

Policy on Pausing Membership

SiLC recognises that life events or career changes may affect the ability of SiLCs to renew their membership. We want to support SiLCs to retain their membership and help them to retain their professional qualifications – for example, if they are looking for work, then their SiLC and SQP status will support them in doing this and keeping engaged with the community. We therefore offer two options: a temporary discount or a pause in membership for up to three years.

For those that have experienced a reduction in income compared with the previous year or a change in circumstances that may affect their ability to pay, a temporary discount can be requested. This equates to a 30% discount on renewal fees payable and can be applied for a maximum of two years in a row. Relevant circumstances include the following but would be considered on a case-by-case basis:

- Maternity/ parental or adoption leave,
- Long term sickness,
- Unemployment/ redundancy,
- Income less than the real living wage (or nearest local equivalent), or
- Career break or sabbatical.

This option would enable the individual to continue to practice as a SiLC and remain on the SiLC and SQP registers. They would also continue to review all communications from the SiLC Secretariat.

Alternatively, members of the SiLC register who are not professionally active can ‘pause’ their membership for a year and pay no professional subscription fee. This arrangement would be discussed and agreed annually for up to three years in total. The individual can return to the register at any time by contacting the SiLC Secretariat and paying the pro-rata subscription fee for the remainder of the calendar year. The following rules would apply for pausing SiLC registration:

1. Pausing SiLC registration also pauses SQP registration, and the individual could not sign-off reports under the NQMS for the period.
2. SiLC/SQP registration must be deleted from all profiles on social media such as LinkedIn, Twitter etc.
3. SiLC/ SQP registration must be deleted from email and letter signatures, CVs, business cards, and other marketing material.
4. Paused registration does not affect an organisation’s eligibility for the SiLC Employers Scheme.
5. In the case of someone who is unemployed and seeking employment, a prospective employer can be informed that the applicant will apply for SiLC/SQP registration to be reinstated in the event of employment.

If membership has lapsed for more than three years and they wish to rejoin the register they would need to reapply via the standard route. Individuals will not be prejudiced by taking a pause as long as they still meet the SiLC criteria and will be subject to the standard CPD requirements (excluding the period of the pause).