

Proposed Fee and Subscription Rates 2027



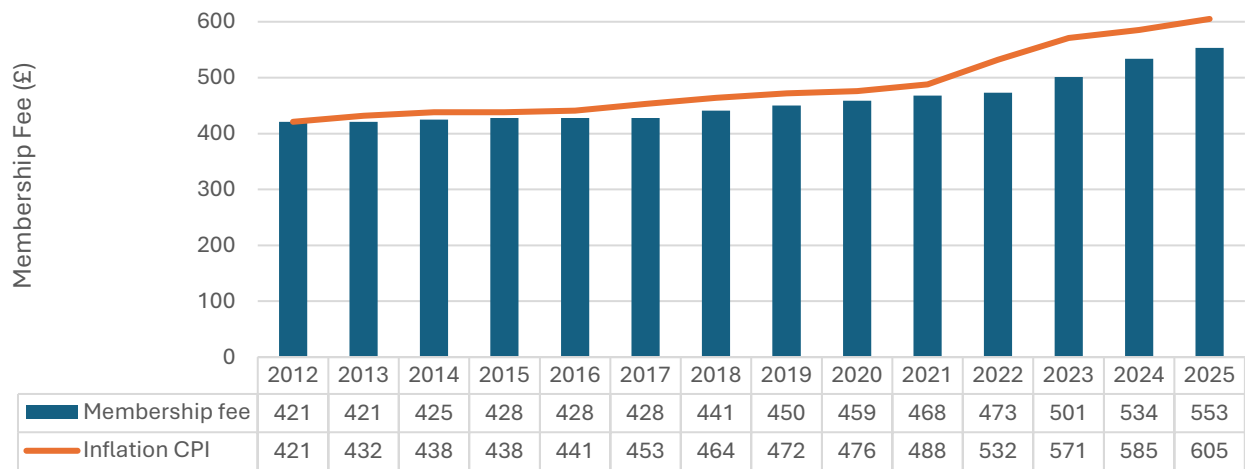
The Board of Trustees is recommending a 3.25% increase in membership fees for 2027, with a 3.75% increase for members in overseas country bands A and B and 3.25% increase for country bands C and D. This recommendation has been made against a backdrop of continuing economic uncertainty and reflects the need to set next year's fees before the full picture for 2027 is known. When fees for 2026 were agreed, inflation was expected to return towards the 2% target set by the Bank of England. However, inflationary pressures have since re-emerged, with higher global energy prices and wider economic uncertainty affecting the outlook for the year ahead. As the Bank of England noted in its April 2026 Monetary Policy Report, the conflict in the Middle East has made the path of inflation more uncertain, and higher energy prices are expected to feed through into the UK economy over time.

The proposed increase is intended to help the College sustain and strengthen the services that members value. Membership income supports the professional, educational and policy work including Faculties, Devolved Nations, Divisions and Special Interest Groups as well as the staff, systems and operational support needed to deliver these effectively. It also helps ensure that the College remains resilient and able to respond to growing expectations and demands, while continuing to invest in the quality support it provides to members.

It is also important to recognise that, in recent years, membership fees have generally increased by less than inflation. That has helped to moderate fee rises for members, but it has also meant that the full effect of inflation has not always been reflected in subscription income. As a result, some of those pressures have had to be absorbed elsewhere across the College. The current recommendation therefore represents a measured step towards maintaining a fairer and more sustainable balance between affordability for members and the real cost of delivering College services.

The chart below shows that membership fee increases have remained below inflation over a sustained period. Using 2012 fees as a baseline, if fees had risen fully in line with inflation, the 2025 membership fee would have been £605, that is £52 higher than the fee actually set for 2025. In practice, this understates the gap, as the same pattern of below inflation increases was already evident before 2012, meaning the true difference is likely to be greater than £52.

Membership Fee Increase Compared with Average CPI Increase 2012 - 2025



Overall, the recommendation is intended to balance two important considerations: keeping membership as affordable as possible, while protecting the quality, sustainability and long-term value of what membership provides. The proposal also continues the College’s existing support for members who need additional assistance, including reduced or waived fees in specific circumstances such as parental leave and long-term sickness. In that way, the recommendation seeks to combine financial responsibility with fairness and continued support for members.

Dr Ian Hall, Treasurer

June 2026