

National Federation
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7th October 2024



To: All WI Treasurers

Cc: Federation Chairmen
Federation Treasurers
Federation Secretaries
NFWI Board of Trustees
NFWI Senior Staff

Dear WI Treasurer,

I am writing to advise of the 2025/26 membership subscription fee. As Honorary Treasurer, my role includes helping the NFWI Board of Trustees to reach financial decisions that serve the interests of members now and in the future. The NFWI Board looks at what is needed financially for the year ahead but then identifies ways in which these costs can be absorbed, or money raised in alternative ways to avoid applying these costs to the membership fee.

Our annual membership fee setting process starts each year in the early summer, where we are able to assess the charity's finances as we approach the end of the financial year, collate the feedback received from members, and assess the general state of the economy. From this, the NFWI assesses the amount it would need to breakeven and ensure the financial security of our federations and WIs. This amount is not the figure we agree on, but just a starting point. From this figure, we identify ways of applying flexibility, including introducing new income-generating activities, cutting costs where possible, and as in previous years using the organisation's reserves to subsidise costs where appropriate. We then present a range of options to our National Council (made up of two representatives from each federation) and put these to a vote, allowing them to apply their judgement in terms of what their federations need and what they feel is right for members. The outcome is presented to the NFWI Board and a figure for the following year's subscription is agreed.

Based on the various economic challenges all our charities are facing, and the less-than-inflationary increases to membership fees in recent years we must increase membership fees for the coming membership year.

Subscription 2025/26

The NFWI Board of Trustees has set the membership subscription for the 2025/26 membership year at **£51.00**. This means there will be a £3 increase from the current membership year: £1.50 of this increase will go to WIs, 75p to federations and 75p to NFWI.

The distribution will therefore be:

Total subscription	WI share	Federation share	NFWI share
£51.00	£25.10	£12.05	£13.85

Pro-rata subscription for new members in their first year

New members joining the WI from April 2025 for the first time, or who have not been members of any WI in the past year, will pay a pro-rata subscription depending on the quarter in which they join. The rate per quarter and the distribution are shown in the following table.

Date of joining	Total subscription	WI share	Federation share	NFWI share
1 April to June 2025	£51.00	£25.10	£12.05	£13.85
1 July to 30 Sept 2025	£38.25	£18.82	£9.04	£10.39
1 Oct to 31 Dec 2025	£25.50	£12.55	£6.03	£6.92
1 Jan to 31 Mar 2026	£12.75	£6.28	£3.01	£3.46

New WIs starting in 2025/26

New WIs starting from April 2025 will keep all the subscriptions paid by their members in 2025/26 membership year.

Flexibility Policy

WIs can apply the flexibility policy to their 2025/26 subscription. This means they can charge the full amount of the WI portion, reduce their portion, or waive the WI portion of the subscription entirely.

Dual Membership

Dual members will pay the WI portion only to their second WI. If the WI is not utilising the flexibility policy, this will be **£25.10**. There is no pro-rata rate for dual membership, and the set fee will remain payable at any time during the year.

Pooling of Fares

Please note that as the Annual Meetings in 2025 and 2026 will be conducted entirely online, federations and WIs will not be required to pay Pooling of Fares fees.

The NFWI aims to continue generating new income streams through commercial activities, partnerships, fundraising and other opportunities. This helps reduce the reliance on membership subscriptions and give us even greater flexibility each year to assess the finances with our National Council when setting the annual subscription rate.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work, your dedication, and your ongoing support of the WI.

Yours sincerely,



Hilary Haworth
Honorary Treasurer