

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers): East Scotland Area Meeting (ESAM)

REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS FOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

Guidelines (As agreed by ESAM Trustees on 19 September 2010)

In appointing representatives or approving bursary assistance the criteria used will be based on a discernment of benefit to ESAM as a whole, or for individuals in deepening their understanding of - and witness to - Quaker beliefs and action.

Attendance at Quaker events

There are five categories of expenditure:

1. Meetings of committees to which ESAM has appointed representatives

These include:

- Meeting for Sufferings (reimbursed by Britain Yearly Meeting)
- Quaker Life Representative Council
- Northern Friends Peace Board
- Young Friends General Meeting
- Junior Yearly Meeting

Travel and accommodation costs are normally reimbursed in full

2. Special Conferences to which ESAM appoints representatives.

For example: Quaker Peace and Social Witness and Quaker Life conferences, and Woodbrooke conferences for Elders and Overseers

Requests are received from time to time from Britain Yearly Meeting and other Quaker bodies to nominate a representative to a special conference and such requests are put to Area Meeting which determines whether to send a representative.

Travel and Accommodation are normally reimbursed in full

3. Attendance at ESAM and General Meeting for Scotland

Travel costs are normally reimbursed in full for appointed representatives. Accommodation costs will not normally be reimbursed. Other Friends should be encouraged to apply to an Elder or Overseer in their local meeting.

4. Attendance at Quaker conferences, Britain Yearly Meeting and Yearly Meeting Gathering, on personal initiative

When an individual wishes to attend any other conference or event an initial approach should be made to an elder or overseer in their local meeting. After discussion of the request, the elder or overseer will contact the Area Meeting Treasurer if they wish to support the request. The Treasurer, with that elder or overseer, will discern whether to authorize the request and - having made a decision - will inform the individual concerned, and the clerk of Area Meeting (who will arrange to record it as appropriate)

A sum of 50% travel and accommodation costs will normally be granted, with discretion to vary this amount up or down.

Attendance at non-Quaker events

Financial support will not normally be provided for attendance, but from time to time occasions may arise when Area Meeting wishes to appoint someone to attend such an event.

This will only be considered if Area Meeting discerns that it is appropriate to do so.

In this event Area Meeting must determine that there is a source of funding available for the purpose.

Sources of funding

Some provision is included in the annual budget of ESAM. Area Meeting has a bursary fund and some income from the Camfield Trust for bursary assistance. Application can also be made to Dundee Friends' Property Trust which can provide bursary assistance for travel on Friends' business. Local Overseers will be able to help.

19 September 2010