

Possible committee structure and nominations process Oct 2025

The following is an attempt to describe what the main structure of Quakers in Scotland could look like in terms of the committees that might be needed to for it to function, and how the nominations process fits into this. Much of what is described here is presented in two diagrams after the text, which some Friends may find helpful.

The two main kinds of body are worshipping communities, and the body called Quakers in Scotland QiS. QiS, like General Meeting before it, will hold regular meetings in session open to all Friends and represent BYM in various ways. Worshipping communities includes Local Meetings LMs, online worshipping groups and very small worshipping groups that do not have a formal business meeting structure but are attached to a local meeting.

QiS will serve as the reporting charitable body for all LMs and worshipping groups and as such will have a body of Trustees responsible for all aspects of good governance. It is suggested that the trustees are supported by two subcommittees - the QiS Finance Committee and the QiS Property Committee. The subcommittees could have responsibilities delegated to them and would report to the Trustees, hopefully reducing the workload on trustees. Other aspects of charity compliance such as Safeguarding and Health & Safety would be reported to trustees on an annual basis, or via a subcommittee report.

LMs will have their own committees or groups, where they discern they are appropriate, and these will be appointed through the LM nominations process, see Diagram 1.

QiS would be responsible for appointing to other roles and groups as shown in Diagram 1. via the QiS nominations process.

Whilst QiS Nominations Committee will have a central role in finding names for all QiS positions (except itself which is done a special nominating group), the expectation is that it will both welcome & seek names from LMs. Some LMs will have their own groups and committees working at local level on matters also covered by QiS. Where this is the case, the LM may be encouraged to nominate from amongst these Friends one of them to serve on the relevant QiS group eg one Friend from each LM Meeting House/Property Committee to serve on the QiS Property Committee, and possibly the treasurer from larger meetings who hold their own bank accounts to serve on the QiS Finance Committee. QiS Nominations Committee may on some occasions delegate particular nominations tasks to an intermediate meeting.

In some areas of activity it may be that some of the tasks will be delegated to ongoing intermediate meetings perhaps covering what had happened in existing regions. For instance if an LM wished to appoint Pastoral Care Friends they could do so, whilst a Pastoral care support team would be appointed by QiS. The local Pastoral Care Friends would report to the QiS Pastoral care team and the support team would provide connections and support in particular areas.

How far such intermediate meetings, set up for particular occasions or set up as an ongoing meeting to carry out QiS business, develop is yet to be seen.

Alongside the formal structure outlined above, there may be a number of initiatives set up by groups of Local Meetings themselves not acting on behalf of QiS or to do QiS business. Such groups might be set up for various reasons, such as for mutual learning and study or to have residential meeting together. These may well develop within or outside existing AM boundaries. It is an aspect of our new vision of a flexible and fluid way in which Friends can relate together in Scotland.

Diagram1. tries to show the possible groupings of committees: LM committees, QiS committees and Trustee committees. Some LMs and worshipping groups may not need any committee structure.

Diagram 2. tries to show which body would nominate and appoint Friends, if appropriate, to serve on each committee

Diagram 1.

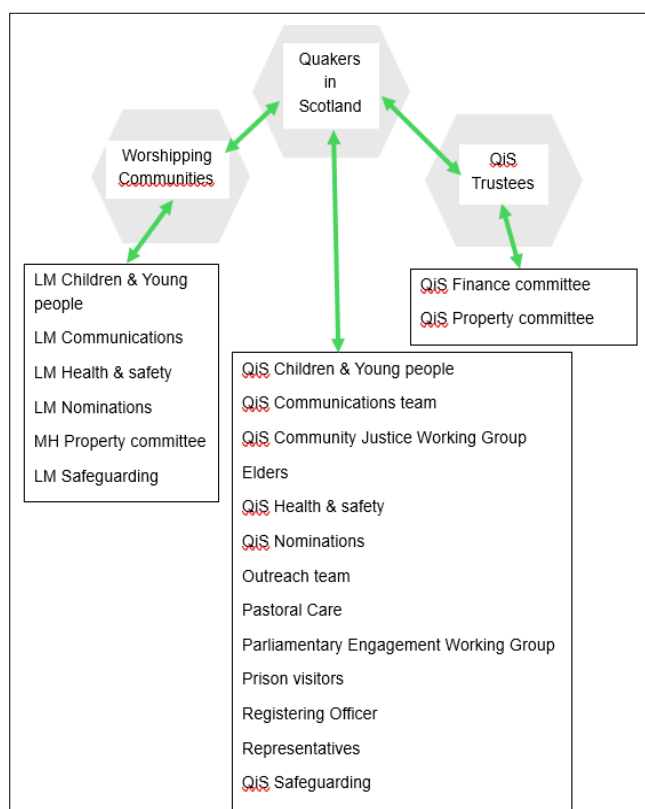


Diagram 2.

