

Gift Aid Issues

1. Visitor Fees

*The value of benefits to members Gift Aid cannot be claimed if a member has received benefits worth **more than 25% of the WI share of the subscription in any year**. A member is deemed to receive a benefit if she receives goods or services that a non-member would have to pay a higher charge for.*

Therefore if your WI charges visitors to attend meetings or charges non-members a higher rate for other WI activities, this will give rise to a benefit and it is unlikely that you will be able to obtain Gift Aid on subscriptions. A claim would only be possible if the WI kept detailed records of these payments and the total paid by any individual visitor in the year was less than 25% of the WI share of the subscription.

Example: We charge £3.50 per visit. Likely a guest will make 2 (or 3) visits as a guest = £7.00 (£10.50)

25% of £21.60 (our share of FULL annual SUBs) is £5.40

£7.00 (£10.50) > £5.40 Therefore our members are deemed in receipt of a benefit.

Therefore if your WI invites visitors to make a donation to the WI rather than pay a charge this does not count as a benefit to members. The WI must make it abundantly clear that no charge is made to visitors but that they welcome donations to support the WI's work. There should be no question of a minimum or required amount and there must be no link between making a donation and attending the meeting.

2. Bursaries

A bursary is classed as a benefit given by the WI to its members. This must, therefore, be considered when claiming Gift Aid. WIs cannot claim Gift Aid if members have received benefits that add up to more than 25% of the subscription fee (this is 25% of the portion retained by the WI only).

The cost of the bursary must be divided by the number of members in the WI to work out the benefit each member receives. This applies even if only one member will receive the bursary because all members have the chance of benefiting.

For example:

- 1. The WI has a bursary of £50 that a member can benefit from*
- 2. The WI has 20 members*
- 3. £50 divided by 20 equals £2.50 benefit per person*
- 4. £2.50 is less than 25% of the subscription fee*
- 5. Gift Aid can be claimed by the WI*

Example: We want to give bursaries totalling £500

£500 ÷ 73 members (at present) = £6.85 of benefit per member

25% of £21.60 (our share of FULL annual SUBs) is £5.40

£6.85 > £5.40 Therefore we would not be in a position to claim gift aid

Solution would be to reduce bursaries total to e.g. £350

£350 ÷ 73 (at present) = £4.79 (< £5.40)