

Retrospective grant applications policy statement

Policy position

The MS Society will not award grants retrospectively, subject to the one exception below. This means that we will not consider grant requests for purchases already made, in full or in part, or for which a deposit has been paid or an order placed.

Short breaks exception

The only exception to this policy is where the supply of suitable short break facilities are limited and the applicant either needs to make a booking, or place a deposit quickly to reserve it. Suitable in this context means facilities that meet the additional needs a person may have as a result of their MS.

This may include:

- the need to have a wheelchair accessible room, or inter-connecting rooms for a carer
- the availability of on-site care provision
- the need to book at a specific time (e.g. to accommodate a carer's needs)
- the need to take a break at very short notice

In this situation an individual should contact a member of the **Grants Team** to secure written authorisation before making a booking. Securing that written agreement does not mean that we are agreeing to make a grant, but we will assess the application for the grant in the usual way and would not decline the application solely because a booking had already been made.

Policy rationale

We are dependent on the generosity of our donors to fund our activities. We undertake an ambitious programme of work across the MS Society with many competing demands for limited resources. All grant applications are assessed against a needs criteria so we can ensure that our limited funds reach those people with MS, their families and carers who are most in need and would benefit from a grant.

If we were to fund grants retrospectively:

- it would be difficult to target our grant funding effectively and meet the needs of people with MS, their families and carers as their needs arose.
- we could be encouraging people to put themselves at financial risk by committing to purchases without knowing whether they would be reimbursed by a grant.

Exception authorisation

If an exception as outlined above should occur, applicants must obtain written authorisation from a member of the **Grants Team** before making a booking, or placing a deposit or any other payment; to do so without written authorisation would make the application ineligible.

Financial risk

If an applicant places a deposit to secure a booking, even when they have secured written authorisation from the **Grants Team**, they do so entirely at their own financial risk, as a grant application to the MS Society does not mean that a grant will be awarded.