

PROOFS OF EXPENDITURE GUIDANCE 2023-24

The Grant Monitoring Form and Proofs of Expenditure (POEs), when requested by Contact, must be submitted by **Thursday 2nd May 2024**. Not all forums will need to submit their POEs this year.

Format accepted for Proofs of expenditure

If required, proofs of expenditure must be scanned and submitted via a OneDrive secure link or sent (Password protected) by email. If this presents a problem for your forum, please contact Ben Bennett to discuss how we can support you: pcfgrants@contact.org.uk

Please note:

If we do request your forum's POEs, in some circumstances they will need be shared with relevant members of the forum to confirm their legitimacy, or accuracy.

We may be required to share data and POEs with other funding bodies for fraud prevention purposes, if fraud is suspected, or investigated.

What makes a proof of expenditure acceptable, or unacceptable?

It's important to be clear about this because unacceptable proofs of expenditure accompanying your grant monitoring form will be deducted from your forum's total grant spend. This will result in an underspend which means that it will be deducted from your following year's grant.

Please contact your Parent Carer Participation Advisor to discuss any POEs that you think might be unacceptable at the earliest opportunity. The sooner issues are identified; the easier it is for problems to be resolved. Legible copies of your forum's POEs must be included and referenced with the monitoring and reporting form if requested.

Acceptable proofs of expenditure (POEs)

INVOICES

- name, address, phone number, and email address of provider
- date of invoice, date and details of work, service, or product
- total amount claimed
- name/address of forum/grant holder who the invoice should be made out to (or to the forum c/o Contact if a Contact held grant)

EXPENSE CLAIM FORMS

- provide all the information outlined in this guidance (below) and on our template
 - signed by the claimant
 - signed as approved by at least one forum officer
- <https://contact.org.uk/about-us/resource-library/parent-carer->

	<p>participation-parental-expenses-claim-form-contact-held-grants/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not approved by a spouse, partner, or relative
REMUNERATION CLAIM FORMS OR INVOICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with full information as outlined in this guidance (below) and our online template signed by the claimant signed as approved by a different forum officer not approved by a spouse, partner, or relative
RECEIPTS OR TRAVEL TICKETS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> correct financial year from 1st April 2023, up to, and including 31st March 2024 legible (we are able to read it) if claiming mileage, should include detail of point A to B, total no. of miles, and total cost claimed per journey
INVOICES, RECEIPTS, CLAIM FORMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> must show the amount (percentage) of expenditure claimed against the participation grant (as opposed to another funding stream) where a proportion of expenditure on an item is from another funding stream, it is especially important that the parent carer participation element is demonstrated to have contributed to outputs and outcomes which strengthen participation
PAYSLIPS OR PAYROLL EXTRACTS FOR SALARY COSTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> must indicate the hours worked, and hourly rate on forum work monitoring form must outline how the work done strengthens participation with clear outputs and outcomes for their work if invoices are submitted for a worker, there should be a breakdown of their time in hours and brief list of completed tasks (or role description)
BANK STATEMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> acceptable as a proof only in exceptional circumstances in agreement with your Parent Carer Participation Advisor must be accompanied with copies of cashed cheques (which you can obtain from your bank)

Unacceptable proof of expenditure

INVOICES OR EXPENSE CLAIM FORMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with limited information that are unsigned by the claimant that have been signed off by the person claiming them, or their spouse, partner, or relative that have not been approved by an officer of the forum that are unclear, obscured, or illegible
STATEMENTS DELIVERY NOTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for work not yet carried out proforma invoices or quotes

QUOTATIONS	
RECEIPTS OR INVOICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from wrong financial year i.e. before 1st April 2023 or after 31st March 2024 • except by prior agreement, if a service spans two financial years (annual subscriptions or insurance renewals are ok)
RECEIPTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with missing information • no date • illegible information • card receipts with no detail of what was purchased
PETTY CASH VOUCHERS OR PETROL RECEIPTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i.e. without expense claim forms showing mileage
FINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parking fines, or any other fines, are never accepted
ALCOHOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any expenditure for alcohol (these will automatically be deducted) from your monitoring total
PAYSLIPS OR PAYROLL EXTRACTS FOR SALARY COSTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for officers or practitioners from an organisation where there is no additional evidence that the work they did strengthened participation • or with no clear outputs and outcomes for work
INVOICES OR INTERNAL RECHARGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from the grant holding organisation which are not backed up with any other evidence of spend or a breakdown of what they provided the forum with (value for money) • no other evidence of outputs or outcomes which strengthened participation
INVOICES OR RECEIPTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • which have been fully claimed against another source from a different funder (duplicate or double funding)

PLEASE NOTE

Date of POE (proof of expenditure):

- The date of a proof of expenditure will normally be in the financial year 2023/24
- A proof can be dated after the end of the financial year (31st March 2024), as long as it relates to goods purchased, activities which occurred, or services that were delivered in the previous financial year (2023/24).

Illustrated by the example below:

You hold an event in early March 2024, but the venue does not invoice you until late April 2024. This can be paid for using the 2023/24 grant, as you are expecting it and have accounted for it - it is the date when the service or activity happened which matters, not the date of invoicing.

This is the principle of accrued payment. An accrued payment is when a payment is recognised in the accounts before the money has been paid out. It is advisable to

request any outstanding invoices as soon as possible so that you can include them within the 2023/24 grant monitoring.

Referencing:

- Each proof of expenditure (POE) should be referenced in some way, whether that is simply by writing a number on the item, or some other system of referencing that relates to budget headings e.g. Events (proof E1, E2 etc.). These reference numbers/letters can be listed on your financial spreadsheet and/or the grant monitoring form. **You do not need to include these reference numbers on the online form if you are also submitting a spreadsheet which has this information on it.**

Contact Monitoring Spreadsheet:

- If you don't have an accounts package, or have an accounts package that is not able to separate out different grants, we advise you to use the monitoring spreadsheet provided on the Parent Carer Participation Grants page of Contact's website to record and keep track of your grant expenditure.

Small Sundry Items:

- Although you need to account for all expenditure, you do not have to include proofs of expenditure for small sundry items of less than £20 each, for example the purchase of milk or other small provisions for an office, or one-off unexpected parking costs. However, sundry items which are not documented by individual proofs of expenditure should not exceed £250.

Lost a Proof?

- If you lose a proof of expenditure, please contact the provider to try to obtain a duplicate invoice. Failing this, a copy of the relevant bank statement showing that the money left the forum's/grant holder's account and a copy of the cashed cheque showing the payee's name will be acceptable.

Expenses:

- No expenses should be paid in advance or without appropriate proofs of expenditure i.e. receipts for train tickets, parking tickets.
- Petrol receipts are not acceptable; mileage should be claimed at the agreed rate, and in accordance with your expenses policy.
- Expenses submitted from receipt books, stubs, or handwritten on pieces of paper may be rejected and classed as underspend to be deducted from the following year's grant.

Expense Claim Form:

All claims for expenses should be submitted on an expense claim form which as a minimum should contain the following information:

- Date of the claim
- Name, address and phone numbers/email address of the claimant
- Date, and details of the activity

- If travel expenses – where from and to – if a return journey etc.
- Amount of mileage for the journey (journey A to B)
- Signature of the claimant to confirm that the expenses were legitimate and incurred on behalf of forum business
- Signature of at least one forum officer approving the claim (not a spouse, partner, or relative of the claimant)
- Attach receipts for everything other than mileage - such as bus fares, taxi fares etc.

If the claimant has lost a receipt, you should refer to your Financial Control Policy to decide whether you will allow the expense and should indicate on the form where this is the case. We will not allow payments with lost receipts which total more than £10, unless there are exceptional circumstances, or additional proof of the expenditure.

- We have provided a template expenses claim form on the parent participation grant pages at <https://contact.org.uk/about-us/resource-library/parent-carer-participation-parental-expenses-claim-form-contact-held-grants/>

GDPR & personal security

- Any POEs, especially parent carer expense claim forms should not display the full bank details of the claimant (unless you are claiming via a Contact held grant). If your claim form does show this information, please ensure that only the last 4 digits are visible.
- Any proofs sent via email should be password protected as email isn't always a secure mode of communication.

Remuneration Claim Form:

Remuneration claims and invoices should as a minimum should contain the following information:

- Date of the claim
- Name, address, phone number/email address of the claimant
- Date and details of the activity being claimed for – i.e. what meeting/for how long
- Amount being claimed
- Signature of the claimant to confirm that they were legitimately representing the forum
- Signature of at least one forum officer approving the claim (not a spouse, partner, or relative of the claimant)

If the forum issues a payment for an employed, or self-employed worker that includes both fees for staffing and remuneration, there will need to be clear supporting documentation to outline what the remuneration was awarded for (e.g. the meetings attended), the hourly rate paid, and who approved it. Information relating to the outcomes of this remunerated activity should also be included in the monitoring form.

Categories:

Please see below descriptions of categories used in financial budgeting. These are listed in the first page of the **Contact Monitoring Spreadsheet** entitled **“Introduction”**:

Category	Description (<i>these are examples and not exhaustive</i>)
Events	Venue costs and refreshments for events open to those outside of the forum, consulting with parents about specific issues and encouraging participation and membership of the forum
Meetings	A meeting would for example cover the meeting of the forum
Training	Costs associated with training forum members and professionals in parent participation.
Staffing costs	Staffing costs should not exceed 75% of the budget for the year. Please specify the type of staffing cost for example 'parent participation worker' or 'admin' in the 'Other Details' column
Hard to reach	Costs specifically associated with reaching out to traditionally 'hard to reach' areas of the community, whether this be to single parents or members of minority ethnic groups etc.
Infrastructure	For example, rent and premises bills, general stationery (but not for example a newsletter which would go under Development of Information & Resources), stamps, printer cartridges and computing equipment
Develop of information & resources	Development of newsletters, leaflets and other such sources of information which promote the work to inform all parents within the area about activities and outcomes
Web development	Development of websites, web-based information and online training etc.
Parent carer expenses	Reimbursing parents' expenses for their involvement in parent participation activities, including travel and childcare costs
Parent carer remuneration	Paying or otherwise remunerating parent carers who are actively involved in strategic decision making and planning, or other ad hoc activities under an agreed policy/agreement

Contact has a webpage with useful tips and resources on fraud for forums:

<https://contact.org.uk/get-involved/parent-carer-participation/fraud-advice-for-parent-carer-forums/>