

Quakers in Scotland Foundation Trustees

Meeting held online on 9th June 2025 at 7.00 pm

Present: Elizabeth Allen, Brian Ashley, Adwoa Burnley, Kate Gulliver, Chris Holmes, David Somervell and in attendance Lesley Richards (Convenor QiSCG)

We started our meeting with a short period of worship.

As a gathering, we shared 'a moment of joy'.

We agreed the agenda for the meeting.

25/06/01 QiS Membership

QiS Foundation Trustees are deemed to be members of QiS, as inferred by paragraphs 59 and 61 of the QiS Governing Document.

We have received an application for membership of QiS from Kathryn Gulliver (Kate). Using the route to membership stated in 14.2 of the Governing Document, Kate is nominated by Elizabeth Allen and Adwoa Burnley.

We agree to this application and welcome Kate into membership.

25/06/02 Appointment of QiS Treasurer

At General Meeting for Scotland on 7th June 2025, Kate Gulliver was appointed as QiS Treasurer to serve until 31st December 2027. We ratify this appointment.

As stated in the QiS Governing Document 40.2.1, the QiS treasurer is a trustee ex-officio and as such we are pleased to welcome Kate to the trustees group tonight.

25/06/03 Feedback on draft MOUs

We note that further to our minute 25/05/2, Brian will collate the comments he has received on the draft MOUs and send them to QiSCG.

25/06/04 Quaker bodies joining QiS, update

Further to our minute 25/05/1, we record the decisions of the following Quaker bodies to join Quakers in Scotland:

North Scotland Area Meeting

At their meeting on 17th May, 2025, NSAM minuted its intention to join QiS before the end of this year,

NSAM 25/25 EXTRACT

We encourage our trustees to continue working towards enabling our transition from North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting to Quakers in Scotland, ideally before the end of the year.

Our AM at Pluscarden in August will be an opportunity to review this item further and AM in October will be an opportunity to lay down our North Scotland AM.

West Scotland Area Meeting

At their meeting on 2nd June, 2025 WSAM minuted its intention to join QiS by October 2025,

WSAM 44/25 Quakers in Scotland

Further to minute 37/25, we have been reminded of the current status of the newly registered body Quakers in Scotland SC054060 and the proposals going to General Meeting on 7 June.

East Scotland Area Meeting has already minuted that it intends to transfer its assets to QiS and lay itself down, and hopes to do so as soon as possible after its next scheduled meeting on 18 October.

North Scotland has also minuted its hope to have transitioned to QiS before the end of the year. They hope to review the progress and provisions for transfer at their August area meeting.

Kate Gulliver, a member of the Quakers in Scotland Coordinating Group, has outlined the process of transitioning to Quakers in Scotland. Trustees need to apply for consent from the Office of Scottish Charity Regulators (OSCR) to wind-up the charity, before they can begin arrangements to transfer all the assets to Quakers in Scotland. Once the transfer has been completed, Area Meeting will need to formally minute a decision to dissolve the charity and trustees will notify OSCR of completion. At that point West Scotland Area Meeting as a charity will be removed from the register.

We hope the process can be completed by October 2025. We ask our trustees to submit an application to OSCR when they are ready and to inform us of their progress at our August area meeting.

25/06/05 General Meeting for Scotland minute regarding transfer to QiS

On 7th June 2025, GMS agreed to lay itself down and join QiS on 20th September 2025. We receive and note the following GMS minute regarding the process of transfer.

EXTRACTED MINUTE

25/06/09 Transition to Quakers in Scotland

Minutes 25/03/17 and 24/11/26 refer. Paper B informs our business today. General Meeting for Scotland and Scottish Area Meetings agreed to the establishment of 'Quakers in Scotland' as a potential new structure with a single trustee body for all Scottish meetings.

This trustee body has been set up and would be responsible to a single Quakers in Scotland meeting for business, with General Meeting, the four Area Meetings and the Dundee Friends Property Trust transitioning or joining the new body when and if ready to do so.

We receive minute 2025/05/09 (Quakers in Scotland) of South East Scotland Area Meeting (SESAM) held 6th May 2025 and are pleased to learn of the discernment made at that meeting. We note that SESAM asked the Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group (QiSCG) and the Trustees of Quakers in Scotland to offer:

- 1. Plans for how key issues will be handled following the transfer of responsibilities: specifically sharing of finances; management of property; safeguarding;*
- 2. An outline of whether fewer jobs (other than trustee roles) will be needed;*
- 3. Proposed arrangements for maintaining eldership and pastoral care under any new, more flexible system;*
- 4. Proposed systems to guard against local meetings becoming isolated: from surrounding LMs, from QiS, and/or from BYM;*
- 5. Ideas for how the current Area Meetings might work together, and together with QiS, as an interim measure or for the foreseeable future.*

SESAM wishes through this process to reach a position where it can make an informed and guided decision as to dissolving SESAM in order to be part of Quakers in Scotland.

We note that East Scotland, North Scotland and West Scotland Area Meetings, and the Dundee Friends Property Trust, are all planning to join Quakers in Scotland by the end of this year.

The next stage is for General Meeting to transition to the new body in order that it can start to function and work on how it will operate.

The manner in which Quakers in Scotland will operate will become a function of the new body, to evolve as Friends then see fit. The Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group have prepared papers towards this, and posted drafts on the GM website for Friends to view. The pre-meeting held on 4th June was an opportunity for Friends to meet informally with members of the Co-ordinating Group to discuss these. The present, mainly working, drafts are:

- Governing Document*
- Draft General Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)*
- Draft Property Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)*
- Possible arrangements for Spiritual and Pastoral care*
- Possible financial structure and organisation*
- Summary of how Intermediate Meetings (Ims) might work*
- What difference might it make to the number of roles*
- Foundation and substantive trustee roles*

They are on the GM website at Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group documents on: <https://quakerscotland.org/general-meeting/qis-documents>

At the pre-meeting, discussion took place on how the combined business of General Meeting and four Area Meetings could be managed, with opportunities seen for operating in new ways. Discussion involved the technicalities of transferring membership to the new body so that business could be conducted. A Friend likened the whole transition process

as being like moving house. We pack all our possessions (ways of doing things) into boxes to move, and afterwards gradually unpack them to find what we need and what we don't. We will return to the papers in September and onwards as we establish how Quakers in Scotland will operate to fulfil its purposes.

We are clear from our consideration today that we look at consider how the required business for Quakers in Scotland is taken and how intermediate meetings will work. We will return to this.

General Meeting for Scotland is asked to approve:

- that trustees apply to OSCR to wind up GM, with the aim that at the meeting on 20th September, subject to approval from OSCR, General Meeting formally minutes its dissolution and the functions of General Meeting for Scotland be transferred to Quakers in Scotland;*
- that the Trustees of General Meeting for Scotland are asked to transfer the assets of General Meeting for Scotland to Quakers in Scotland on 20th September;*
- that current General Meeting service appointments transfer to Quakers in Scotland on 20th September, other than those for the GM Treasurer and GM Trustees. The new body will then appoint them for itself.*
- that Friends are asked to transfer membership to Quakers in Scotland before the target date of 20th September.*

We agree to the transition of General Meeting for Scotland to Quakers in Scotland as defined above. We appoint the existing GM clerks as clerks designate of QiS, to serve until the end of 2025. This means they can call Quakers in Scotland as body for 20th September, a day in which General Meeting for Scotland will also be called, but then laid down and Quakers in Scotland formally hold its first meeting.

In order to bring Quakers in Scotland into operation as a body for Friends in Scotland, a Quakers in Scotland Treasurer is required so a bank account can be set up and assets transferred. A nomination is to be received this afternoon. GMS Trustees are working to facilitate the transfer required. We will also transfer the Administrator's employment to the new body. Further Quakers in Scotland trustees are required and Nominations Committee and Area Meetings are working on this. Appointments may be made by our between-meetings procedure if required.

Work continues on the manner in which the membership transfer can take place and Friends will be contacted in due course. The membership transfer is an administrative consequence of the new charity being a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and does not affect continuing membership of area meetings for the time being.

The Half Yearly Meeting for North Britain was established in 1786, becoming General Meeting for Scotland in 1807. We have now reached the next stage in our history and evolution.

We ask Meeting for Sufferings to approve the transition of General Meeting for Scotland to Quakers in Scotland, and suggest that the current GMS responsibilities as set out in Quaker faith & practice 5.03 become responsibilities of Quakers in Scotland. All Friends in Scotland would become part of Quakers in Scotland for these purposes. Further work is in hand to define the new responsibilities and status of Quakers in Scotland as and if the four Scottish Area Meetings and Dundee Friends Property Trust become part of it too.

We are aware of the exciting opportunities before us as we begin thinking as Quakers in Scotland. It is up to us to make it work for building and strengthening our community. Our exercise today has strengthened this resolve to find ways forward for all of us. We thank the Co-ordinating Group and others working on our behalf to make this happen.

We send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings and the Recording Clerk.

*Michael J. Hutchinson,
Clerk*

To QiS Trustees

25/05/06 Membership of the SCIO

We are legally required to keep a register of Members of the SCIO and who the Trustees are. We agree to ask our GM administrator (via GMS) to begin this register with us on it.

25/06/07 South East Scotland Area Meeting minute

We have received the following minute from SESAM,

2025/05/09 Quakers in Scotland

Following our threshing meeting on 1 March 2025, the planning group prepared the paper Quakers in Scotland proposal: a suggested response. This was circulated in advance of this meeting and comments invited.

Judith Ward (K) has set out some of the points that emerged from the threshing meeting; things that are valued in our current practice; some of the opportunities that change might offer.

Elizabeth Allen (EL), co-convener of trustees for Quakers in Scotland (QiS), has explained the present state of play: the charity has been incorporated; General Meeting for Scotland (GMS) will on 7 June be invited to lay down GMS on 20 September, becoming part of the new charity; Dundee Friends Property Trust and East Scotland AM have indicated they plan to follow soon after.

We are reminded that as things stand, joining Quakers in Scotland means the dissolution of our Area Meeting as a charity.

We have heard of the joy and excitement felt by some at the process we have been through in setting up Quakers in Scotland and the opportunities for shaping the change that is to come.

Others are not reassured by the current process. There is a feeling that greater detail is needed on matters such as funds. The questions in the suggested response (referred to in para 1 above) demand attention.

We recognise there is a range of viewpoints.

We ask ourselves where trust lies: are we unwilling to embark on an adventure with the rest of Scottish Quakers?

We have heard that this is part of a bigger picture – making ourselves into a simpler church to take our message into the world. Across Britain at both local and national levels, Quakers are taking steps. A spiritual journey will not have a blueprint, but we should work together in love.

We are reminded that SESAM's expressed reluctance to commit is causing anxiety in other parts of the Quaker body in Scotland; and that the prospect of joining QiS is causing anxiety within SESAM. We are also reminded that Area Meeting is simply a vehicle for how we do our work; we do not worship our structure.

We ask the QiSCG and the trustees of the QiS charity to offer:

- 1. Plans for how key issues will be handled following the transfer of responsibilities: specifically sharing of finances; management of property; safeguarding;*
- 2. An outline of whether fewer jobs (other than trustee roles) will be needed;*
- 3. Proposed arrangements for maintaining eldership and pastoral care under any new, more flexible system;*
- 4. Proposed systems to guard against local meetings becoming isolated: from surrounding LMs, from QiS, and/or from BYM;*
- 5. Ideas for how the current Area Meetings might work together, and together with QiS, as an interim measure or for the foreseeable future.*

We wish through this process to reach a position where we can make an informed and guided decision as to dissolving SESAM in order to be part of Quakers in Scotland.

I also attach the paper referred to from which the five points are drawn. I assume that responding to these points will not involve you in a lot of additional work, in that these matters will need to be addressed in the course of the changes ahead. A clear response will definitely be helpful in addressing some of the anxieties referred to in the minute. I also think that some of the points in the paper which haven't come forward in the minute are worth consideration, particularly by the QiS Community Sub-Group.

SESAM will be well represented at GMS on 7 June; I look forward to seeing you then. In the meantime, if there are issues you wish to go through, please don't hesitate to raise them.

Alastair Cameron

Clerk, South East Scotland Area Quaker Meeting

Working with QiS Coordinating Group, a draft response to the points raised in this minute has been prepared, and we have considered this tonight. We endorse it. After the draft has been agreed by QiSCG, the final version will be sent by the Coordinating Group to the clerk of SESAM, as our joint response.

25/06/08 QiS Treasurer

We authorise Kathryn Gulliver to open general and savings bank accounts in the name of Quakers in Scotland. These will be dual signature accounts. Signatories will be Kathryn Gulliver, Brian Ashley, and Christopher Holmes.

25/06/09 Legal Matters

Following our request to BYM staff for advice on instructing a solicitor to deal with the legal requirements of the transfers to QiS, Elizabeth Allen and Brian Ashley met with Sarah Donaldson. Our discussion covered the steps in the transfer process, the overall 'project management' of the transfers, the aspects of this which need to be carried out by a lawyer, what we can do ourselves to reduce the cost, whether each charity needs a separate solicitor or if one solicitor can attend to all the business without conflict of interest, and who pays for what.

Looking at what we can do ourselves, in preparation for approaching a lawyer, we need to know what is being transferred and if there are any issues with it. This information can be ascertained through due diligence questionnaires for each charity transferring, which Sarah will draft. We understand that staff jobs can be TUPE transferred to QiS using the Acas guidelines, and we don't require a solicitor to do this.

Sarah suggested that we focus on the transfer of GMS: as well as being the first transfer, it is the least complex. Moving this forward, the due diligence questionnaire for GMS has been completed by GMS Trustees and we have been sent a copy of the GMS Governing Document. Copies of GMS Annual Report and Accounts are available online. It is now time to approach a solicitor and we are advised to seek quotes from one or more solicitors for the GMS transfer, indicating that we anticipate further transfers in due course. Sarah has drawn up a brief specifying the legal work we need done, which was circulated in advance of this meeting. We agree to redraft this brief to meet our needs and Brian and Kate will start this process. When the redrafted brief is ready, we will send it for quotes to:

Emma Manson, Burness Paull
Helen Kidd, Lindsays
Adrian Bell, Morton Fraser Macroberts

We are very grateful to Sarah for her support and for preparing this brief, and the due diligence questionnaires.

25/06/10 Dates of future meetings

We agree to meet on the following dates in 2025:

July 9th (already agreed) at 7pm

August 11th at 7pm

September 15th at 7pm

October 13th at 7pm

November 4th at 7pm

December 8th at 8pm

25/06/11 Closing minute

We close with worship, planning to meet again by Zoom at 7.00 pm on 9th July, should nothing occur to prevent.