

Cochrane meetings are **unaffordable** and Cochrane cannot depend on **taxpayers** to subsidise their activities



The Problem

Cochrane is a large organisation with groups with widely dispersed teams. **Cochrane Schizophrenia** is no exception with the editorial base in the UK—split between England and Scotland, editors in 7 nations and over 1300 reviewers in 41 countries. Employers, funders and Cochrane expect training and support – and some face-to-face time is necessary for this. Core funding, from UK’s NIHR, does include support for meeting.

Aim: To investigate annual Cochrane meeting costs.

Methods

Crude estimates of costs (mostly registration, travel and accommodation) for only the core Cochrane Review Group (CRG) team (3 staff and Co-eds) for financial year 2018-19.

Conclusions

UK funding for Cochrane work is in a privileged position with [for Cochrane Schizophrenia] around £3000/ annum for travel and meetings. With a local Colloquium, 2018-19 should have been a year to be within budget. It was not. Expenditure of public funds in this way is unsustainable. Cochrane has considerable resource and supports its staff to travel and attend necessary meetings. For some meetings Cochrane grants one free place per CRG. Cochrane income remains dependent on investment of public funds and yet the necessary networking depends on yet more taxpayer investment. Something has to give.



			£
May 2018	Team meeting - Bonshaw, Scotland (ME base)	3 people, 1 car x1	173
July 2018	Meeting with Cochrane KT team - London, UK	2 people, 1 train x1, 1 bus x1	262
Oct 2018	Colloquium	2 people, 1 plane x1, 1 train x1, 2 beds x2	4929
	Biennial Editor’s meeting - Edinburgh, Scotland	2 people, 2 trains x2, 2 beds x2	
March 2019	Cochrane UK Contributors - Oxford, UK	3 people, 3 trains x3, 3 beds x3	1061
March 2019	Network meeting - London, UK	3 people, 3 trains x3	495
April 2019	Midyear Meeting - Krakow, Poland	1 person, 1 plane x1, 1 bed x1	294
Total			7214

Figures do not take into account the few presentations at academic meetings, the considerable savings (~25%) afforded by staying overnight with colleagues/friends, or additional costs to members of editorial team outside of the UK to attend.



The financial cost of Cochrane meetings: an inexpensive[!] year in the UK (2018-19)

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