

What do I get for my membership fee?

Every now and again, members ask what they get for their membership fee

This article will explain

- how the association generates income through membership fees and other means
- how funding is allocated to support the work of the association
- the processes that are in place to ensure that BATOD's funding is used effectively to the benefit of members.

As a professional association, BATOD is a not-for-profit organisation. It does not qualify for charitable status. Nor is it a registered business. Whilst membership is a key source of income, the association works hard to bring in additional income to ensure members receive a range of benefits to support them in their work with deaf children and young people and their families.

Membership fees account for 60-70% of the association's income – and cover a similar proportion of the annual expenditure (www.batod.org.uk/memberships). Additional income to meet essential costs is generated through website advertising, advertising in our publications, other sponsorship arrangements and through applications for grant funding.

Crucially, BATOD works as efficiently as possible to keep costs to a minimum. The association has 1fte paid employee – currently Teresa Quail, who works as National Executive Officer.

For all other activity, the association depends on an army of volunteers who generously commit their time and expertise through Steering Group (SG), National Executive Council (NEC)

and through the committees of the regions and nations.

So, what DO I get for my membership fee?

The most tangible benefits of membership include:

- The BATOD Magazine and journal
- A wealth of continually updated information and resources on the BATOD website and through regular newsletters
- Access to high quality specialist training through national and regional events
- Practical guidance and information such as exam access arrangements and modification
- Opportunity to seek bespoke advice from the BATOD consultant re individual professional concerns.

However, BATOD also:

- represents Teachers of the Deaf and other associated professionals, responding to consultations and informing policy-making at national and local level
- actively influences agencies which govern legislation, pay and conditions of Teachers of the Deaf
- contributes to the development and quality assurance of mandatory qualifications
- works in partnership with a range of organisations to promote the work of professionals in deaf education, to improve choice and outcomes for the families with whom we work.

How is funding allocated?

The honorary treasurer has the day-to-day responsibility of managing the finances. However, all decisions go through Steering Group and NEC and reflect the requirements of the BATOD constitution.

Each year, the treasurer will draw up a budget, for approval by SG and NEC, predicting income and expenditure for the year ahead. As with all good budget management, NEC requires the treasurer to set a budget where predicted expenditure does not exceed anticipated income, to ensure the sustainability of the association.

Key areas of expenditure include:

- National Executive Officer role
- Publications
- Website
- General running costs, including meeting costs, essential IT and accessibility arrangements
- Funding to meet expense of committees in regions and nations.

Although CPD events are a key element of BATOD activity, it is clearly stated within the constitution that any CPD event, such as a conference or webinar, should be cost neutral. Costs of an event must be met by income



generated for that event – so by delegate fees and sponsorship. For this reason, all events must be charged for, although organisers will keep costs as reasonable as possible and work to offset charges by income from exhibitors.

How are the finances monitored?

Once the budget has been agreed by SG and NEC, the treasurer monitors expenditure.

Finance is a standing item on each NEC and SG agenda. The treasurer will report on income and expenditure, identifying any significant variances in the budget and any action required and responding to queries within the meeting.

Final accounts are scrutinised by a qualified accountant at the end of each year. These accounts are then published in the BATOD annual report and presented for approval at the AGM.

Transparency of the accounts and members' engagement in the process are key elements in the long-term sustainability of the association. Careful management of finances has enabled the association over the years to accrue healthy reserves. These reserves allow NEC to plan

confidently – despite unforeseen circumstances such as the current pandemic.

When the reserves are higher, NEC will allocate funding to short term projects, depending on context and needs of members at that time. This year, additional funding has been allocated to the update of the audiology refreshers for example and the development of online courses related to the language of examinations.

If you have any further queries re the benefits of BATOD or types of membership available, please see – link to membership page – www.batod.org.uk/memberships

If you have any additional queries, or wish to become involved in work of BATOD contact Teresa Quail via exec@batod.org.uk. If you are interested in learning more about how NEC works, please see Paul Simpson's article for the May 2021 magazine edition.

If you would like to consider joining NEC follow this link. NEC nomination form for 2022-2024 –

www.batod.org.uk/elections-to-batod-nec-2022-2024 ■

BATOD membership: developing professional world partners in deaf education

BATOD is a professional body which offers a 'community' of dialogue and information.

If a UK-based BATOD member has an established involvement with a developing world project, they can make a recommendation for the head teacher of the school for the deaf or teacher in a deaf resource base associated with their project to be registered with BATOD as an online 'overseas special member' at no charge to either member.

- BATOD has an expectation for the overseas special member to submit an annual magazine article or information for a blog post. BATOD encourages the overseas special member to be the author/co-author of the article submitted.
- The BATOD overseas special member must have internet access in order to access the online resources which may be of interest.
- Online members can access the five magazine editions/year in the electronic version. The BATOD magazine frequently features articles about deaf education from across the world. Thus, our special overseas members can share with and learn from UK and other worldwide professional peers in deaf and deaf related education.

BATOD

Please don't share your BATOD membership...

We are aware that some personal memberships are being used as school memberships

I am sure most members know that we do not have school memberships – just personal memberships.

If you choose to make your magazines, journals and other information from BATOD available school-wide, you are affecting the work that the Association is able to do on behalf of its membership.

It is only by keeping our membership numbers high that we can continue to support our members in all aspects of their work, run good and successful conferences and contribute to policy development throughout the UK.

Encourage your colleagues, SENCO and classroom assistants to join BATOD to enjoy the benefits of membership



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British Association of
Teachers of the Deaf

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Communication

Spoken language
bilingualism
Language Therapy
in BSL
Why we need to
talk about work

Join BATOD to get THE Magazine for professionals in deaf education (0-25)

The cover features a collage of five photographs: two women standing outdoors, a boy and a woman at a table with cards, a man signing, a woman with a child, and a child holding dolls.