



1. Income

Income is received from:

- Subscriptions which are between £10 and £15 per member.
- Fund-raising events
- Donations.

And is allocated to two accounts:

- Restricted account - for research grants
- General account - for administration, meetings, grants to members and for any purpose of the charity including research grants

2. Expenditure

Expenditure is decided by the Trustees and may be:

- Grants to individuals towards mobility aids eg wheelchair, scooter or FES.
- Grants of up to £15,000 per annum to research bodies. A formal request for support would be considered by the Trustees and a decision made by vote after considering the recommendation of the research committee. The Restricted account is used for this and any balance required is taken from the General account
- Events such as the AGM where we invite several speakers to fill up a whole day.
- The Potato Pants music festival which is a fund-raising event for the HSP Support Group
- The Committees of the HSP Support Group are authorised to use group funds as described in their terms of reference
- Administration –the newsletter, production of printed matter and Trustee meetings.
Reasonable expenses incurred are reimbursed according to the HSP Group Expenses Policy

3. Future Plans

At the moment we can give grants of up to £15K per annum to research. Should we find a source of income that would provide say £100K then we would approach the research groups involved with HSP that we know of in the UK and ask for proposals. The Trustees would then discuss and evaluate the proposals.

4. Grants to Individuals

Applications for grants are submitted by members. The form includes a statement of the reasons for a grant and a description of the equipment or service being obtained and its cost.

Applications are reviewed by the Trustees in a two-stage email process: one to receive comments and the other to make the decision.

The Trustees' view is that they are not in a position to decide if what is being requested is necessary or suitable for that individual – the applicant is better placed to make that judgement.

The application must comply with the terms of our constitution ie is the recipient affected by HSP and the grant will help to mitigate those effects.

Comments from Trustees can usually address those questions in some way. A comment of "No comment" is acceptable and indicates that the application has been considered by a Trustee.

The decision to award a grant is by a majority of the Trustees voting in favour.

To minimise the risk of fraudulent applications:

- The applicant must have been a member for at least one year
- If there was a doubt about the beneficiary having HSP the Trustees may request evidence of diagnosis
- The Trustees may offer the grant be payable to the supplier of the equipment rather than the applicant
- The grant should usually be made as part of a purchase transaction rather than after
- A receipt is requested as evidence that the grants has been used as intended

The maximum size of grants is based on what the HSP Group can afford. The maximum is £1,000 per application at present (2024) and is reviewed annually.

HSP can sometimes cause rapidly changing symptoms and members may make repeat applications. However, a grant to any individual will be not be considered unless it is at least two years since a previous application.

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Next review: 2030