



Expenses Policy

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Lead: Finance Officer

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What are 'expenses'?

Expenses are costs that BfN staff and volunteers incur on behalf of BfN.

They are treated as 'out of pocket' expenses, meaning BfN will endeavour to refund any money legitimately spent on an authorised purpose to ensure staff and volunteers do not suffer financially in the course of their activities for BfN.

There are restrictions on expense payments legally through HMRC regulations, and also through BfN's duty to manage finances to maximise charitable activities

Can I claim expenses?

If you are a BfN employee or volunteer based in a BfN project, you should be able to claim expenses – your project or line manager will need to authorise these. Claims should be submitted to your line manager in the first instance.

If you are not based at a BfN project you should check with your BfN contact or the central office finance team to make sure you can claim expenses.

BfN Tutors and Directors can claim expenses directly with the central office, all requests to be sent to expenses@breastfeedingnetwork.org.uk

If you are in any doubt whether or not you will be able to claim for your expenses, you must check with your project/line manager or supervisor before you incur the expense.

The following table summarises who expenses should be submitted to and approved by:

Staff Member	Contact for Approval
Central Team Managers	Chief Executive Officer via PA
Finance Officer	Chief Executive Officer via PA
PA to Chief Executive	Chief Executive Officer via PA
Admin Staff Team	Central Support Manager
Project Manager Staff	Programme Manager
Directors (excluding Treasurer's expenses)	Treasurer via PA
Treasurer	Chair of Board via PA
BfN Tutors	Finance Officer/Chief Executive via PA
BfN Tutor employed as part of project	Project Manager
Project staff	Project Manager

An electronic copy of the claim should be sent initially to the relevant contact for approval. They will email it on to the Finance department by way of approval, and copy in the claimant. A printed copy of the form, along with all receipts, should be forwarded on to the Finance department. Once both the authorisation and the receipts have been received by Finance, the payment will be made.

Tutor/Supervisor Fees

Fees are claimed on a different form, and will be paid at different times from expenses. Please ensure you use the relevant form or it will result in a delay in payment.

What can I claim for, and how much should I claim?

Below is a table of common expenses:

Expense	What to claim for	How to value claim
Train travel	Cheapest reasonable journey	ticket value
Car mileage	Shortest reasonable journey	40p per mile
Parking	Parking needed for BfN activity	ticket value
Food/Subsistence	Meals when away from home for BfN	See table below. No claim can be made for alcoholic drinks
Overnight accommodation	Hotel room when away from home	Room rate. The CEO's PA can assist in seeking most economical rates.
Other Expense	Expense authorised by BfN	Value of expense

There are various limits on what and how much can be claimed to be aware of:

Limits and Restrictions on claims

The 40p mileage rate is only available for the first 10,000 miles an individual claims for in each tax year. The rate is also subject to review annually by HMRC.

Meal	Time restrictions	Amount
Breakfast	Leaving home before 7.00am	Maximum of £5.00
Lunch	While away from normal place of work	Maximum of £6.50
Dinner	While work means you will not return home before 8.00pm, or working for 12 consecutive hours	Maximum of £15.00

Wherever possible, receipts or other proof of purchase should be retained and included with the expense claim. BfN has a duty to maintain checks against fraud and is not obligated to pay expenses that cannot be documented.

Staff and volunteers should not incur large expenses on behalf of BfN with the expectation that these will be refunded if they have not been authorised. **Always seek authorisation from a manager or the central team prior to incurring the expense. If the expense is on behalf of a project you should contact the central team and it may be paid for by BfN directly.**

BfN will not pay any expense claim for the purchase of alcohol.

There are also other key points to keep in mind when claiming:

1. You have an obligation to retain records of income and may require these if completing a self-assessment tax return
2. There is a 3 month time restrictions on expense claims – you must claim within 3 months
3. To ensure BfN accounts are as accurate as possible, any claims from 1st January to 31st March should be received by 31st March each year where possible
4. BfN endeavour to pay expenses as quickly as possible and usually within 1 month of receipt, but please be aware that delays can occur with this process.
5. To help us process expense claims effectively please always make sure your claim is complete including bank details/receipts etc. Incomplete or inaccurate forms will result in a delay in processing and payment.

The staff handbook can be found here <https://breastfeedingnetwork.org.uk/wp-content/pdfs/governance/Employee%20Handbook%20Feb%202015.pdf>

Any suggestions or questions regarding the staff handbook should be sent to julie.mcneil@breastfeedingnetwork.org.uk