

National Back Exchange

Expenses & Travel Policy



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Version: 1.3
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Policy Objective

The objective of the Expenses and Travel Policy is to provide members with guidance to enable a claim against legitimate costs incurred during the performance of activities on behalf of NBE.

The policy will also ensure that adequate controls are maintained by the Association, thereby safeguarding against unnecessary and excessive expenditure.

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1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 Expenses are defined as “a cost or charge for subsistence, entertainment, travel, accommodation and sundries incurred wholly, exclusively and necessarily in performing duties on behalf of NBE”.
- 1.2 A claim for expenses should always be minimised and careful consideration must be given to whether expenses are necessary to the performance of the activity before incurring the expenditure. Where possible authorisation of the expense should be obtained before the event (**Appendix 2**).
- 1.3 Expenditure will only be reimbursed on receipt of a fully completed NBE expenses claim form (**Appendix 1**) where valid VAT receipts are attached (credit / debit card slips are not acceptable). Honoraria and expenses for specific events will be approved prior to these events by agreement of the Board.
- 1.4 Separate forms must be submitted for each episode of expense.
- 1.5 Expenses claim forms must be authorised by the appropriate Board member (see Standing Financial Instructions) who is responsible for both adherence to this policy and also for checking the accuracy of the claim.
- 1.6 The directions contained in this document relate to all expenses including those incurred by the use of any NBE debit card, except where required at Conference.
- 1.7 Expenses will be paid by electronic transfer to the recipient’s bank account.

2. Subsistence

- 2.1 Subsistence is defined as “the necessary costs of an evening meal whilst staying overnight on NBE business”. It will be paid at the rate of £ 20.00 per person on provision of valid receipts when travelling on NBE business and it is unreasonable to eat at home or the member is not staying at home.
- 2.2 Business entertaining is acceptable to the value of £ 20.00 per person provided that the total amount is authorised in advance as per the Standing Financial Instructions (**Appendix 2**). Full details of the person(s) attending, and the businesses they represent must be provided on the expenses claim form.
- 2.3 A gratuity will not be reimbursed by NBE, and care must be taken to ensure that a cover charge is not applied.

3. Travel

- 3.1 By Car – Members are encouraged to use their own vehicles for NBE business travel unless it is cheaper to travel by other means of transport and



personal car use cannot be justified. Business mileage, including a passenger rate, will be reimbursed at the level stipulated on the expenses claim form **(Appendix 1)**.

- 3.2 Car Parking – Members should park in the most cost-effective area, all claims must be supported by presentation of a parking ticket with an authorised expenses claim form.
- 3.3 By Taxi – Taxi fares to a maximum of £ 20 per journey will be paid and sharing should be considered where possible. All claims must be supported by a valid receipt accompanying an authorised expenses claim form. **(Appendix 2)**.
- 3.4 By Air – Economy / Budget Class should be used for all flights of up to 12 hours or more duration. Members should endeavour to plan far enough ahead to ensure maximum savings can be made from advanced bookings. The lowest cost routing fare should always be requested. It is not permitted to cash in one class of ticket in exchange for more seats at a cheaper rate in order to travel with another person. Members should note that it is cheaper to change flights using an existing ticket than to purchase a new ticket and claim a refund. Preference in airlines should not be requested for personal rewards
- 3.5 Procedure – Complete an Expenses and Accommodation Approval Form **(Appendix 2)** and obtain authorisation from the appropriate Board member (see Standing Financial Instructions). Please note overseas airfares must be authorised by the Finance Director. Where a visa is required, these should be obtained following approval, but prior to booking of travel. Confirmation of visa approval (if applicable) and associated costs must be emailed to the Administration function. Once authorised, airlines can be booked directly by the member via the internet. Changes to travel arrangements including cancellation must be given to the Administration Office as soon as possible as delays in notification may result in unnecessary costs being incurred by NBE.
- 3.6 By Rail – All rail journeys should be booked directly by the member and reimbursed through expenses in the normal manner. The cheapest class of ticket, and routing fare, should be used for all journeys and members should endeavour to plan far enough ahead (at least 14 days) to ensure maximum savings can be made from advanced bookings. Please note all journeys must be authorised by the Finance Director. Once authorised, travel can be booked directly via the internet. Changes to travel arrangements including cancellation must be given to the Administration Office as soon as possible as delays in notification may result in unnecessary costs being incurred by NBE.
- 3.7 Conference – All Board members are required to be present at Conference to
 - (i) deliver reports,
 - (ii) make themselves available to members, and
 - (iii) general support for Conference logistics

This being a requirement of the job description and expenses will be reimbursed against travel at the level stipulated in the Expenses Claim Form **(Appendix 1)**.



4. Accommodation

- 4.1 Accommodation may be booked at NBE expense where travel to a meeting requires the member to leave his / her home before 06.30 or to return after 22.00 on the same day. When arranging internal events i.e., training and / or meetings, start times should be set to keep expenses to a minimum.
- 4.2 Appropriate budget hotels should be considered in the first instance and pre booked where the overnight stay is foreseeable. NBE will meet the cost of a room up to a maximum of £120 including breakfast and evening meal up to an additional £ 20.00. Drinks, newspaper, telephone calls will not be reimbursed. Completion of an Expenses and Accommodation Approval Form (**Appendix 2**) including appropriate authorisation from the appropriate Board member (see Standing Financial Instructions) will be necessary in the case of overseas accommodation.
- 4.3 In the case of larger meetings these should be arranged by the Administration Office and an invoice for accommodation and subsistence requested. Drinks, newspaper, telephone calls will not be reimbursed. All bills must be checked thoroughly on departure before signing or paying.
- 4.4 Conference – All Board members are required to be present at Conference to
- (i) deliver reports,
 - (ii) make themselves available to members, and
 - (iii) support the Conference Coordinator.

This being a requirement of the Job Description food and accommodation will be arranged and met by National Back Exchange.

5. Version Control Information and History

Date	Version no.	Status	Summary of changes	Consulting group / person	Changes made by
2016	1		New Policy	Exec	
June 2020	1.2	Active	Review	Exec	Treasurer
Nov 2021	1.3	Active	Reference to Executive Committee changed to Board of Directors	Board of Directors	Vice Chair



Reason for Expense [Name of Meeting, etc] :	Post code
Date of Proposed Expense :	Daytime tel :
Email address :	
Signature of Claimant	Date of signature

All claims must be in line with NBE Standing Financial Instructions

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURE – please provide supporting evidence if available	
Air Fare	£
Accommodation	£
Subsistence	£
Taxi	£
Mileage @ 40p per mile	£
Other – please specify	£
TOTAL	£

OFFICE USE ONLY		
Date Received in Office		
Authorisation approved	YES	NO
Authorisation Approved by Finance Director (or Chair in Finance Director’s absence)		
Date approved		
Date claimant notified of Approval / Non-Approval		
Reason for Approval/Non-Approval		

Please email Approval Form with relevant approval to administration before incurring any expenses.
Email: admin@nationalbackexchange.org

