

WALES ASSOCIATION OF SACREs
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2nd JULY, 2024

REPORT BY: Treasurer
SUBJECT: Report for 2024/2025 Financial Year
REPORT FOR: Information and Decision

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2024/2025

Attached, as an appendix to this report, is the independently examined statement of accounts for the 2024/2025 financial year. Members will note that, during the year, expenditure exceeded income by £21,420.96. This is compared with an £3718.66 excess of expenditure over income in 2023/2024 and an £8,969.44 excess of income over expenditure in 2022/2023. Further information on the reasons for this change is provided below. The accounts include payments received from four SACREs/SACs, regarding 2023/2024 which were received after the end of the last financial year. At the end of the current financial year, subscriptions have been received from 18 SACREs/SACs and payments from a further 2 SACREs were received after the end of the financial year. Sadly, I have to report that membership of WASACRE remains as 20 SACREs/SACs rather than 22 as Pembrokeshire and Swansea SACREs/SACs are no longer members. Hopefully they will reconsider their positions and rejoin WASACRE in the future as it is important for WASACRE to be able to speak for and represent the interests of all SACREs/SACs in Wales. The financial year commenced with a balance of £50,753.57 and ended with a balance of £29,332.61. Members were warned at the 2023/2024 AGM that significant expenditure would take place during the 2024/2025 financial year because of the excellent 2024 WASACRE Conference, and the preparation of a film on RVE during the same financial year. The finances of WASACRE, therefore, remain in a healthy condition, if reduced by the above planned expenditure, and there are still sufficient funds available to WASACRE, to fund its planned activities.

a) Receipts

As in previous years, the main source of income for WASACRE during 2024/2025 has been the annual subscriptions paid by member SACREs/SACs. Members will be aware that, at the 2024 Annual General Meeting of WASACRE, it was decided that the annual subscription for 2024/2025 should remain at £495.00, the same amount as for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 because of the current difficult financial circumstances experienced by Local Authorities. This has resulted in income of £8,910.00, which represents the 18 subscriptions received during the financial year. It is pleasing to report that the remaining 2 SACRE/SAC subscriptions have

now been paid. Therefore, I can report that all 20 subscriptions for 2024/2025 have now been received. The receipts also included the late payment of £1,980.00 which represents the 4 subscriptions of £495.00 relating to the 2023/2024 financial year.

During the year, a payment of £1,125.00 was received from the Welsh Government for the development of Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) Professional Learning modules undertaken by WASACRE colleagues and this was a welcome addition to the WASACRE funds.

The other regular annual source of income for WASACRE has been Bank Interest and this amounted to £109.39 in 2024/2025, an increase of £14.43 on £94.96, the amount received in 2023/2024. It is encouraging to note the increase in interest paid on the WASACRE Business Money Manager Account but, members will be aware that interest rates have begun to fall again. It is clear, as has been previously noted, that it will be some time before significant income is received through bank interest.

b) Expenditure

The areas of expenditure in the 2024/2025 accounts are as follows:-

The main area of expenditure in the 2024/2025 accounts is the costs of convening the WASACRE Conference, held on 13th June, 2024. The total cost amounted to £17,235.24 and the breakdown is provided below:-

Delivery of seminar pre-conference	250.00
Filming during conference	6600.00
Fee for presenter	988.93
Officer travel	159.00
Officer accommodation	252.79
Conference pens	134.85
Room hire	4242.00
Simultaneous translation	682.56
Conference incidentals	591.32
Catering	3261.83
Purchase of name tags	71.96

Members will agree that this was an excellent conference and well worth the expenditure involved.

The second main area of expenditure in the 2024/2025 accounts is the cost of preparing the WASACRE film on RVE and this has been very well received. The cost of preparing the film amounted to £10,200.00 and a gift of £141.50 was given to Awen, the presenter.

The cost of convening meetings amounted to £2,739.27 and this is broken down into £1,424.92 for the translation of documents and simultaneous

translation in meetings, and £1,314.35 for minute taking. This cost compares with an expenditure of £3,359.02 in 2023/2024 and is less because no supply cover was provided and the cost of a zoom licence for 2024/25 has fallen outside of the 2024/2025 financial year.

Members will be aware that the WASACRE secretarial arrangements have continued unchanged. The post of Co-ordinating Secretary has continued with the role of overseeing the secretarial function but without the full range of secretarial activities. This post attracts an honorarium of £1,500.00 and this is usually paid as termly instalments. The Coordinating Secretary is supported by an Assistant Secretary and this post also attracts an honorarium of £1,500.00. The secretarial costs have been minimised through the use of electronic communications and no claims for secretarial expenses were made during the year. The post of Minute Secretary also attracts an honorarium of £1,500.00 but the post has remained unfilled since the departure of the previous post holder. With the departure of the Minute Secretary the services were bought in of an individual who was willing to minute the meetings, remotely, from recordings of the meetings. The costs of this service for the 2024/2025, amounted to £1,314.35 and are well within the honorarium that would have been paid to a Minute Secretary. The payment relates to the actual amount of work involved, rather than an honorarium. WASACRE is fortunate in being able to secure the services of an individual who is able to provide high quality minutes of the meetings and, so far, this arrangement has worked well.

The Treasurer's Expenses amounted to £55.35, which is very similar to £43.90, the level of expense in 2023/2024. These expenses relate, in the main, to postage charges and stationery.

The sum of £10.79 has been paid to maintain the website domain name. Members will be aware that WASACRE now has an excellent new website which raises the profile of WASACRE and is a valuable source of information on Religion, Values and Ethics, as well as Collective Worship for SACREs/SACs, teachers and other professionals.

Members will be aware from last year's Treasurer's report that Bank Charges are now levied on the WASACRE Charitable Account. This account carries a monthly fee of £5.00 and cheques paid into and out of the account over the counter are charged at £0.40 per cheque. The charges for 2024/2025 amounted to £73.20 compared with £74.00 in 2023/2024. The good news is that HSBC will be removing the monthly fee of £5.00 with effect from the 1st July, 2025. This will result in a saving of £60.00 in a full year.

During the year, £90.00 was spent on a Membership Subscription which relates to the following:-

- EFTRE (2024) - £90.00

Doubtless others will follow in due course.

Members are invited to receive and adopt the attached statement of accounts.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2025/2026

In considering an appropriate annual subscription per SACRE/SAC for membership of WASACRE during the 2025/2026 financial year, members will be aware that the decision was taken at the 2001 Annual General Meeting of WASACRE that, in future, the subscription to WASACRE would be increased, annually, in line with inflation. This practice was followed annually until the 2023/2024 financial year when the decision was taken to not increase the subscription but maintain it at £495.00, the same level as for 2022/2023. This decision was taken because of the difficult financial circumstances, experienced by Local Authorities.

Although the WASACRE finances are currently in a healthy state, it is important that a substantial balance is maintained if WASACRE is to be able to, with confidence, arrange further national events and undertake more projects. However, it is reasonable that, in the light of the ongoing difficult financial circumstances, experienced by Local Authorities, there should be no uplift to the subscription to WASACRE for 2025/2026. It is, therefore,

RECOMMENDED that the annual subscription per SACRE/SAC for membership of WASACRE, during the 2025/2026 financial year, remain at £495.00, the same level as the 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and 2022/2023 subscriptions.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

Members will recall that the following arrangements for the payment of expenses were either agreed at the 2020 Annual General Meeting of WASACRE or agreed subsequently: -

- payments of 45 pence per mile to officers undertaking business on behalf of WASACRE where they are unable to claim from their local SACREs/SACs and reimbursement at the same level for speakers contributing to WASACRE meetings;
- reimbursement to officers of actual parking costs, where incurred, in relation to the conduct of WASACRE business;
- where public transport is used rather than private car, reimbursement of actual rail/coach fares up to the level of standard fare on the understanding that advantage of saver arrangements would be taken wherever possible;
- reimbursement of reasonable subsistence costs in respect of officers of WASACRE and speakers at WASACRE meetings;

- reimbursement of actual costs of overnight accommodation on the understanding that reasonable costs are incurred;
- in relation to teachers being released from school to make presentations at meetings of WASACRE, WASACRE will fund up to one full day's supply cover. In the event of this proving inadequate, early contact must be made with the Treasurer, who will be given discretion to agree a higher level of supply cover in consultation with either the Chair or Vice Chair;
- members of SACREs/SACs and others attending main meetings of WASACRE are not eligible to claim expenses from WASACRE but should claim from their own SACRE/SAC or the body that they represent;
- the Coordinating Secretary will receive an annual honorarium of £1,500.00. If the position is taken by a serving teacher, then supply cover would be paid in addition to the existing honorarium and expenses (necessary travel, accommodation, and subsistence). Supply cover would be paid to the school, and the honorarium would be paid to the individual officer;
- the Assistant Secretary will receive an annual honorarium of £1,500.00. If the position is taken by a serving teacher, then supply cover would be paid in addition to the existing honorarium and expenses (necessary travel, accommodation, and subsistence). Supply cover would be paid to the school, and the honorarium would be paid to the individual officer;
- if appointed, a Minute Secretary will receive an annual honorarium of £1,500.00 plus expenses, plus overnight accommodation if necessary. If the current arrangement continues, WASACRE will pay invoices submitted by the individual preparing minutes from recordings of meetings in accordance with the level of work involved;
- members of the WASACRE Executive Committee are able to claim expenses from WASACRE for attendance at executive committee meetings where they are unable to claim expenses from elsewhere;
- members of the WASACRE Executive Committee, who are serving teachers, are eligible to claim supply cover costs to enable them to be released to attend meetings. The claim should be submitted to the Treasurer by the employing school and should represent actual costs;
- although there is some common membership, NAPfRE is a separate entity and WASACRE is unable to fund their meetings or expenses;
- where NAPfRE members are undertaking work on behalf of WASACRE, WASACRE will contribute to their expenses. Requests must be submitted, in advance, to the Treasurer who will be given discretion to consider them in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair;
- WASACRE will, on occasion, pay fees for people to attend meetings or carry out work on professional working days if this has been agreed in advance. Requests must be submitted, in advance, to the Treasurer, who will be given discretion to consider them in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair. It is

expected that there will be evidence of the work undertaken and this could be a paper or report following the meeting attended.

It is

RECOMMENDED that the above arrangements be approved for 2025/2026.

WALES ASSOCIATION OF SACRES

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2024/2025

RECEIPTS

Annual Subscriptions 2023/2024 (4 SACREs at 495.00 per SACRE)	1980.00
Annual Subscriptions 2024/2025 (18 SACREs at 495.00 per SACRE)	8910.00
Welsh Government for professional learning undertaken	1125.00
Bank Interest	109.39

Total Receipts	12124.39
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EXPENDITURE

WASACRE Conference (13th June, 2024):

Delivery of seminar pre-conference	250.00	
Filming during conference	6600.00	
Fee for presenter	988.93	
Officer travel	159.00	
Officer accommodation	252.79	
Conference pens	134.85	
Room hire	4242.00	
Simultaneous translation	682.56	
Conference incidentals	591.32	
Catering	3261.83	
Purchase of name tags	71.96	
		17235.24

Meeting Expenses:

Translation of documents	1424.92	
Minute taking	1314.35	
		2739.27

Website – domain name	10.79
Bank Charges	73.20
Co-ordinating Secretary's Honorarium	1500.00
Assistant Secretary's Honorarium	1500.00

Film on Religion Values and Ethics:

Production of film	10200.00	
Gift for presenter	141.50	
		10341.50

EFTRE (2024)	90.00	
Treasurer's Expenses		55.35

Total Expenditure	33545.35
LESS Excess of Expenditure over Receipts	21420.96

12124.39

BALANCE SHEET AT 31/3/25

Balance at 31/3/24	50753.57	
LESS		
Excess of Expenditure over Receipts	<u>21420.96</u>	
Balance at 31/3/25		<u>29332.61</u>

Represented by:

Bank Balances at 31/3/25:

Business Money Manager Account	5715.72	
Charitable Bank Account	<u>24316.92</u>	
	30032.64	
LESS		
3 cheques drawn and not presented on 31/3/25		
	55.35	
	394.68	
	<u>250.00</u>	
	<u>700.03</u>	
		<u>29332.61</u>

Inspected and found correct:

Signed:

Date: