



BRITAIN YEARLY MEETING (BYM)

Meeting for Sufferings: Review group on BYM's relationship with Listed Informal Groups

Appointed by Meeting for Sufferings

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Quaker faith & practice (13.19, edition 5) explains that: 'The listed informal groups are independent groups through which Friends may share common interest, seek affirmation, or carry out witness'. There is a set of criteria for recognition, which is administered by the Recording Clerk.

1. Summary of Purpose

1.1. The Review Group on the relationship with Listed Informal Groups aims to work with and on behalf of Meeting for Sufferings to:

- review the current arrangements for recognising the Listed Informal Groups
- propose new arrangements for independent Quaker groups' relationships with Britain Yearly Meeting. This may involve different categories of relationship and/or support; or replacing or abandoning the arrangement altogether.

2. Authority, Delegation and Relationships

2.1. The Review Group on the relationship with Listed Informal Groups is appointed by Meeting for Sufferings and derives its authority from Britain Yearly Meeting. It is accountable to Meeting for Sufferings who agree its terms of reference and provide the resources to carry forward its work. It reports to Meeting for Sufferings.

2.2. The Group's meetings and work are conducted in faithful waiting on the spirit, in the expectation of being guided forward. We cannot constrain the spirit. If the Group's leadings would take it out of the area outlined in these terms of reference it should record its leading in a minute to Meeting for Sufferings who may discern the way forward or seek the guidance of Britain Yearly Meeting as appropriate.

2.3. The Group may communicate by minute with Meeting for Sufferings, Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees and other Central and Standing Committees of Britain Yearly Meeting.

3. Duties

3.1. The Review Group on the relationship with Listed Informal Groups is to discern and recommend changes to the way that Britain Yearly Meeting recognises and maintains positive relationships with independent Quaker organisations in Britain.

3.2. The Group will prepare proposals to be laid before Meeting for Sufferings in 2015.

3.3. The Group is asked:

- 3.3.1. To consider the needs of Britain Yearly Meeting and Meeting for Sufferings as they relate to independent Quaker organisations and to the activities of Quakers in Britain;
- 3.3.2. To consider the complex needs of existing listed informal groups, along with other known Quaker organisations in Britain;
- 3.3.3. To consult with the Recording Clerk and Recording Clerk's Office staff to explore the issues with the current arrangement and the need for a robust, flexible arrangement for the future.
- 3.3.4. To prepare proposals, which might include different categories of relationship and/or support; or replacing or abandoning the arrangement altogether.
- 3.3.5. To provide advice to the Recording Clerk, and to assist Britain Yearly Meeting staff and central and standing committees to clarify Britain Yearly Meeting's relationship with independent Quaker groups in the coming years.

4. Membership and Attendance

- 4.1. The Review Group on the relationship with Listed Informal Groups has a minimum of three and a maximum of five members.
- 4.2. Members are appointed by Meeting for Sufferings.
- 4.3. The clerk is appointed by the Group from their number.
- 4.4. The Clerk of Meeting for Sufferings and the Recording Clerk (or his/her nominee) may attend meetings ex officio.
- 4.5. Other Friends, specialists or members of staff may be asked to attend by invitation of the clerk for specific agenda items.
- 4.6. A member of staff, designated by the Recording Clerk, will normally attend meetings to act as secretary to the Group. Meeting without the secretary should only be with the Recording Clerk's or secretary's agreement.

5. Frequency of Meetings

- 5.1. The Review Group on the relationship with Listed Informal Groups should meet as frequently as appropriate for discernment and accountability.
- 5.2. The Group should agree a mechanism for conducting business between meetings.

6. Agreement of the Terms of Reference

- 6.1. The Review Group on the relationship with Listed Informal Groups shall work within these terms of reference under the authority of minute MfS/2014/09/14 of Meeting for Sufferings held 06 09 2014.
- 6.2. The terms of reference may be amended by minuted decisions of Meeting for Sufferings.