



JRCT POWER AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

VACANCY FOR GRANT COMMITTEE MEMBER WITH EXPERTISE IN CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Background

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) wishes to appoint a co-opted member to join its Power and Accountability Committee from October 2020. The Committee is looking in particular for someone with experience of issues of corporate accountability.

Under the Power and Accountability programme, the Trust makes grants to support groups working to strengthen corporate accountability, democratic accountability and responsible media. This voluntary role is an opportunity to inform the decision making of one of the main UK funders on this agenda.

JRCT is an endowed, charitable Quaker foundation based in York, England. The Power and Accountability Committee currently comprises four members of JRCT's board of trustees, together with three co-opted members, supported by two staff. Further information on the history, structure and work of the Trust can be found on [our website](#).

The Trust's Power and Accountability programme is working towards a vision of a world in which power is more equally shared, and in which powerful institutions are more responsive and accountable to wider society and more aligned with the long-term public interest.

JRCT is a responsive grant maker and we seek to support a variety of approaches that support systemic change from groups with ideas, expertise and passion across our broad programme areas. The programme mainly funds work in the UK, with a small number of grants for wider European work. For details on the work we fund see our [grants policy for the programme](#).

What is involved?

The role of a co-opted member is to complement the trustees' grant-making knowledge with expertise in corporate accountability. Co-optees contribute to reflections on the context within which we make our grants and advise on which new applications to support as well as other issues that arise in our work. We are looking for someone with knowledge of the policy landscape and current challenges and opportunities and an awareness of organisations

working in the field. For current work areas, please read our [grants policy](#). To see the organisations we fund, have a look at [our recent grant awards](#).

The main work of the committee is assessing grant applications. Co-opted members are fully involved in this process, which includes reading and commenting on proposals, and contributing at the committee meetings. Overall, the role requires a total commitment of around five days of meetings per year as outlined below, plus some additional time for commenting on applications.

The committee usually meets three times a year, typically in February, June and October. These meetings are usually in central London, and typically run from 11.00 to 15.00, although during the pandemic we are holding video meetings. Co-optees also participate in assessment meetings with applicants. This commitment is variable, but typically might require one or two days during the year, usually in London.

The appointment would be for three years in the first instance, with the possibility of renewal for a further period of three years.

This is a voluntary role, but all reasonable expenses are paid - including travel, accommodation and childcare if required. We will also meet claims towards loss of earnings incurred as a result of working for the Trust. We want to ensure financial concerns are not an obstacle to committee membership, so if you are interested in the role but have any financial concerns that would deter you, please don't hesitate to speak to us.

Person specification

The committee is seeking an individual who will be able to contribute effectively to the full range of the committee's work, but with particular expertise relevant to our interest in addressing corporate accountability. This includes consideration of corporate behaviour in relation to a range of issues such as climate change, human rights, bribery and corruption. We fund work which supports increased accountability and responsiveness among companies to the long term public interest and improved corporate governance, structures, reporting or regulation. We also support work that improves access to justice for those who suffer as a result of company actions.

The successful candidate is likely to have direct experience of working on corporate accountability, either through working in a corporate setting, affecting change directly, or working as an activist to support systems change. Applicants with legal expertise would be welcome. Experience of advocating for, or facilitating redress for, marginalised groups who may have experienced corporate harm or abuse is of particular interest.

Co-optees are expected to have some knowledge of the voluntary sector, but could themselves be working in, or have a background in, any sector. We aim to ensure the committee is as diverse as possible, including men and women, younger people as well as older, and people from different Black and minority ethnic communities.

Co-optees should be in sympathy with the Quaker values of the Trust, which include a commitment to equality and the unique worth of every individual, to nonviolence, and to honesty and integrity. JRCT welcomes applications from people of any faith or none.

Please note

JRCT operates a conflict of interest policy in respect of all its programme areas. Applicants are requested to fully disclose professional associations with any former or current JRCT grantees. Ideally, we prefer to appoint individuals who are not directly involved in organisations that currently receive funding or are likely to seek funding from the Trust.

To express an interest

If you would like an informal discussion about the role, please contact Katharine Knox on +44 (0)1904 627810 or Katharine.Knox@jrct.org.uk

To apply, please send us:

- Your contact details, including e-mail address
- A statement, of not more than 250 words, describing what you would bring to the role
- A current CV.

Please send us this information by e-mail to: katharine.knox@jrct.org.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is **9am on Monday 17 August**. All applications will be acknowledged. If we are interested in appointing you, we will arrange a video call to discuss this further, provisionally on **Monday 24 August** – please keep this date free if possible.

July 2020