

Report to General Meeting for Scotland

Who are current QiS Trustees?

General Meeting for Scotland appointed five QiS Foundation Trustees on 30th November, 2024, to serve until the end of 2025. They were nominated by the area meetings as follows:

East Scotland AM, Adwoa Burnley

North Scotland AM, Brian Ashley

South East Scotland AM, Elizabeth Allen and David Somervell

West Scotland AM, Chris Holmes

Since then, the QiS trustee body has been expanded: Susan Mitchell was appointed as a trustee, and Kate Gulliver as QiS treasurer.

What is their remit?

The first task of QiS Foundation Trustees was to register QiS as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), then moving on, to make sure that essential policies and working arrangements for the new charity are in place.

How are QiS Foundation Trustees working?

Many Friends have been and are involved in setting up Quakers in Scotland. Much of this work had been done before foundation trustees were appointed, and some of it is ongoing. Trustees are grateful for this spade work, in particular the substantial work of the QiS Co-ordinating Group (QiSCG). To pull this work and knowledge together, and celebrate what has been done, we set up an online gathering on 5th March, inviting all who had been, and are involved in this discernment. At this event we encouraged Friends to share what they are doing, and identify how they might network with one another. This provided us with an overview of the work already done to establish and shape QiS, and the continuing work.

From the inception of QiS Foundation Trustees, it was recognised that a collaborative approach is vital, and the convenor of the QiSCG, Lesley Richards, attends all Foundation Trustees meetings. We have also appointed named trustees to link with the QiSCG, our Finance Sub-committee, and the QiSCG Property Sub-group.

We work collaboratively with GMS and AMs, and we keep BYM informed as the transfer process progresses. As we go through the steps to set up QiS, we take time to answer Friends' queries.

Foundation Trustees first met on 17th December, 2024 and since then have met monthly, except in April.

What has been done by QiS Foundation Trustees?

Our application to OSCR for QiS to be registered as a Scottish Charitable incorporated Organisation (SCIO) was accepted. On 13th March, 2025 QiS was registered as a SCIO, charity number SC054060.

The online registers of QiS members and trustees are set up, and details of the first members and trustees have been entered.

GMS appointed Kate Gulliver as QiS treasurer and Bronwen Currie as Assistant Treasurer. QiS Foundation Trustees have set up a QiS Finance Sub-committee. A bank account to be

used as the Collections Account has been opened with the Cooperative Bank. An application to open an account for use as a General Account, has been submitted to the Bank of Scotland.

The following essential policies are in place, drafted by QiS Co-ordinating Group: a QiS Governing Document; draft General Memorandum of Understanding; draft Property Memoranda of Understanding. The following documents about how essential tasks might be carried out within the new structure are available online: Possible Eldership arrangements; Possible Pastoral Care arrangements; Possible committee structure and nominations process; Possible financial structure and organisation; Summary of how Intermediate Meeting might work; What difference might it make to the number of roles.

What is ongoing?

We have instructed a lawyer to deal with legal aspects of all transfers to QiS. He is currently working on the GMS transfer and has drafted the Transfer Agreement. He is in possession of all relevant documents from the 4 transferring Quaker charities, including completed QiS due diligence questionnaires.

We are managing the TUPE transfers of staff ourselves, using Acos guidelines, and one of our trustees is leading on this work.

We keep track of what is happening with the transitions of the Scottish Quaker charities:

- ESAM hopes to transfer as soon as possible after 18th October, and has agreement from OSCR to close the ESAM charity.
- Dundee Friends Property Trust intends to transfer shortly after ESAM.
- WSAM intends to lay itself down and complete the transfer process in October. It has OSCR's agreement to close the WSAM charity.
- NSAM intends to join QiS by the end of this year, and has minuted that its meeting in October might provide the opportunity for this.
- SESAM is still considering its position.
- GMS is set to transfer to QiS on 20th September. OSCR has agreed to the closure of GMS. Meeting for Sufferings has agreed to this, and to the transfer to QiS. *Quaker faith & practice* will be amended accordingly, in due process.

The transfer of membership from GMS to QiS is underway, as is seeking consent for transfer of personal data. We are answering Friends' Queries about this and have produced a frequently asked questions sheet, 'Further Clarifications as QiS Evolves', which is on the QiS website. On 27th August, we also co-hosted with GMS an online meeting to answer Friends' questions.

Transparency and accountability

We are keen to let Friends know what we are doing, and we post the minutes of Foundation Trustees meetings on the QiS website.

Elizabeth Allen and Adwoa Burnley
Co-clerks to QiS Foundation Trustees

1st September, 2025