

Subscription fees for 2026/27

Date of joining	Total subscription	WI share	Federation share	NFWI share
1 April to 30 June 2026	£54.00	£27.10	£12.55	£14.35
1 July to 30 Sept 2026	£40.50	£20.33	£9.41	£10.76
1 Oct to 31 Dec 2026	£27.00	£13.55	£6.28	£7.17
1 Jan to 31 March 2027	£13.50	£6.78	£3.14	£3.58

Some WIs may be altering the amount they charge for the WI portion in line with the new flexibility policy. For more information on this, as well as the corresponding pro-rata amounts for WIs who are adjusting their portion of the subscription fee, please see My WI here: mywi.thewi.org.uk/essential-information/subscription-rates.

2. How has the pro-rata rate rule been changed?

From 1 April 2021, the pro-rata subscription rate ineligibility period has been reduced from ten years to one year. This means that after one year of not being a member, the person can join the WI and benefit from the pro-rata rate.

3. Will pooling of fares be charged for 2026?

There will be no pooling of fares for this membership year as the Annual Meeting will be virtual. There will be a pooling of fares charge in the year when there is an in-person meeting only.

4. When and how should WIs collect subscriptions?

For the new subscription year that begins on 1 April 2026, WIs must collect subscription payments from their members as soon as possible. WIs should send the federation and NFWI portion, with the accompanying information, to their federation by **30 April** where possible. After this time WIs can still send subscriptions to their federation for members who join or pay later in the subscription year.

WIs must also ensure Membership Communication System (MCS) Reps keep the MCS up to date with member information and committee/board roles.

WI subscriptions can be collected in the form of cash, cheque or via online or telephone banking. Asking members to pay their subscription fee using online or telephone banking if they have this is easier and quicker to administrate than cheques. If WIs are collecting subscriptions by post, or any method which is not completely secure, please do not use cash.

5. When should federations pass on subscriptions to the NFWI?

The federation should send the NFWI portion, with the accompanying information, to the NFWI by **31 May** where possible. If by this date the federation is still waiting to receive subscriptions from some WIs, the federation should send what they have to the NFWI so that the NFWI can update their records, and should contact the WIs with outstanding subscriptions. After this time federations can still send subscriptions to the NFWI for members who join or pay later in the subscription year.

Federations must also ensure MCS Reps keep the MCS up to date with trustee roles.

Federations should consider setting up online or telephone banking so that they can pay the NFWI their portion of the subscriptions in this way. This is easier and quicker to administer than cheques.

6. Why is it important that subscriptions are paid to WIs and sent to federations and the NFWI as soon as possible?

At the beginning of each new subscription year, MCS Reps add or update members' personal information on the MCS. This ensures members who have joined or renewed receive communications from their WI and federation, get *WI Magazine* sent to them, and have access to My WI. MCS representatives can only do this when they know which members have joined or renewed and which members have not.

WIs, federations, and the NFWI need to be able to use the MCS to get accurate membership data including membership figures, members on committees/boards, and member contact information. Also, all three levels of the organisation rely on their portion of the subscription fee for budgeting, planning, and running costs.

7. What should a WI do if a member does not renew their subscription by 30 April?

The WI Secretary, or the appointed person, should call the member and ask whether they intend to renew their subscription. It is important this is handled sensitively as in addition to the practical difficulties of the past year, members may be struggling emotionally, financially or with their health. If the member does wish to renew, agree on a reasonable time period for their payment e.g. one month. Payment can be delayed further than 1 month if the member is struggling with making a payment; we ask that the emphasis is put on member safety.

If the member is renewing an existing membership please make it clear they will be paying the full amount even at a later date and not the pro-rata rate.

If the member has not paid by the agreed date, contact them again to see if there are any difficulties. A second time period for their payment may then be agreed upon. If the member has not paid by the second agreed date, contact them to inform them their membership will be suspended until payment is made. Follow up all telephone conversations with e-mails or letters reiterating what has been agreed if possible.

The MCS Rep must ensure that when change occurs, i.e. when members renew or leave the WI, the MCS is updated promptly. This is because only members who have paid their subscription for the year should receive the benefits that membership includes such as receiving *WI Magazine*. Further, if the subscription is paid meaning the membership is being reactivated on the MCS the member **must** receive her benefits as soon as possible including WI Magazine and access to My WI.

8. What does the NFWI suggest for federations regarding outstanding WI subscriptions?

In the first instance, we suggest that focus is put on federations communicating with WIs to have an idea of where they are with the subscriptions. The NFWI has done the same with federations and will continue to do so.

We ask that federations make at least three attempts to contact any WI which has outstanding subscriptions to pay. Please be mindful that Committee members may be struggling for a variety of reasons rather than just not responding. Please vary your communication methods – try phoning (leaving a message if there is no answer and text if there is a mobile number available), emailing and writing. With each attempt do make clear that you are communicating regarding the subscriptions and would like to discuss any difficulties the WI is having with passing on subscriptions and how the federation may be able to help. For example, the federation may be able to notify NFWI Finance of extenuating circumstances such as bereavement and that an extension is needed to allow for another Committee member to take on this responsibility.

In the event federations are not able to get in contact with their WIs, we suggest a letter is sent to the WI in question via recorded post, setting out the position, explaining that the federation has made several attempts to reach them but without success, and stating that the situation is now very serious. The federation should also point out the following:

- The federation and NFWI parts of the subscription must be passed on to the federation, in accordance with section 16 of the WI Constitution (the legally binding document of the WI):

"Each WI Member must pay a subscription. The National Federation Board of Trustees, in prior consultation with the National Council, will decide the rate or rates of the subscription, the timing and method of payment of the subscription, and the manner of apportionment of the subscription between the WI, the Federation and the National Federation."

- If there are any extenuating reasons for the WI not responding to any approaches from their federation, the WI should let the federation know within 7 days.
- With great regret, if there is no response or an extenuating reason for the behaviour of the WI, the federation will be legally obliged to notify the police of what would appear possibly to be theft of WI funds.
- The federation will also have to notify the Charity Commission.
- Closing comment: it would be regrettable if the federation was forced to notify the police and Charity Commission, but as a charity, the federation will have no other option if it doesn't hear from the WI within 7 days of delivery.

9. Contact information

If you have any questions please contact Dawn Kent from the Finance Department at d.kent@nfwi.org.uk or call 0207 371 9300.