

World Heritage UK Annual General Meeting 2025
03 December 2025

Item 4: Membership Fees 2026-2027

Background

Previously the Board has explored and agreed a standardised approach to increases in membership and staff salaries by which the two are linked. While any increases are always considered annually, a standardised approach will:

- Be transparent and explainable
- Account for inflationary increases within the economy
- Account for cost-of-living increases within the economy
- Ensure that increases are reasonable and relevant to the financial climate
- Ensure WHUK is operating as a fair employer.
- Ensure WHUK does not under/overcompensate staff
- Link member increases to staff increases as both need to be considered together.
- Provide a more robust way of managing the budget and future budget setting within a reasonable timeframe.

The Board agreed that linking increases in membership fees and staff salaries to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the most appropriate way of achieving the above benefits. The CPI is the official measure of inflation in consumer prices in the UK. The National Office of Statistics releases updated figures each month. However, it is the September figure, released in mid-October, which is most widely used by the Government and other bodies, in setting annual increases. WHUK will adopt this approach which would allow the draft budget, incorporating increased membership fees and salaries for the following year, to be prepared in good time. This year the CPI September figure was 3.8%.

This standardised approach will not eliminate the need to discuss increases. Indeed, there may be times when the Board feels it cannot meet this figure due to budget pressures, or that a bigger/ lesser increase is needed for other reasons. However, in general, it is felt that this approach will ensure better and more efficient budgetary management and ease of explanation and agreement for increases for all involved.

Recommendation

The Board of Trustees for World Heritage UK propose to the 2025 AGM the following membership rates for 2026/27 based on the CPI of September 2024 and rounded up to the nearest ten. As there was a large percentage increase for Individual Members last year, it is proposed that there should be no increase this year for this category.

Membership Category	Current Rate	Proposed Rate 2026/27
Voting Member	£790	£820
Associate Member	£410	£425
Individual Member	£40	£40