for Sufferings was seen as being freed up to develop the vision for the future for the whole of Britain Yearly Meeting and develop this in long-term plans. An expanded role for Meeting for Sufferings as a representative body in communication with meetings was also envisaged. After review of the new roles of trustees and Meeting for Sufferings in 2011, Yearly Meeting further agreed to reduce the size of this representative body to one representative (and an alternate) from each area meeting.</p> <p>Thus, albeit in different circumstances, Meeting for Sufferings sought to fulfil its functions as defined by Yearly Meeting 1833: 'A standing committee of this meeting ... entrusted with a general care of whatever may arise during the intervals of this meeting, affecting our religious society and requiring immediate attention'. This role is no longer required now that Yearly Meeting meets more frequently, arrangements for which are set out in Chapter 6.</p>
	(no heading)
7.02	Omitted
7.03	Omitted

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
<b>7.04</b>	Omitted
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	(no heading)
<b>7.08</b>	Omitted
	(no heading)
<b>7.09</b>	Omitted
	(no heading)
<b>7.10</b>	Omitted
<b>8.02</b>	<p>Discernment and decision-making are crucial aspects of our life as a Quaker community, not least in relation to the work carried out centrally by Britain Yearly Meeting through its committees and staff. All our committees act as gathered meetings for worship, a discipline which continues throughout the governance and management of the work.</p> <p>The centrally managed work of Quakers in Britain has three elements: first discernment and decision-making; secondly governance; thirdly management.</p> <p>Friends in local meetings, area meetings and at Yearly Meeting in session are responsible for the discernment and decisions about the work that needs to be carried out (1.02.14; 13.05–13.07). Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees (8.17–8.18) and the committees appointed by and accountable to Britain Yearly Meeting or BYM Trustees (8.04–8.08, 8.11–8.13) are responsible for the governance and oversight of this work: this includes both strategic decisions arising from Yearly Meeting and elsewhere and the monitoring of their implementation. Staff are responsible for the management of this work (8.19– 8.23).</p> <p>Britain Yearly Meeting in session is the body with ultimate authority for church affairs for Quakers in Britain (6.12). The term ‘Britain Yearly Meeting’ refers also to the combined membership of the seventy or so area meetings that make up the Religious Society of Friends in Britain and it is</p>

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
	<p>used as well in its governing document to refer to the work carried out centrally on behalf of the membership. Whilst much of the work of the yearly meeting takes place in any of its constituent meetings, some work is more appropriately organised centrally, and it is that which is described in this chapter.</p> <p>In the governing document (covering the centrally held and managed policy, property, employment and work adopted by Yearly Meeting), the charitable object of Britain Yearly Meeting is ‘the furtherance of the general religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain and beyond’. The full governing document and explanatory notes are available from the Recording Clerk and the BYM website (new window).</p>
	<b>Oversight of the centrally managed work</b>
	<b>Types of committee</b>
<b>8.04</b>	<p>Oversight of the centrally managed work of Britain Yearly Meeting is in large part entrusted to committees.</p> <p>There are different types of committee: committees, which are established for an unlimited duration, and other committees, which may be set up for a specific purpose as occasion requires and are usually expected to complete their task by a set date. A smaller committee with a very specific task may be called a group.</p> <p>All committees and groups have terms of reference, which are available from the Recording Clerk.</p>
	<b>Committee Accountability</b>
<b>8.05</b>	<p>Yearly Meeting in session appoints four permanent committees: the two central committees, Quaker Life Central Committee (8.08) and Quaker Peace &amp; Social Witness Central Committee (8.11), and also Quaker Committee for Christian &amp; Interfaith Relations (8.12; 9.13) and Quaker World Relations Committee.</p> <p>These committees are accountable to Yearly Meeting in session, either directly or through BYM Trustees.</p> <p>Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees appoint committees which are accountable to Trustees.</p> <p>The diagram shows a simplified version of the governance and committee structure of Britain Yearly Meeting at the beginning of 2026, indicating the relationships between the various bodies / groups.</p>

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
	<div data-bbox="347 383 1289 797" data-label="Diagram"> </div> <p data-bbox="336 898 1362 1055">Friends accepting service on committees might usefully share with their area meeting the interests and concerns which are claiming their committee's attention. Clerks might encourage the sensitive sharing of experience, rather than mere reporting.</p>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Committee Appointment</b>
<b>8.06</b>	<p data-bbox="336 1155 738 1189">The two central committees</p> <p data-bbox="432 1211 967 1245">Quaker Life Central Committee (8.08)</p> <p data-bbox="432 1267 1246 1301">Quaker Peace &amp; Social Witness Central Committee (8.11)</p> <p data-bbox="336 1323 1378 1435">are appointed by Yearly Meeting in session and are accountable to Yearly Meeting through Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees, with terms of reference agreed by Trustees.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1458 683 1491">Two further committees</p> <p data-bbox="432 1514 1362 1547">Quaker Committee for Christian &amp; Interfaith Relations (8.12; 9.13)</p> <p data-bbox="432 1570 1114 1603">Quaker World Relations Committee (8.13; 9.06).</p> <p data-bbox="336 1626 1337 1659">are appointed by and accountable to Britain Yearly Meeting in session.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1682 948 1715">These four committees are responsible for</p> <ol data-bbox="352 1738 1358 2029" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. formulating and presenting policy for their areas of work in accordance with the priorities identified for the centrally managed work. Quaker Life Central Committee and Quaker Peace &amp; Social Witness Central Committee both carry responsibility for substantial programmes of work largely managed by staff.</li> <li>b. appointing subsidiary committees and working groups and determining their respective terms of reference and membership</li> </ol>

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
	<p>within the overall guidance on nominations (see c. below &amp; 3.23–3.25);</p> <p>c. establishing an effective nominations process, working closely with the Central Nominations Committee (6.21) as appropriate;</p> <p>d. reporting as appropriate to the body to which they are accountable</p> <p>e. considering any matters that Yearly Meeting <del>for Sufferings</del> or Trustees refer to it for urgent attention and action. (See also 8.23).</p> <p>Terms of reference for all committees may be obtained on application to the Recording Clerk.</p>
	<remove the heading above 8.07>
<b>8.07</b>	Omitted
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Quaker Life Central Committee</b>
<b>8.08</b>	<p>Quaker Life Central Committee’s purpose is to support and strengthen Quaker life throughout the yearly meeting, a remit which covers faith and practice: both spiritual nurture and the practical tasks required for the running of our Quaker meetings. It is responsible to Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees for support, advice and training in the following areas:</p> <p>a. the right holding of meeting for worship and meetings for church affairs, including for those taking special responsibilities as clerks, for eldership, oversight and pastoral care;</p> <p>b. other aspects of support for meetings, such as for meeting employees and trustees on compliance and good practice in Quaker employment, for librarians, for registering officers, for nominations work or in other ways;</p> <p>c. spiritual development and religious learning, both with and for adults and children and young people, including membership matters, publications and providing opportunities to empower meetings and individual Quakers so as to deepen their spiritual lives and refresh their sense of vitality;</p> <p>d. the outreach activities of Friends in their meetings, and for those seeking information about Quakers.</p> <p>Where appropriate, it responds to meetings’ requests to work with them directly. It seeks to build the wider Quaker community by involving as many Friends as possible directly in its processes, working through the staff of the Quaker Life Department, its functional committees and working groups,</p>

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
	its Representative Council and the Quaker Life Network. It is responsible for the holding of Junior Yearly Meeting.
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Representative council</b>
<b>8.10</b>	<p>Representative Council membership comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the appointed representative, or appointed deputy, of each area meeting within Britain Yearly Meeting;</li> <li>b. two representatives of each of Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales, Quakers in Scotland and Young Friends General Meeting;</li> <li>c. the members of Quaker Life Central Committee;</li> <li>d. the clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting and the clerk of-Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees-ex officio;</li> <li>e. up to ten co-opted members.</li> </ul> <p>The membership is reviewed triennially.</p> <p>The representatives’ role is to strengthen the links between meetings and the central committee. They should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. attend (or arrange for their deputy to attend) each meeting of the representative council – the area meeting or other appointing body will pay participation fees and reasonable travel expenses;</li> <li>b. bring news of meetings’ activities or needs to provide feedback to central committee and each other, helping to share good practice and to contribute to the discernment of priorities, ensuring that the centrally managed work is relevant and appropriate;</li> <li>c. take back and share with their meetings a deeper knowledge and commitment to the wider Quaker community and the breadth and depth of Quaker Life’s work;</li> <li>d. help to support the fundraising effort necessary to sustain Quaker Life’s work by increasing local and area meetings’ understanding and enthusiasm for it;</li> <li>e. keep in touch with any local members of the central committee.</li> </ul>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Quaker Committee for Christian &amp; Interfaith Relations</b>
<b>8.12</b>	Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations is responsible for keeping Quakers in Britain informed of the various movements towards co-operation within the Christian church and opportunities for interfaith dialogue. Its work and constitution are described in 9.13.

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
	Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations is appointed by and is accountable to Britain Yearly Meeting in session. Paragraph 8.06 gives a guide to the responsibilities of this committee.
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Quaker World Relations Committee</b>
<b>8.13</b>	<p>Quaker World Relations Committee maintains contact with other yearly meetings and with Friends World Committee for Consultation and its Europe &amp; Middle East Section to which Britain Yearly Meeting is affiliated. Its work and constitution are described in 9.06.</p> <p>Quaker World Relations Committee is appointed by and is accountable to Britain Yearly Meeting in session. Paragraph 8.06 gives a guide to the responsibilities of this committee.</p>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Quaker Housing Trust Limited</b>
<b>8.15</b>	<p>Quaker Housing Trust Limited was formed in 1967 in response to Friends' concern about the provision of adequate and appropriate housing. The trust makes grants and loans, and offers advice to charitable organisations providing accommodation, particularly to vulnerable people. Independent of the Britain Yearly Meeting Funds, it is a channel whereby Friends may give or lend money for such provision. It is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.</p> <p>Quaker Housing Trust Limited has between seven and twelve trustees appointed for terms of three years by Yearly Meeting on the nomination of Central Nominations Committee, to form its council of management.</p>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Governance and management of the centrally managed work</b>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees</b>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Constitution and purpose</b>
<b>8.17</b>	<p>Yearly Meeting appoints trustees to act on its behalf as managing trustees of the work, assets and property held directly by Britain Yearly Meeting.</p> <p>Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees are responsible to the yearly meeting for the right stewardship of its work, assets and property; as charity trustees, they are also legally defined as responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the affairs of Britain Yearly Meeting.</p> <p>The powers and responsibilities of Trustees, as set out in the Britain Yearly Meeting governing document, are grounded in service. Trustees have a duty to account to the outside world for the conduct of their trust. Gathered meetings, both of the Trustees and of other bodies, provide the religious discernment that guides our actions in the world. Trustees recognise and</p>

Qf&p section	Agreed new text
	<p>listen carefully to the discernment of Yearly Meeting, and the committees appointed by and accountable to Yearly Meeting or BYM Trustees and ensure that it is followed, within legal and financial constraints.</p> <p>Trustees undertake, on behalf of Yearly Meeting, legal compliance, monitoring and scrutiny functions. They also ensure that the centrally managed work is being properly governed and managed in accordance with the religious and charitable objects of Britain Yearly Meeting (see 8.03), set out in the governing document approved by Yearly Meeting which is available on the Britain Yearly Meeting website or on application to the Recording Clerk. They oversee the work of Management Meeting (8.22) and are the employers of Britain Yearly Meeting staff (8.20).</p> <p>Trustees approve annually an operational plan and budget for the forthcoming year. They are responsible for the Trustees' annual report and financial statements for the past year, which are submitted to Yearly Meeting and to the charity regulators in due course.</p> <p>The membership, responsibilities and duties of Trustees are set out in detail in terms of reference to be approved and revised from time to time by Yearly Meeting. A copy is available from the Recording Clerk and the BYM website (new window).</p> <p>Trustees are appointed by Yearly Meeting on the nomination of Central Nominations Committee (6.21) as set out in the Trustees' terms of reference. In making nominations for service as trustees, Central Nominations Committee ensures that the Friends approached are aware of the legal responsibilities of trustees and of the legal position on eligibility (see 15.04). No trustee shall serve on any of the committees listed in 8.06. The clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees and the Yearly Meeting Treasurer are appointed by Yearly Meeting on the nomination of Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees. The Yearly Meeting Treasurer serves as a trustee ex officio because of the Treasurer's role in relation to the centrally managed work as a whole. The Assistant Clerk is appointed by Trustees from amongst their number.</p>
<b>8.18</b>	<p>Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees are responsible for the work, assets and property of the yearly meeting. The two central committees appointed by Yearly Meeting as defined in 8.06 report to them.</p> <p>Yearly Meeting also entrusts to Trustees the organisation and periodic revision of the structure of the committees which oversee particular areas of the centrally managed work. However, it reserves to itself decisions affecting the existence and basic functions of Trustees, and of Quaker Life Central Committee (8.08) and Quaker Peace &amp; Social Witness Central Committee (8.11).</p>

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
	<p>Trustees must report to Yearly Meeting any other changes in the structure of the committees specified in 8.06 through which they work; in such cases, any amendments to our church government reflect decisions already taken, and it is for Yearly Meeting in session to decide whether the proposed textual changes to our book of discipline accurately describe the new structure.</p> <p>Trustees may delegate any of their powers to a committee that includes two or more of their number. Trustee appointed committees may cover, for example, areas of finance and property, employment, and audit.</p> <p>Trustees are accountable to Yearly Meeting (chapter 6) and the charity regulators (chapters 14 &amp; 15). Trustees and Yearly Meeting committees may communicate by minute with the Agenda Planning Committee for Yearly Meeting, and with each other. Yearly Meeting committees may also communicate with Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales, Quakers in Scotland and area meetings on specific delegated matters; they should ensure that this is done in co-ordination with Trustees and other Yearly Meeting committees, liaising as required</p>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Employment of staff</b>
<b>8.20</b>	<p>Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees employ staff in order to service the centrally managed work. The staff provide many of the resources and much of the expertise required to carry out Britain Yearly Meeting’s work effectively in a manner consistent with Friends’ testimonies and beliefs. Much preparatory, ongoing and follow-up work falls to the staff, and they need the full support of all Friends.</p> <p>Trustees ensure that staff working for Britain Yearly Meeting and committee members are treated fairly and do not experience unjust discrimination. Staff and committee members should strive to ‘answer that of God in everyone’ by working as a community which fosters a spirit of toleration and mutual concern for each other. In carrying out the work of Britain Yearly Meeting, respect for truth and integrity should be paramount so that high ethical standards are maintained.</p> <p>A description of the departmental structure can be obtained from the Recording Clerk.</p>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>The Recording Clerk</b>
<b>8.21</b>	<p>The office of Recording Clerk has widened considerably since it was first established in about 1657. In those early days, the role was largely concerned with the sufferings of Friends, and up to 1703 included serving</p>

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
	<p>the Yearly Meeting as clerk. In more recent times, oversight of the management of the departments has become an important function of the Recording Clerk.</p> <p>The Recording Clerk, as secretary to Yearly Meeting-and Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees, is responsible for servicing these bodies, and for ensuring that their work is carried out</p> <p>As the senior member of staff employed by Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees, the Recording Clerk's main tasks include maintaining contact with meetings throughout the yearly meeting, leading Management Meeting (8.22), being line manager of the other members of Management Meeting and certain senior staff, acting as 'keeper and interpreter' of the regulations laid down in our church government, and representing Britain Yearly Meeting to, and fostering good relations with, outside bodies. The Recording Clerk is responsible for ensuring that the recording and processing of data held by the yearly meeting conforms with the law (4.45). The Deputy Recording Clerk deputises for the Recording Clerk in any aspect of their work as required.</p>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Management Meeting</b>
<b>8.22</b>	<p>Management Meeting is responsible for co-ordinating the management and overseeing the implementation of the work of Britain Yearly Meeting. It is accountable to Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees, whom it advises on practical and technical aspects of the work and to whom it reports regularly and submits its minutes. Management Meeting is responsible for the cohesion and consistency of the management of the centrally managed work, through the co-ordination of the work of individual managers, working to the vision and policies discerned by Britain Yearly Meeting in session and Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees and following the operational plan agreed by Trustees.</p> <p>The meeting is composed of the Recording Clerk and other members of the senior staff designated by Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees on the recommendation of the Recording Clerk. It meets as required under the leadership of the Recording Clerk (8.21). Members are collectively responsible for all its decisions, acting for Britain Yearly Meeting as a whole as well as the particular area for which they are responsible.</p>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>The work of committees and staff</b>
<b>8.23</b>	<p>It is the role of the standing committees, particularly the central committees, to use their leadings and discernment to advise Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees on policies and priorities for their work. In so doing they should draw on the experience, knowledge and concerns of area meetings</p>

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
	<p>and, where appropriate, representative councils so that local Friends are involved in the process.</p> <p>Committees need to be aware of the different roles they may play in responding to items on their agendas. Central committees determine policies and priorities for their areas of responsibility within the limits set by Yearly Meeting and Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees. Their role is to determine the work to be done and ensure that it is manageable without attempting to do it themselves.</p> <p>Those who carry out the work may be functional committees, working groups, volunteers or staff, or combinations of these. Central committees primarily delegate work to staff, whose responsibility is to undertake the work under the co-ordination of Management Meeting. Other committees and working groups may do more of their own work without much direct staff involvement. Committees that do undertake work themselves need to ensure it is done in partnership with staff, who have the responsibility to co-ordinate its management.</p> <p>The close working partnership between staff and committee members brings a wide range of talents and experience to bear on our work. Committee members need to remain free of routine administrative tasks if they are to have the time to exercise their important decision-making functions. However, committee members also need to be aware of how their decisions might affect, unsettle or fulfil staff members involved. In turn, members of staff have to be aware of the delicate tension of being in a position of knowledge and ensuring that their committees benefit from their experience and preparation whilst leaving committees in a position to make consequent decisions freely.</p>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
<b>8.24</b>	<p>Each committee has arisen and developed in response to a particular need. Each generation of Friends has been faced with a structure in some respects untidy, and we may be thankful for the clear-minded among us who help us, from time to time, to set our house in better order. But order without life does not work, and our continual task is to ensure that our structures are in harmony with the changing tides of life in Britain Yearly Meeting.</p> <p>It is neither possible nor desirable for every Friend to take a detailed interest in the work of every committee. We are, however, called to a broad sympathy with, and understanding of, the extent of the work entrusted to the committees under the guidance of Yearly Meeting and Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees in the name of the whole yearly meeting</p>

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
<b>8.26</b>	Our committees do not live to themselves, individual pieces of work of different committees must be seen in the context of the total work and witness of the Yearly Meeting. Their appointment by and reporting through Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees to Yearly Meeting reflect the responsibility and accountability of these committees.
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Quaker Council for European Affairs</b>
<b>9.07</b>	<p>The European yearly meetings support the Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA), which aims to bring Quaker influence to bear on the institutions of Europe and maintains representatives and support staff in Quaker House, Brussels. A British Committee of QCEA works to increase awareness and to raise funds. Local meetings are encouraged to appoint a British Committee correspondent. Britain Yearly Meeting is committed to the support of QCEA.</p> <p>Yearly Meeting, on the recommendation of the Central Nominations Committee, appoints one representative, with an alternate, to serve on QCEA for three years. There will often be value in considering re-appointment for a second three-year term.</p>
<b>9.09</b>	<p>Britain Yearly Meeting is a member of Churches Together in Britain &amp; Ireland (CTBI) and of three national bodies, namely the Scottish Christian Forum (which in 2024 replaced ACTS: Action of Churches Together in Scotland as the Scottish ecumenical instrument), CTE: Churches Together in England and Cytûn: <i>Eglywsi ynghyd yng Nghymru</i>, Churches Together in Wales. These ‘new ecumenical instruments’, launched in 1990, have a broader membership than those of 1942–1990. Following Friends’ participation in the five-year preparatory process known as ‘Not strangers but pilgrims’, the Yearly Meeting in 1989 after a difficult exercise decided despite hesitations to apply for full membership of the then Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland (now Churches Together in Britain &amp; Ireland) and the national bodies. Yearly Meeting in 1997 confirmed this decision. Each of the four bodies accepted London (now Britain) Yearly Meeting into membership under a clause (Clause 2b) which appears in each constitution as follows:</p> <p>A church, which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition and therefore cannot formally subscribe to the statement of faith in the Basis, may nevertheless apply for and be elected to full membership provided that it satisfies those member churches which subscribe to the Basis that it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to the aims and purposes* of the new ecumenical body, and that it will work in the spirit of the Basis.</p>

Qf&p section	Agreed new text
	<p>The Basis reads:</p> <p>The Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland is a fellowship of churches in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and therefore seek to fulfil their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</p> <p>The Scottish Christian Forum, unlike its predecessor, does not require member churches to subscribe to a statement of faith. It is a looser association of churches that is not a legal entity. Its constitution states:</p> <p>The foundation of the Forum is mutual respect, acceptance and attentive listening, allied to the recognition of diversity among the participants, The Forum will seek to discern the work of the Holy Spirit and to respond in an ecumenism of action. Implicit in this is the recognition that participation will not require any church or organisation to abandon particular theological perspectives or traditional religious identities. Participation is to be understood theologically, whereby it is acknowledged that all participants are members of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).</p> <p>* The Objects, aims and purposes of CCBI provide the context within which the Basis and commitment are to be understood. The relevant constitutional texts are available on request from the Recording Clerk and at <a href="http://www.quaker.org.uk/qfp">www.quaker.org.uk/qfp</a></p>
9.12	<p>Yearly Meeting appoints representatives to CTBI and CTE Forum. The Quaker Committee for Christian &amp; Interfaith Relations (9.13) appoints to CTE Enabling Group and other CTE bodies.</p> <p>The committee has agreed in principle that Britain Yearly Meeting should be represented at CTBI as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. at the Senior Representative Forum by the <a href="#">Recording Clerk (new window)</a> or a Quaker member of staff delegated by her or him;</li> <li>b. at the biennial Summit of Church Leaders by one or two Friends appointed on the basis of their relevant experience on the nomination of Central Nominations Committee.</li> </ol> <p>Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales makes appointments to Cytûn; Quakers in Scotland makes appointments to appropriate Scottish organisations.</p> <p>Representatives report to the appointing body and the Quaker Committee for Christian &amp; Interfaith Relations maintains contact with any reference group set up to support them.</p>
	<p><b>Quaker Committee for Christian &amp; Interfaith Relations</b></p>

Qf&p section	Agreed new text
9.13	<p>The Quaker Committee for Christian &amp; Interfaith Relations (QCCIR) is appointed by Yearly Meeting. At least one member is appointed from Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales and least one is appointed from Quakers in Scotland. Ireland Yearly Meeting is invited to nominate a representative through Britain Yearly Meeting’s Central Nominations Committee. Additional members may be co-opted to assist with particular issues.</p> <p>QCCIR is responsible for keeping Britain Yearly Meeting informed of relevant issues and movements which emerge from the interchurch and interfaith life of Britain, and of opportunities for dialogue and co-operation between churches, between faiths, and between faiths and churches. It liaises with other churches and communities of faith, keeping them informed of developments in the life of the yearly meeting and responding on behalf of the yearly meeting so that Friends’ views on issues of faith and order are represented. QCCIR supports members of Britain Yearly Meeting, both nationally and locally, in raising awareness and understanding of the interchurch and interfaith dimension of religious and spiritual life.</p>
13.13	<p>Where they are clear that they have recognised a concern, Friends in the meeting will turn their attention to the practical details of its implementation and consequences. It may happen that a meeting recognises a Friend’s concern but can see no way in which it can be taken forward or given practical effect at this time. It is then appropriate to hold it over for further consideration when the circumstances are more favourable.</p> <p>If a concern relates to the corporate life of Britain Yearly Meeting it should be sent forward by the area meeting to Yearly Meeting (see <a href="#">4.19</a>).</p> <p>When service abroad in any capacity is proposed, early consultation with the relevant committees of Britain Yearly Meeting is imperative. Consultation with the Friends World Committee for Consultation and appropriate yearly meetings may also be necessary.</p> <p>It has already been noted that meetings that support a Friend’s concern will sometimes assume the financial responsibility for the concern. Whether or not this is so, they may also consider offering other forms of help such as the use of a car, offers of childcare or the setting up of a support group of people close to the Friend or concern (see <a href="#">12.27</a>).</p> <p>When a concern has run its course, consideration should be given to how this may be recognised and acknowledged. A meeting that has supported a concern should be informed when it is seen to be right to lay that concern down. Celebration for the right ending of what was rightly begun may be appropriate.</p>

<b>Qf&amp;p section</b>	<b>Agreed new text</b>
	See also <a href="#">4.09</a> & <a href="#">4.19–4.20</a>
<b>13.15</b>	Omitted
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Quaker recognised bodies</b>
<b>13.19</b>	<p>Quakers in Britain, both individually and as a yearly meeting, have long benefitted from the many formal and informal groups which allow and encourage Friends to develop concerns and interests arising from, and strengthening, their experience of Quaker faith. At different times in the past, some of these have been known as special interest groups, or listed informal groups. These, together with many other Quaker trusts and charities, are now known as Quaker recognised bodies.</p> <p>A Quaker recognised body is an autonomous group through which concerned Friends may share a common interest, seek affirmation or carry out witness. The bodies are seen as arising from Quaker faith, and provide a way in which conviction and witness can be explored and developed outside our formal structures. Being independent, Quaker recognised bodies generally have no right of communication by minute with structures such as central committees or the Agenda Planning Committee for Yearly Meeting.</p> <p>All groups or bodies using the name ‘Quaker’ or ‘Friends’ in their title are reminded of the responsibility to uphold our testimonies, and that care is needed in case the work or witness of the group is understood to be part of the yearly meeting’s corporate activity when it is not.</p> <p>Details of the following may be obtained from the Recording Clerk: the criteria for and process of recognition, the benefits and responsibilities, and periodic review.</p>
<b>Heading</b>	<b>Types of minutes</b>
<b>13.28</b>	A Friend travelling on Friends’ business, or to perform a particular, limited service is provided with a travelling minute. This may be provided either by their area meeting, committee or other worshipping community. Such a minute may be endorsed by the welcoming meeting. Guidance on the writing, receipt and endorsement of travelling minutes can be obtained from Recording Clerk.
<b>13.54</b>	In Scotland the administration is carried out by the appropriate authorities for Scotland. Following notification from an area meeting of the name of a Friend appointed as a Quaker prison chaplain, Quakers in Scotland is responsible for providing this name to the governors of all prison establishments in the area meeting area. These Friends then volunteer to serve on a prison chaplaincy team by directly contacting the prison

Qf&p section	Agreed new text
	<p>chaplain. To exercise their pastoral responsibility, Quaker prison chaplains in Scotland have to operate in liaison with the official prison chaplaincy team members.</p>
<p><b>14.36</b></p>	<p>Quaker Stewardship Committee was created in 2002 to support our meetings in their stewardship of property and to co-ordinate the relationship between the yearly meeting and those administering charity law. It was laid down by Britain Yearly Meeting in 2022 and its responsibilities allocated to other Quaker bodies.</p> <p>Yearly Meeting has responsibility for the oversight of Area Meetings' compliance with their legal responsibilities.</p> <p>Quaker Life Central Committee has responsibility for the advice and guidance function of Quaker Stewardship Committee, including the support of Area Meeting trustees.</p> <p>Britain Yearly Meeting trustees have responsibility for liaising with the Charity Commission on matters of general concern to Quakers, and, working with Quakers in Scotland, for liaison with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)</p>
<p><b>15.14</b></p>	<p>The Recording Clerk oversees the process of registration with the Charity Commission of area meetings and some general meetings and Quaker gatherings in England and Wales. Applications are submitted via the Recording Clerk's Office, which can provide advice and will confirm the meeting's status to the Charity Commission. Registration may prove a suitable opportunity for an area meeting to review its oversight of historic charitable trusts with which it is associated.</p> <p>The four area meetings in Scotland, together with General Meeting for Scotland, previously registered with HM Revenue &amp; Customs, have been absorbed into the new register of Scottish charities maintained by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and the successor body Quakers in Scotland has been similarly registered. Any future registration should be undertaken in consultation with the Recording Clerk's Office.</p>