

# University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

(A Public Benefit Corporation)

## Constitution

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1. **Name**
  - 1.1 The name of the foundation trust is University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (the **Trust**).
2. **Principal purpose**
  - 2.1 The principal purpose of the Trust is the provision of goods and services for the purposes of the health service in England.
  - 2.2 The Trust does not fulfil its principal purpose unless, in each financial year, its total income from the provision of goods and services for the purposes of the health service in England is greater than its total income from the provision of goods and services for any other purposes.
  - 2.3 The Trust may provide goods and services for any purposes related to:
    - 2.3.1 the provision of services provided to individuals for or in connection with the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of illness, and
    - 2.3.2 the promotion and protection of public health.
  - 2.4 The Trust may also carry on activities other than those mentioned in the above paragraph for the purpose of making additional income available in order better to carry on its principal purpose.
3. **Powers**
  - 3.1 The powers of the Trust are set out in the 2006 Act.
  - 3.2 All the powers of the Trust shall be exercised by the board of directors on behalf of the Trust.
  - 3.3 Any of these powers may be delegated to a committee of directors or to an executive director.
4. **Membership and constituencies**
  - 4.1 The Trust shall have members, each of whom shall be a member of one of the following constituencies:
    - 4.1.1 a public constituency; or
    - 4.1.2 a staff constituency.
5. **Application for membership**
  - 5.1 An individual who is eligible to become a member of the Trust may do so on application to the Trust.
6. **Public constituency**
  - 6.1 An individual who lives in an area specified in annex 1 as an area for the public constituency may become or continue as a member of the Trust.
  - 6.2 Those individuals who live in an area specified as an area for any public constituency are referred to collectively as a public constituency.
  - 6.3 The minimum number of members in each public constituency is specified in annex 1.
  - 6.4 An individual who ceases to live in any area specified in annex 1 shall cease to be a member of any public constituency. A member who moves from one area to another

shall become a member of the public constituency for that new area. Members should notify the Trust of any change of address.

- 6.5 In the case of any doubt the Trust's decision as to whether or not an individual lives in an area shall be final.

## 7. **Staff constituency**

- 7.1 An individual who is employed by the Trust under a contract of employment with the Trust may become or continue as a member of the Trust provided:

7.1.1 he/she is employed by the Trust under a contract of employment which has no fixed term; or

7.1.2 he/she is employed by the Trust under a contract of employment which has a fixed term of at least 12 months; or

7.1.3 he/she has been continuously employed by the Trust for at least 12 months under one or more fixed term contracts of employment.

- 7.2 Individuals who exercise functions for the purposes of the Trust otherwise than under a contract of employment with the Trust may become or continue as members of the staff constituency if they have exercised those functions continuously for a period of at least 12 months. For the avoidance of doubt, the definition of individuals who exercise functions for the purposes of the Trust includes individuals who are employed by a contractor but excludes any individual who is not employed by the Trust and is a Volunteer or works at the Trust under an honorary contract arrangement.

- 7.3 Those individuals who are eligible for membership of the Trust by reason of the previous provisions are referred to collectively as the staff constituency.

- 7.4 The staff constituency shall be divided into four descriptions of individuals who are eligible for membership of the staff constituency, each description of individuals being specified within annex 2 and being referred to as a class within the staff constituency.

- 7.5 The minimum number of members in each class of the staff constituency is specified in annex 2.

- 7.6 An individual who is:

7.6.1 eligible to become a member of the staff constituency, and

7.6.2 invited by the Trust to become a member of the staff constituency and a member of the appropriate staff class within the staff constituency shall become a member of the Trust as a member of the staff constituency without an application being made, unless he/she informs the Trust that he/she does not wish to do so.

## 8. **Restriction on membership**

- 8.1 An individual who is a member of a constituency or of a class or area within a constituency may not, while membership of that constituency, class or area continues, be a member of any other constituency, class or area.

- 8.2 An individual who satisfies the criteria for membership of the staff constituency may not become or continue as a member of any constituency other than the staff constituency.

- 8.3 An individual shall not be eligible for membership of the Trust if he/she:

8.3.1 is under 16 years of age;

- 8.3.2 has demonstrated aggressive or violent behaviour at any of the Trust's hospitals and following such behaviour he/she has been asked to leave, has been removed or excluded from any hospital in accordance with the relevant Trust policy for withholding treatment from violent/aggressive patients.
- 8.3.3 has been confirmed as a 'vexatious complainant' in accordance with the relevant Trust policy for handling complaints.
- 8.3.4 has been removed as a member from another NHS foundation trust.
- 8.3.5 is deemed to have acted in a manner contrary to the interests of the Trust.

All members of the Trust shall be under a duty to notify the secretary of any change in their particulars, which may affect their entitlement as a member.

8.4 A member shall cease to be a member on:

- 8.4.1 death;
- 8.4.2 resignation by notice in writing to the secretary;
- 8.4.3 removal under the procedure at paragraph 8.5; or
- 8.4.4 ceasing to fulfil the requirements of the constitution.

8.5 Where the Trust is on notice that a member may be disqualified from membership, or may no longer be eligible to be a member the secretary shall give the member 14 days' written notice to show cause why his/her name should not be removed from the register of members. On receipt of any such information supplied by the member, the secretary may, if he/she considers it appropriate, remove the member from the register of members. In the event of any dispute the secretary shall refer the matter to the council of governors to determine.

## 9. **Annual members' meeting**

9.1 The Trust shall hold an annual meeting of its members (**annual members' meeting**). The annual members' meeting shall be open to members of the public.

## 10. **Council of governors - composition**

- 10.1 The Trust is to have a council of governors, which shall comprise both elected and appointed governors.
- 10.2 The composition of the council of governors is specified in annex 3.
- 10.3 The members of the council of governors, other than the appointed members, shall be chosen by election by their constituency or, where there are classes or areas within a constituency, by their class or area within that constituency. The number of governors to be elected by each constituency or, where appropriate, by each class or area of each constituency, is specified in annex 3.
- 10.4 A person may not vote at an election for or stand for election as an Elected Governor unless within the specified period stated in the model election rules he/she has made a declaration in the specified form setting out the particulars of his/her qualification to vote or stand as a member of the constituency for which the election is being held. It is an offence (other than in relation to the Staff Constituency) to knowingly or recklessly make such a declaration which is false in a material particular.

## 11. **Council of Governors - election of governors**

11.1 Elections for elected members of the council of governors shall be conducted in accordance with the model election rules.

11.2 The model election rules, form part of this constitution. The model election rules published by NHS Providers in August 2014 are attached at annex 4. A variation of the model election rules shall not constitute a variation of the terms of this Constitution.

11.3 An election, if contested, shall be by secret ballot.

**12. Council of governors: vacancies**

Where a vacancy arises on the council of governors for any reason other than expiry of term of office, the following provisions will apply. Where the vacancy arises amongst the elected governors, the council of governors shall decide either:

12.1 to call an election to fill the seat for the remainder of that seat's term of office;

12.2 to invite the next highest polling (runner-up) candidate for that seat at the most recent election, who is willing to take office, to fill the seat for any unexpired period of the term of office; or

12.3 to leave the seat vacant until the next scheduled elections are held if the un-expired period of office is less than twelve months.

**13. Voting at council of governors elections**

A member may not for the purpose of Section 60(1) of the 2006 Act, vote at an election for a public governor or staff governor unless within the period specified he/she has made a declaration in the specified form stating the particulars of his/her qualification to vote as a member of a constituency, or class, or area within a constituency for which an election is being held. No member may make a statement of declaration which is false in material particular; this is an offence in respect of Section 60(1) of the 2006 Act for public members and Trust procedures apply for staff members.

**14. Council of governors - tenure**

14.1 An elected governor may hold office for a period of up to three years.

14.2 An elected governor shall cease to hold office if he/she ceases to be a member of the constituency, class or area by which he/she was elected.

14.3 An elected governor shall be eligible for re-election at the end of his/her term.

14.4 An appointed governor may hold office for a period of up to three years.

14.5 An appointed governor shall cease to hold office if the appointing organisation withdraws its sponsorship of him/her.

14.6 An appointed governor shall be eligible for re-appointment at the end of his/her first term.

14.7 The maximum aggregate period of office of any Elected Governor or Appointed Governor is six years.

**15. Council of governors - disqualification and removal**

15.1 A person may not become or continue as a member of the council of governors of the Trust if:

15.1.1 he/she has been made bankrupt or whose estate has been sequestrated and (in either case) has not been discharged;

15.1.2 he/she is a person in relation to whom a moratorium period under a debt relief order applies (under Part 7A of the Insolvency Act 1986);

- 15.1.3 he/she has made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, his/her creditors and has not been discharged in respect of it;
- 15.1.4 he/she within the preceding five years has been convicted in the British Islands of any offence if a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months (without the option of a fine) was imposed on him/her.
- 15.1.5 in the case of an individual who is a member of the public constituency, if he/she ceases to live in the area of the public constituency of which he/she is a member;
- 15.1.6 in the case a member of a staff class, if he/she no longer meets the eligibility requirements of paragraph 7 of the constitution and of annex 2;
- 15.1.7 in the case of an appointed governor, the sponsoring organisation withdraws their sponsorship of him/her;
- 15.1.8 he/she has within the preceding two years been dismissed, otherwise than by reason of redundancy or ill health, from any paid employment with a Health Service Body;
- 15.1.9 he/she is a person whose tenure of office as the chair or as a member or director of a Health Service Body has been terminated on the grounds that his/her appointment is not in the interests of the health service;
- 15.1.10 he/she is a director of the Trust, or a governor, executive director, non-executive director, chair, chief executive officer of another Health Service Body, or a body corporate whose business involves the provision of health care services unless he/she is appointed to represent that body as one of the Trust's partner organisations; in such instances regard shall be given to any circumstances which may give rise to potential conflicts of interest to such a degree as to interfere with the person's proper exercise of their duties as a governor of this Trust. Any doubt or question as to what constitutes a material conflict of interest for the purposes of this paragraph should be referred to the chair of the Trust whose decision on the matter will be final;
- 15.1.11 he/she has had his/her name removed from a list maintained under regulations pursuant to sections 91, 106, 123, or 146 of the 2006 Act, or the equivalent lists maintained by Local Health Boards in Wales under the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, and he/she has not subsequently had his/her name included in such a list;
- 15.1.12 he/she lacks capacity within the meaning of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to carry out all the duties and responsibilities of a governor;
- 15.1.13 he/she has refused without reasonable cause to undertake any training which the Trust and/or council of governors requires all governors to undertake;
- 15.1.14 he/she is a member of a local authority "Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee" (this does not apply to appointed governors);
- 15.1.15 he/she is the subject of a Sex Offenders Order and/or his/her name is included in the Sex Offenders Register;
- 15.1.16 he/she is an occupant of the same household and/or he/she is an immediate family member of a governor or a director of the Trust;
- 15.1.17 he/she has failed to repay (without good cause) any amount of monies properly owed to the Trust;

- 15.1.18 he/she has failed to sign and deliver to the secretary a statement in the form required by the Trust confirming acceptance of the council of governors code of conduct;
  - 15.1.19 he/she is an unfit person within the meaning of the Trust's NHS provider licence, save where NHS England has provided approval in writing to him/her becoming or continuing as a governor;
  - 15.1.20 he/she has previously been removed from office as a governor of another foundation trust; or
  - 15.1.21 he/she has previously been removed from office as a governor by the council of governors of the Trust.
- 15.2 Where a person has been elected or appointed to be a governor and he/she becomes disqualified from office under the constitution he/she shall notify the secretary in writing of such disqualification. If it comes to the notice of the secretary at the time of the governor taking office or later that the governor is so disqualified, the secretary shall immediately declare that the person in question is disqualified and notify him/her in writing to that effect. A disqualified person's tenure of office shall automatically be terminated and he/she shall cease to act as a governor.
- 15.3 Governors must be at least 16 years of age at the date they are nominated for election or appointment.
- 16. Council of governors – duties of governors**
- 16.1 The general duties of the council of governors are:
- 16.1.1 to hold the non-executive directors individually and collectively to account for the performance of the board of directors; and
  - 16.1.2 to represent the interests of the members of the Trust as a whole and the interests of the public.
- 16.2 The Trust must take steps to ensure that the governors are equipped with the skills and knowledge they require in their capacity as such. An induction programme will be available for each governor at the commencement of his/her term of office.
- 17. Council of governors – meetings of governors**
- 17.1 The chair of the Trust (i.e. the chair of the board of directors, appointed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 25.1 below) or, in his/her absence the deputy chair (appointed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 26 below) shall preside at meetings of the council of governors.
- 17.2 Meetings of the council of governors shall be open to members of the public. Members of the public may be excluded from a meeting for special reasons.
- 17.3 The validity of any decision or act of the council of governors is not affected by any vacancy among the governors or by any defect in the appointment of any governor.
- 17.4 For the purposes of obtaining information about the Trust's performance of its functions or the directors' performance of their duties (and deciding whether to propose a vote on the Trust's or directors' performance), the council of governors may require one or more of the directors to attend a meeting.
- 18. Council of governors - standing orders**
- 18.1 The standing orders for the practice and procedure of the council of governors are attached at annex 6.



19. **Council of governors - conflicts of interest of governors**
- 19.1 Each governor shall comply with standing order 6 of annex 6 which relates to the declaration of interests. The standing orders for the council of governors make provision for the disclosure of interests and arrangements for the exclusion of a governor declaring any interest from any discussion or consideration of the matter in respect of which an interest has been disclosed.
20. **Council of governors - expenses**
- 20.1 The Trust may pay travelling and other expenses to governors at rates determined by the Trust.
21. **Council of governors - further provisions**
- 21.1 Further provisions with respect to the council of governors are set out in annex 5.
22. **Board of directors - composition**
- 22.1 The Trust is to have a board of directors, which shall comprise both executive directors and non-executive directors.
- 22.2 The Trust's board of directors is to comprise:
- 22.2.1 a non-executive chair who shall not be included in the count of NEDs in 22.2.2 and 22.2.3;
- 22.2.2 not less than five or no more than seven each of executive and non-executive directors;
- 22.2.3 the numbers of executives and non-executives shall be equal; and
- 22.2.4 the chair has a casting vote in the event of a tie.
- 22.3 One of the executive directors shall be the chief executive.
- 22.4 The chief executive shall be the accounting officer.
- 22.5 One of the executive directors shall be the chief financial officer.
- 22.6 One of the executive directors is to be a registered medical practitioner or a registered dentist (within the meaning of the Dentists Act 1984).
- 22.7 One of the executive directors is to be a registered nurse or a registered midwife.
- 22.8 The board of directors shall at all times be constituted so that the number of non-executive directors (excluding the chair) equals or exceeds the number of executive directors.
23. **Board of directors – general duty**
- 23.1 The general duty of the board of directors and of each director individually, is to act with a view to promoting the success of the Trust so as to maximise the benefits for the members of the Trust as a whole and for the public.
24. **Board of directors - qualification for appointment as a non-executive director**
- 24.1 A person may be appointed as a non-executive director only if
- 24.1.1 he/she is a member of the public constituency, or

24.1.2 where any of the Trust's hospitals includes a medical or dental school provided by a university, he/she exercises functions for the purposes of that university, and

24.1.3 he/she is not disqualified by virtue of paragraph 29 below.

25. **Board of directors - appointment and removal of chair and other non-executive directors**

25.1 The council of governors at a general meeting of the council of governors shall appoint or remove the chair of the Trust and the other non-executive directors. The council of governors will not consider nominations for the chair and other non-executive directors of the Trust other than those made by the appropriate nominations committee.

25.2 At the general meeting referred to at paragraph 25.1 the council of governors shall decide the:

25.2.1 period of office;

25.2.2 remuneration and allowances; and

25.2.3 the other terms and conditions of office

of the chair and other non-executive directors.

25.3 The non-executive directors, including the chair, shall be appointed by the council of governors for specified terms of no more than three (3) years. Any term beyond six (6) years (e.g. two three year terms) shall be subject to particularly rigorous review and shall take into account the need for progressive refreshing of the Board. Non-executive directors may in exceptional circumstances serve longer than six (6) years but in such circumstances shall be subject to annual re-appointment.

25.4 Removal of the chair or another non-executive director shall require the approval of three-quarters of the members of the council of governors.

26. **Board of directors - appointment of deputy chair**

26.1 The council of governors at a general meeting of the council of governors shall appoint one of the non-executive directors as a deputy chair.

27. **Board of Directors – appointment of Senior Independent Director**

27.1 The board of directors (in consultation with the council of governors) may appoint any independent non-executive director as the senior independent director, for such period not exceeding the remainder of his/her term as a non-executive director as they may specify on appointing him/her.

27.2 Any non-executive director so appointed may at any time resign from the office of senior independent director by giving notice in writing to the chair. The board of directors (in consultation with the council of governors) may thereupon appoint another independent non-executive director as senior independent director.

27.3 The senior independent director shall perform the role set out in "The NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance" issued by NHS England.

28. **Board of directors - appointment and removal of the chief executive and other executive directors**

28.1 The non-executive directors shall appoint or remove the chief executive.

28.2 The appointment of the chief executive shall require the approval of the council of governors.

- 28.3 A committee consisting of the chair, the chief executive and the other non-executive directors shall appoint or remove the other executive directors.

**29. Board of directors - disqualification**

- 29.1 The following may not become or continue as a member of the board of directors if he/she:
- 29.1.1 has been made bankrupt or whose estate has been sequestrated and (in either case) has not been discharged;
  - 29.1.2 is a person in relation to whom a moratorium period under a debt relief order applies (under Part 7A of the Insolvency Act 1986);
  - 29.1.3 has made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, his/her creditors and has not been discharged in respect of it;
  - 29.1.4 has within the preceding five years has been convicted in the British Islands of any offence if a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months (without the option of a fine) was imposed on him/her.
  - 29.1.5 is a member of the council of governors;
  - 29.1.6 has within the preceding two years been dismissed, otherwise than by reason of redundancy or ill health, from any paid employment with a Health Service Body;
  - 29.1.7 is a person whose tenure of office as the chair or as a member or director of a Health Service Body has been terminated on the grounds that his/her appointment is not in the interest of the health service;
  - 29.1.8 has had his/her name removed from a list maintained under regulations pursuant to sections 91, 106, 123, or 146 of the 2006 Act, or the equivalent lists maintained by Local Health Boards in Wales under the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, and he/she has not subsequently had his/her name included in such a list;
  - 29.1.9 is incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his/her property and affairs;
  - 29.1.10 in the case of a non-executive director, he/she has refused without reasonable cause to undertake any training which the Trust and/or board of directors requires all directors to undertake;
  - 29.1.11 is a member of a local authority "Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee";
  - 29.1.12 is the subject of a Sex Offenders Order and/or his/her name is included in the Sex Offenders Register;
  - 29.1.13 is an occupant of the same household as, and/or he/she is an immediate family member of, a governor or a director of the Trust;
  - 29.1.14 has failed to repay (without good cause) any amount of monies properly owed to the Trust;
  - 29.1.15 has failed to sign and deliver to the secretary any statement in the form required by the Trust confirming acceptance of any code of conduct for the board of directors;

- 29.1.16 is an unfit person within the meaning of the Trust's NHS provider licence, save where NHS England has provided approval in writing to him/her becoming or continuing as a director;
  - 29.1.17 fails to satisfy the fit and proper persons requirements for directors as detailed in Regulation 5 of The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014, as may be amended from time to time; or
  - 29.1.18 fails to provide the required confirmation of his/her fitness to continue in post to the secretary, in the form prescribed by the Trust, within 14 days of such confirmation being demanded, without reasonable cause.
- 29.2 Where a person has been appointed as a director and he/she becomes disqualified from office he/she shall notify the secretary in writing of such disqualification. If it comes to the notice of the secretary at the time of the director taking office or later that the director is so disqualified, the secretary shall immediately declare that the person in question is disqualified and notify him/her in writing to that effect. A disqualified person's tenure of office shall automatically be terminated and he/she shall cease to act as a director.
- 30. Board of directors – meetings**
- 30.1 Meetings of the board of directors shall be open to members of the public. Members of the public may be excluded from a meeting for special reasons.
  - 30.2 Before holding a meeting, the board of directors must send a copy of the agenda of the meeting to the council of governors. As soon as practicable after holding a meeting, the board of directors must send a copy of the minutes of the meeting to the council of governors.
  - 30.3 The validity of any decision of the board of directors or any act of the Trust is not affected by any vacancy among the directors or by any defect in the appointment of any director.
- 31. Board of directors - standing orders**
- 31.1 The standing orders for the practice and procedure of the board of directors are attached at annex 7.
- 32. Board of directors - conflicts of interest of directors**
- 32.1 The duties that a director of the Trust has by virtue of being a director include in particular:
    - 32.1.1 a duty to avoid a situation in which the director has (or can have) a direct or indirect interest that conflicts (or possibly may conflict) with the interests of the Trust;
    - 32.1.2 a duty not to accept a benefit from a third party by reason of being a director or doing (or not doing) anything in that capacity.
  - 32.2 The duty referred to in paragraph 32.1 is not infringed if:
    - 32.2.1 the situation cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest; or
    - 32.2.2 the matter has been authorised in accordance with the constitution.
  - 32.3 The duty referred to in paragraph 32.1 is not infringed if acceptance of the benefit cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest.
  - 32.4 In paragraph 32.1, "third party" means a person other than:

- 32.4.1 the Trust; or
- 32.4.2 a person acting on its behalf.
- 32.5 If a director of the Trust has in any way a direct or indirect interest in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Trust, the director must declare the nature and extent of that interest to the other directors.
- 32.6 If a declaration under paragraph 32.5 proves to be, or becomes, inaccurate or incomplete, a further declaration must be made.
- 32.7 Any declaration required by paragraph 32.5 must be made before the Trust enters into the transaction or arrangement.
- 32.8 Paragraph 32.5 does not require a declaration of an interest of which the director is not aware or where the director is not aware of the transaction or arrangement in question.
- 32.9 A director need not declare an interest:
  - 32.9.1 If it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest;
  - 32.9.2 If, or to the extent that, the directors are already aware of it.
  - 32.9.3 If, or to the extent that, it concerns terms of the director's appointment that have been, or are to be, considered:
    - (a) by a meeting of the board of directors; or
    - (b) by a committee of the directors appointed for the purpose under the constitution.
- 32.10 A matter shall have been authorised for the purposes of paragraph 32.2 if it has previously been approved by the Board of Directors at a meeting and the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of such approval having been given.
- 33. **Board of directors - remuneration and terms of office**
  - 33.1 The council of governors at a general meeting of the council of governors shall decide the remuneration and allowances, and the other terms and conditions of office, of the chair and the other non-executive directors.
  - 33.2 The Trust shall establish a committee of non-executive directors to decide the remuneration and allowances, and the other terms and conditions of office, of the chief executive and other executive directors.
- 34. **Registers**
  - 34.1 The Trust shall have:
    - 34.1.1 a register of members showing, in respect of each member, the constituency to which he/she belongs and, where there are classes or areas within it, the class or area to which he/she belongs;
    - 34.1.2 a register of members of the council of governors;
    - 34.1.3 a register of interests of governors;
    - 34.1.4 a register of directors; and
    - 34.1.5 a register of interests of the directors.

**35. Admission to and removal from the registers**

**35.1 Register of Members**

35.1.1 Subject to paragraph 7.6 above, members must complete and sign an application in the form prescribed by the secretary.

35.1.2 The secretary shall maintain the register in two parts. Part one, which shall be the register referred to in the 2006 Act, shall include the name of each Member and the constituency or class to which they belong, and shall be open to inspection by the public in accordance with paragraph 36 below. Part two shall contain all the information from the application form and shall not be open to inspection by the public nor may copies or extracts from it be made available to any third party. Notwithstanding this provision the Trust shall extract such information as it needs in aggregate to satisfy itself that the actual membership of the Trust is representative of those eligible for membership and for the administration of the provisions of this Constitution.

**35.2 Register of Governors**

35.2.1 The register shall list the names of governors, their category of membership of the council of governors (public, staff, or appointed) and an address through which they may be contacted which may be the secretary.

**35.3 Register of Interests of the Governors**

35.3.1 The register shall contain the names of each governor, whether he/she has declared any interests and, if so, the interests declared in accordance with this constitution or the standing orders for governors.

**35.4 Register of Directors**

35.4.1 The register shall list the names of directors, their capacity on the board of directors and an address through which they may be contacted which may be the secretary.

**35.5 Register of interests of Directors**

35.5.1 The register shall contain the names of each director, whether he/she has declared any interests and, if so, the interests declared in accordance with this Constitution or the Standing Orders for Directors.

**36. Registers - inspection and copies**

36.1 The Trust shall not make any part of its registers available for inspection by members of the public which shows details of any member of the Trust, if the member so requests.

36.2 So far as the registers are required to be made available:

36.2.1 they are to be available for inspection free of charge at all reasonable times; and

36.2.2 a person who requests a copy of or extract from the registers is to be provided with a copy or extract.

36.3 If the person requesting a copy or extract is not a member of the Trust, the Trust may impose a reasonable charge for doing so.

**37. Documents available for public inspection**

- 37.1 The Trust shall make the following documents available for inspection by members of the public free of charge at all reasonable times:
- 37.1.1 a copy of the current constitution;
  - 37.1.2 a copy of the latest annual accounts and of any report of the auditor on them; and
  - 37.1.3 a copy of the latest annual report.
- 37.2 The Trust shall also make the following documents relating to a special administration of the Trust available for inspection by members of the public free of charge at all reasonable times:
- 37.2.1 a copy of the order made under section 65D (appointment of trust special administrator), 65J (power to extend time), 65KC (action following secretary of state's rejection of final report), 65L (trusts coming out of administration) or 65LA (trusts to be dissolved) of the 2006 Act;
  - 37.2.2 a copy of the report laid under section 65D (appointment of trust special administrator) of the 2006 Act;
  - 37.2.3 a copy of any information published under section 65D (appointment of trust special administrator) of the 2006 Act;
  - 37.2.4 a copy of any draft report published under section 65F (administrator's draft report) of the 2006 Act;
  - 37.2.5 a copy of any statement provided under section 65F (administrator's draft report) of the 2006 Act;
  - 37.2.6 a copy of any notice published under section 65F (administrator's draft report), 65G (consultation plan), 65H (consultation requirements), 65J (power to extend time), 65KA (NHS England's decision), 65KB (secretary of state's response to NHS England's decision), 65KC (action following secretary of state's rejection of final report) or 65KD (secretary of state's response to re-submitted final report) of the 2006 Act;
  - 37.2.7 a copy of any statement published or provided under section 65G (consultation plan) of the 2006 Act;
  - 37.2.8 a copy of any final report published under section 65I (administrator's final report) of the 2006 Act;
  - 37.2.9 a copy of any statement published under section 65J (power to extend time) or 65KC (action following secretary of state's rejection of final report) of the 2006 Act;
  - 37.2.10 a copy of any information published under section 65M (replacement of trust special administrator) of the 2006 Act.
- 37.3 Any person who requests a copy of, or extract from, any of the above documents is to be provided with a copy.
- 37.4 If the person requesting a copy or extract is not a member of the Trust, the Trust may impose a reasonable charge for doing so.

**38. Auditor**

- 38.1 The Trust shall have an auditor.

- 38.2 The council of governors shall appoint or remove the auditor at a general meeting of the council of governors.
39. **Audit committee**
- 39.1 The Trust shall establish a committee of non-executive directors as an audit committee to perform such monitoring, reviewing and other functions as are appropriate.
40. **Accounts**
- 40.1 The Trust must keep proper accounts and proper records in relation to the accounts.
- 40.2 NHS England may with the approval of the secretary of state give directions to the Trust as to the content and form of its accounts.
- 40.3 The accounts are to be audited by the Trust's auditor.
- 40.4 The Trust shall prepare in respect of each financial year annual accounts in such form as NHS England may with the approval of the secretary of state direct.
- 40.5 The functions of the Trust with respect to the preparation of the annual accounts shall be delegated to the Accounting Officer.
41. **Annual report and forward plans and non-NHS work**
- 41.1 The Trust shall prepare an annual report and send it to NHS England.
- 41.2 The Trust shall give information as to its forward planning in respect of each financial year to NHS England.
- 41.3 The document containing the information with respect to forward planning (referred to above) shall be prepared by the directors.
- 41.4 In preparing the document, the directors shall have regard to the views of the council of governors.
- 41.5 Each forward plan must include information about:
- 41.5.1 the activities other than the provision of goods and services for the purpose of the health service in England that the Trust proposes to carry on, and
- 41.5.2 the income it expects to receive from doing so.
- 41.6 Where a forward plan contains a proposal that the Trust carry on an activity of a kind mentioned in paragraph 41.5 the council of governors must:
- 41.6.1 determine whether it is satisfied that the carrying on of the activity will not to any significant extent interfere with the fulfilment by the Trust of its principal purpose or the performance of its other functions, and
- 41.6.2 notify the directors of the Trust of its determination.
- 41.7 A trust which proposes to increase by 5% or more the proportion of its total income in any financial year attributable to activities other than the provision of goods and services for the purposes of the health service in England may implement the proposal only if more than half of the members of the council of governors of the Trust present and voting approve its implementation.
42. **Presentation of the accounts and reports to the governors and members**
- 42.1 The following documents are to be presented to the council of governors at a general meeting of the council of governors:



- 42.1.1 the accounts;
    - 42.1.2 any report of the auditor on them;
    - 42.1.3 the annual report.
  - 42.2 The documents shall also be presented to the members of the Trust at the annual members' meeting by at least one member of the board of directors in attendance.
  - 42.3 The Trust may combine a meeting of the council of governors convened for the purpose of paragraph 42.1 with the annual members' meeting.
43. **Instruments**
- 43.1 The Trust shall have a seal.
  - 43.2 The seal shall not be affixed except under the authority of the board of directors.
44. **Amendment of the constitution**
- 44.1 The Trust may make amendments to its constitution only if:
    - 44.1.1 more than half of the members of the council of governors of the Trust present and voting approve the amendments; and
    - 44.1.2 more than half of the members of the board of directors of the Trust present and voting approve the amendments.
  - 44.2 Amendments made under paragraph 44.1 take effect as soon as the conditions in that paragraph are satisfied, but the amendment has no effect in so far as the constitution would, as a result of the amendment, not accord with schedule 7 of the 2006 Act.
  - 44.3 Where an amendment is made to the constitution in relation to the powers or duties of the council of governors (or otherwise with respect to the role that the council of governors has as part of the Trust):
    - 44.3.1 at least one member of the council of governors must attend the next annual members' meeting and present the amendment; and
    - 44.3.2 the Trust must give the members an opportunity to vote on whether they approve the amendment.
  - 44.4 If more than half of the members voting approve the amendment, the amendment continues to have effect; otherwise, it ceases to have effect and the Trust must take such steps as are necessary as a result.
  - 44.5 Amendments by the Trust of its constitution are to be notified to NHS England. For the avoidance of doubt, NHS England's functions do not include a power or duty to determine whether or not the constitution as a result of the amendments, accords with schedule 7 of the 2006 Act.
45. **Significant transactions**
- 45.1 This constitution does not contain any descriptions of the term significant transaction for the purposes of section 51A of the 2006 Act (significant transactions).
  - 45.2 The Trust shall have a policy for the board of directors to consult the council of governors about transactions that are within the description of significant transaction set out in the policy.

46. **Mergers, acquisitions, separations and dissolution**

46.1 The Trust may make an application under section 56 (Mergers), 56A (Acquisitions), 56B (Separations) or 57A (Dissolution) of the 2006 Act to NHS England only with the approval of more than half of the members of the council of governors.

47. **Interpretation and definitions**

47.1 Unless otherwise stated, words or expressions contained in this constitution shall bear the same meaning as in the National Health Service Act 2006 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

47.2 Words importing the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender; words importing the singular shall import the plural and vice-versa.

<b>Accounting officer</b>	is the person who from time to time discharges the functions specified in paragraph 25(5) of Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act.
<b>Annual members' meeting</b>	is defined in paragraph 9.1 of the constitution
<b>Appointed governor</b>	means a member of the council of governors appointed by the stakeholder partner in accordance with this constitution.
<b>Area</b>	means an area of the public constituency as specified in annex 1 and <b>Areas</b> shall be construed accordingly.
<b>Board of Directors or Board</b>	means the board of directors of the Trust as constituted in accordance with this constitution and the 2006 Act.
<b>Chair</b>	means the chairperson of the Trust appointed in accordance with this constitution.
<b>Chief executive</b>	means the chief executive officer of the Trust appointed in accordance with the constitution.
<b>Constitution</b>	means this constitution and all annexes to it.
<b>Deputy chair</b>	means the non-executive director appointed as deputy chair by the council of governors to take on the chair's duties if the chair is absent or unavailable for any reason.
<b>Director</b>	means a director on the board of directors.
<b>Executive director</b>	means a member of the board appointed as an executive director in accordance with the constitution.
<b>Finance director</b>	means the chief financial officer of the Trust appointed in accordance with the constitution.
<b>Financial year</b>	means each period of twelve months beginning with 1 April.
<b>Governor</b>	means a person who is a member of the council of governors.

<b>Health Service Body</b>	shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Section 65(1) of the 2006 Act.
<b>Lead governor</b>	means the governor nominated as the lead governor by the council of governors in accordance with annex 6, paragraph 13.
<b>Licence</b>	means the licence issued by NHS England under Section 87 of the 2012 Act.
<b>Member</b>	means a member of the Trust.
<b>Motion</b>	means a formal proposition to be discussed and voted on during the course of the meeting.
<b>NHS England</b>	is the corporate body known as NHS England, as provided by section 61 of the 2012 Act.
<b>NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance</b>	means the Code of Governance published in July 2014 or such similar or further guidance as NHS England may publish from time to time.
<b>Non-executive director</b>	means a member of the Board appointed as a non-executive director in accordance with the constitution.
<b>Officer</b>	means an employee of the Trust or any other person holding a paid appointment or office with the Trust.
<b>Public constituency</b>	means the constituency of the Trust constituted in accordance with paragraph 6 of this constitution and made up of the areas as identified in annex 1.
<b>Public governor</b>	means a member of the council of governors elected by the members of the public constituency in accordance with this constitution.
<b>Regulatory framework</b>	means the 2006 Act, the 2012 Act, the constitution and the Trust's licence as granted by NHS England.
<b>Scheme of reservation and delegation</b>	means the document containing the reservation of powers to the Board and the scheme of delegation for the Trust.
<b>Secretary</b>	means the foundation trust company secretary of the Trust or any other person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary, including a joint, assistant or deputy secretary.
<b>Senior independent director</b>	means the senior independent non-executive director appointed in accordance with the constitution.
<b>Staff classes</b>	means the classes of the staff constituency as specified in annex 2.

<b>Staff constituency</b>	means the constituency of the Trust constituted in accordance with paragraph 7 of this constitution.
<b>Staff governor</b>	means a member of the council of governors elected by the members of the staff constituency in accordance with this constitution.
<b>Trust's Headquarters</b>	Trust Management Office University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust Tremona Road Southampton SO16 6YD
<b>the 2006 Act</b>	means the National Health Service Act 2006.
<b>the 2012 Act</b>	is the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
<b>Trust</b>	means the University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust.
<b>Voluntary organisation</b>	is a body, other than a public or local authority, the activities of which are not carried out for profit.

**ANNEX 1**  
**The Public Constituency**

(Constitution: Paragraph 6)

<b>Name of area (as defined by electoral wards or local authority areas)</b>	<b>Minimum number of members</b>
<b>Southampton City</b> (Southampton City Council)	<b>100</b>
<b>New Forest, Eastleigh and Test Valley</b> (New Forest District Council, Eastleigh Borough Council and Test Valley Borough Council)	<b>80</b>
<b>Isle of Wight</b> (Isle of Wight Council)	<b>20</b>
<b>Rest of England and Wales</b>	<b>100</b>

**ANNEX 2**  
**The Staff Constituency**

(Constitution: Paragraph 7)

Staff membership will fall into one of four staff classes:

- Medical practitioners and dental staff
- Nursing and midwifery staff
- Health professional and health scientist staff
- Non-clinical and support staff

The minimum number of members for each staff class is 20.

**ANNEX 3**  
**Composition of Council of Governors**

(Constitution: Paragraph 10)

<b>Public elected governor (13)</b>	<b>Number</b>
Southampton City	5
New Forest, Eastleigh and Test Valley	4 (until 30 September 2022) 5 (from 1 October 2022)
Isle of Wight	1
Rest of England and Wales	3 (until 30 September 2022) 2 (from 1 October 2022)

<b>Staff elected governor (4)</b>	<b>Number</b>
Medical practitioners and dental staff	1
Nursing and midwifery staff	1
Health professional/health scientist staff	1
Non-clinical and support staff	1

<b>Appointed governor (5)</b>	<b>Number</b>
NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (ICB)	1
Southampton City Council	1
University of Southampton	1
Hampshire County Council	1
Solent University	1

**ANNEX 4**  
**Model Election Rules**

(Paragraph 11)

**Part 1 – Interpretation**

1. Interpretation

**Part 2 – Timetable for election**

2. Timetable
3. Computation of time

**Part 3 – Returning officer**

4. Returning officer
5. Staff
6. Expenditure
7. Duty of co-operation

**Part 4 – Stages common to contested and uncontested elections**

8. Notice of election
9. Nomination of candidates
10. Candidate's particulars
11. Declaration of interests
12. Declaration of eligibility
13. Signature of candidate
14. Decisions as to validity of nomination
15. Publication of statement of candidates
16. Inspection of statement of candidates and nomination forms
17. Withdrawal of candidates
18. Method of election

**Part 5 – Contested elections**

19. Poll to be taken by ballot
20. The ballot paper
21. The declaration of identity (public and patient constituencies)

*Action to be taken before the poll*

22. List of eligible voters
23. Notice of poll
24. Issue of voting information by returning officer
25. Ballot paper envelope and covering envelope
26. E-voting systems

*The poll*

27. Eligibility to vote
28. Voting by persons who require assistance
29. Spoilt ballot papers and spoilt text message votes
30. Lost voting information
31. Issue of replacement voting information
32. ID declaration form for replacement ballot papers (public and patient constituencies)



*Polling by internet, telephone or text*

33. Procedure for remote voting by internet
34. Voting procedure for remote voting by telephone
35. Voting procedure for remote voting by text message

*Procedure for receipt of envelopes, internet votes, telephone votes and text message votes*

36. Receipt of voting documents
37. Validity of votes
38. Declaration of identity but no ballot (public and patient constituency)
39. De-duplication of votes
40. Sealing of packets

**Part 6 – Counting the votes**

41. Interpretation of Part 6
42. Arrangements for counting of the votes
43. The count
44. Rejected ballot papers and rejected text voting records
45. First stage
46. The quota
47. Transfer of votes
48. Supplementary provisions on transfer
49. Exclusion of candidates
50. Filling of last vacancies
51. Order of election of candidates

**Part 7 – Final proceedings in contested and uncontested elections**

52. Declaration of result for contested elections
53. Declaration of result for uncontested elections

**Part 8 – Disposal of documents**

54. Sealing up of documents relating to the poll
55. Delivery of documents
56. Forwarding of documents received after close of the poll
57. Retention and public inspection of documents
58. Application for inspection of certain documents relating to election

**Part 9 – Death of a candidate during a contested election**

59. Countermand or abandonment of poll on death of candidate

**Part 10 – Election expenses and publicity**

*Expenses*

60. Election expenses
61. Expenses and payments by candidates
62. Expenses incurred by other persons

*Publicity*

63. Publicity about election by the corporation
64. Information about candidates for inclusion with voting information
65. Meaning of “for the purposes of an election”

**Part 11 – Questioning elections and consequences of irregularities**

- 66. Application to question an election

**Part 12 – Miscellaneous**

- 67. Secrecy
- 68. Prohibition of disclosure of vote
- 69. Disqualification
- 70. Delay in postal service through industrial action or unforeseen event

## Part 1 – Interpretation

### 1. Interpretation

(1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

“**2006 Act**“ means the National Health Service Act 2006;

“**council of governors**” means the council of governors of the corporation;

“**corporation**” means the public benefit corporation subject to this constitution;

“**declaration of identity**” has the meaning set out in rule 21(1);

“**election**” means an election by a constituency, or by a class within a constituency, to fill a vacancy among one or more posts on the council of governors;

“**e-voting**” means voting using either the internet, telephone or text message;

“**e-voting information**” has the meaning set out in rule 24(2);

“**ID declaration form**” has the meaning set out in rule 21(1);

“**internet voting record**” has the meaning set out in rule 26(4)(d); “**internet voting system**” means such computer hardware and software, data other equipment and services as may be provided by the returning officer for the purpose of enabling voters to cast their votes using the internet;

“**lead governor**” means the governor nominated by the corporation to fulfil the role described in Appendix B to The NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance (Monitor, December 2013) or any later version of such code;

“**list of eligible voters**” means the list referred to in rule 22(1), containing the information in rule 22(2);

“**method of polling**” means a method of casting a vote in a poll, which may be by post, internet, text message or telephone;

“**Monitor**” means the corporate body known as Monitor as provided by section 61 of the 2012 Act;

“**numerical voting code**” has the meaning set out in rule 62(2)(b);

“**polling website**” has the meaning set out in rule 26(1);

“**postal voting information**” has the meaning set out in rule 24(1);

“**telephone short code**” means a short telephone number used for the purposes of submitting a vote by text message;

“**telephone voting facility**” has the meaning set out in rule 26(2);

“**telephone voting record**” has the meaning set out in rule 26(5)(d);

“**the telephone voting system**” means such telephone voting facility as may be provided by the returning officer for the purpose of enabling voters to cast their votes by telephone;

“**text message voting facility**” has the meaning set out in rule 26(3);

“**text voting record**” has the meaning set out in rule 26(6)(d);

“**the text message voting system**” means such text messaging voting facility as may be provided by the returning officer for the purpose of enabling voters to cast their votes by text message;

“**voter ID number**” means a unique, randomly generated numeric identifier allocated to each voter by the returning officer for the purpose of e-voting;

“voting information” means postal voting information and/or e-voting information.

- (2) Other expressions used in these rules and in Schedule 7 to the NHS Act 2006 have the same meaning in these rules as in that Schedule.

## Part 2 – Timetable for elections

### 2. Timetable

- (1) The proceedings at an election shall be conducted in accordance with the following timetable.

Proceeding	Time
Publication of notice of election	Not later than the fortieth day before the day of the close of the poll
Final day for delivery of nomination forms to returning officer	Not later than the twenty eighth day before the day of the close of the poll
Publication of statement of nominated candidates	Not later than the twenty seventh day before the day of the close of the poll
Final day for delivery of notices of withdrawals by candidates from election	Not later than twenty fifth day before the day of the close of the poll
Notice of the poll	Not later than the fifteenth day before the day of the close of the poll
Close of the poll	By 5.00pm on the final day of the election

### 3. Computation of time

- (1) In computing any period of time for the purposes of the timetable:

- (a) a Saturday or Sunday;
- (b) Christmas day, Good Friday, or a bank holiday, or
- (c) a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning,

shall be disregarded, and any such day shall not be treated as a day for the purpose of any proceedings up to the completion of the poll, nor shall the returning officer be obliged to proceed with the counting of votes on such a day.

- (2) In this rule, “bank holiday” means a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in England and Wales.

## Part 3 – Returning officer

### 4. Returning officer

- (1) Subject to rule 69, the returning officer for an election is to be appointed by the corporation.
- (2) Where two or more elections are to be held concurrently, the same returning officer may be appointed for all those elections.

**5. Staff**

- (1) Subject to rule 69, the returning officer may appoint and pay such staff, including such technical advisers, as he or she considers necessary for the purposes of the election.

**6. Expenditure**

- (1) The corporation is to pay the returning officer:
- (a) any expenses incurred by that officer in the exercise of his or her functions under these rules,
  - (b) such remuneration and other expenses as the corporation may determine.

**7. Duty of co-operation**

- (1) The corporation is to co-operate with the returning officer in the exercise of his or her functions under these rules.

**Part 4 - Stages common to contested and uncontested elections**

**8. Notice of election**

- (1) The returning officer is to publish a notice of the election stating:
- (a) the constituency, or class within a constituency, for which the election is being held,
  - (b) the number of members of the council of governors to be elected from that constituency, or class within that constituency,
  - (c) the details of any nomination committee that has been established by the corporation,
  - (d) the address and times at which nomination forms may be obtained,
  - (e) the address for return of nomination forms (including, where the return of nomination forms in an electronic format will be permitted, the e-mail address for such return) and the date and time by which they must be received by the returning officer,
  - (f) the date and time by which any notice of withdrawal must be received by the returning officer,
  - (g) the contact details of the returning officer,
  - (h) the date and time of the close of the poll in the event of a contest.

**9. Nomination of candidates**

- (1) Subject to rule 9.2, each candidate must nominate themselves on a single nomination form.
- (2) The returning officer:
- (a) is to supply any member of the corporation with a nomination form, and
  - (b) is to prepare a nomination form for signature at the request of any member of the corporation,

but it is not necessary for a nomination to be on a form supplied by the returning officer and a nomination can, subject to rule 13, be in an electronic format.

**10. Candidate's particulars**

- (1) The nomination form must state the candidate's:

- (a) full name,
- (b) contact address in full (which shall be a postal address although an e-mail address may also be provided for the purposes of electronic communication), and
- (c) constituency, or class within a constituency, of which the candidate is a member.

**11. Declaration of interests**

- (1) The nomination form must state:
  - (a) any financial interest that the candidate has in the corporation, and
  - (b) whether the candidate is a member of a political party,and if so, which party, and if the candidate has no such interests, the paper must include a statement to that effect.

**12. Declaration of eligibility**

- (1) The nomination form must include a declaration made by the candidate:
  - (a) that he or she is not prevented from being a member of the council of governors by paragraph 8 of Schedule 7 of the 2006 Act or by any provision of the constitution; and,
  - (b) for a member of the public or patient constituency, of the particulars of his or her qualification to vote as a member of that constituency, or class within that constituency, for which the election is being held.

**13. Signature of candidate**

- (1) The nomination form must be signed and dated by the candidate, in a manner prescribed by the returning officer, indicating that:
  - (a) they wish to stand as a candidate,
  - (b) their declaration of interests as required under rule 11, is true and correct, and
  - (c) their declaration of eligibility, as required under rule 12, is true and correct.
- (2) Where the return of nomination forms in an electronic form is permitted, the returning officer shall specify the particular signature formalities (if any) that will need to be complied with by the candidate.

**14. Decisions as to the validity of nomination**

- (1) Where a nomination form is received by the returning officer in accordance with these rules, the candidate is deemed to stand for election unless and until the returning officer:
  - (a) decides that the candidate is not eligible to stand,
  - (b) decides that the nomination form is invalid,
  - (c) receives satisfactory proof that the candidate has died, or
  - (d) receives a written request by the candidate of their withdrawal from candidacy.
- (2) The returning officer is entitled to decide that a nomination form is invalid only on one of the following grounds:
  - (a) that the paper is not received on or before the final time and date for return of nomination forms, as specified in the notice of the election,
  - (b) that the paper does not contain the candidate's particulars, as required by rule 10,

- (c) that the paper does not contain a declaration of the interests of the candidate, as required by rule 11,
  - (d) that the paper does not include a declaration of eligibility as required by rule 12, or
  - (e) that the paper is not signed and dated by the candidate, if required by rule 13.
- (3) The returning officer is to examine each nomination form as soon as is practicable after he or she has received it, and decide whether the candidate has been validly nominated.
  - (4) Where the returning officer decides that a nomination is invalid, the returning officer must endorse this on the nomination form, stating the reasons for their decision.
  - (5) The returning officer is to send notice of the decision as to whether a nomination is valid or invalid to the candidate at the contact address given in the candidate's nomination form. If an e-mail address has been given in the candidate's nomination form (in addition to the candidate's postal address), the returning officer may send notice of the decision to that address.

#### **15. Publication of statement of candidates**

- (1) The returning officer is to prepare and publish a statement showing the candidates who are standing for election.
- (2) The statement must show:
  - (a) the name, contact address (which shall be the candidate's postal address), and constituency or class within a constituency of each candidate standing, and
  - (b) the declared interests of each candidate standing,
 as given in their nomination form.
- (3) The statement must list the candidates standing for election in alphabetical order by surname.
- (4) The returning officer must send a copy of the statement of candidates and copies of the nomination forms to the corporation as soon as is practicable after publishing the statement.

#### **16. Inspection of statement of nominated candidates and nomination forms**

- (1) The corporation is to make the statement of the candidates and the nomination forms supplied by the returning officer under rule 15(4) available for inspection by members of the corporation free of charge at all reasonable times.
- (2) If a member of the corporation requests a copy or extract of the statement of candidates or their nomination forms, the corporation is to provide that member with the copy or extract free of charge.

#### **17. Withdrawal of candidates**

- (1) A candidate may withdraw from election on or before the date and time for withdrawal by candidates, by providing to the returning officer a written notice of withdrawal which is signed by the candidate and attested by a witness.

#### **18. Method of election**

- (1) If the number of candidates remaining validly nominated for an election after any withdrawals under these rules is greater than the number of members to be elected to the council of governors, a poll is to be taken in accordance with Parts 5 and 6 of these rules.
- (2) If the number of candidates remaining validly nominated for an election after any withdrawals under these rules is equal to the number of members to be elected to the council of governors, those candidates are to be declared elected in accordance with Part 7 of these rules.

- (3) If the number of candidates remaining validly nominated for an election after any withdrawals under these rules is less than the number of members to be elected to the council of governors, then:
  - (a) the candidates who remain validly nominated are to be declared elected in accordance with Part 7 of these rules, and
  - (b) the returning officer is to order a new election to fill any vacancy which remains unfilled, on a day appointed by him or her in consultation with the corporation.

## **Part 5 – Contested elections**

### **19. Poll to be taken by ballot**

- (1) The votes at the poll must be given by secret ballot.
- (2) The votes are to be counted and the result of the poll determined in accordance with Part 6 of these rules.
- (3) The corporation may decide that voters, within a constituency or class within a constituency, may, subject to rule 19(4), cast their votes at the poll using such different methods of polling in any combination as the corporation may determine.
- (4) The corporation may decide that voters, within a constituency or class within a constituency, for whom an e-mail address is included in the list of eligible voters may only cast their votes at the poll using an e-voting methods of polling.
- (5) Before the corporation decides, in accordance with rule 19(3) that one or more, e-voting methods of polling, will be made available for the purposes of the poll, the corporation must satisfy itself that:
  - (a) if internet voting is to be a method of polling, the internet voting system to be used for the purpose of the election is configured in accordance with these rules and will create an accurate internet voting record in respect of any voter who casts his or her vote using the internet voting system.
  - (b) if telephone voting is to be a method of polling, the telephone voting system to be used for the purpose of the election is configured in accordance with these rules and will create an accurate telephone voting record in respect of any voter who casts his or her vote using the telephone voting system.
  - (c) if text message voting is to be a method of polling, the text message voting system to be used for the purpose of the election is configured in accordance with these rules and will create an accurate text voting record in respect of any voter who casts his or her vote using the text message voting system.

### **20. The ballot paper**

- (1) The ballot of each voter (other than a voter who casts his or her ballot by an e-voting method of polling) is to consist of a ballot paper with the persons remaining validly nominated for an election after any withdrawals under these rules, and no others, inserted in the paper.
- (2) Every ballot paper must specify:
  - (a) the name of the corporation,
  - (b) the constituency, or class within a constituency, for which the election is being held,
  - (c) the number of members of the council of governors to be elected from that constituency, or class within that constituency,
  - (d) the names and other particulars of the candidates standing for election, with the details and order being the same as in the statement of nominated candidates,



- (e) instructions on how to vote by all available methods of polling, including the relevant voter's voter ID number if one or more e-voting methods of polling are available,
  - (f) if the ballot paper is to be returned by post, the address for its return and the date and time of the close of the poll, and
  - (g) the contact details of the returning officer.
- (3) Each ballot paper must have a unique identifier.
  - (4) Each ballot paper must have features incorporated into it to prevent it from being reproduced.

**21. The declaration of identity (public and patient constituencies)**

- (1) The corporation shall require each voter who participates in an election for a public or patient constituency to make a declaration:
  - (a) that the voter is the person:
    - (i) to whom the ballot paper was addressed, and/or
    - (ii) to whom the voter ID number contained within the e-voting information was allocated,
  - (b) that he or she has not marked or returned any other voting information in the election, and
  - (c) of the particulars of his or her qualification to vote as a member of the constituency or class within the constituency for which the election is being held,

("declaration of identity") and the corporation shall make such arrangements as it considers appropriate to facilitate the making and the return of a declaration of identity by each voter, whether by the completion of a paper form (ID declaration form") or the use of an electronic method.
- (2) The voter must be required to return his or her declaration of identity with his or her ballot.
- (3) The voting information shall caution the voter that if the declaration of identity is not duly returned or is returned without having been made correctly, any vote cast by the voter may be declared invalid.

***Action to be taken before the poll***

**22. List of eligible voters**

- (1) The corporation is to provide the returning officer with a list of the members of the constituency or class within a constituency for which the election is being held who are eligible to vote by virtue of rule 27 as soon as is reasonably practicable after the final date for the delivery of notices of withdrawals by candidates from an election.
- (2) The list is to include, for each member, a postal address and the member's e-mail address, if this has been provided, to which his or her voting information may, subject to rule 22(3) be sent.
- (3) The corporation may decide that the e-voting information is to be sent only by e-mail to those members in the list of eligible voters for whom an e-mail address is included in that list.

**23. Notice of poll**

- (1) The returning officer is to publish a notice of the poll stating:
  - (a) the name of the corporation,

- (b) the constituency, or class within a constituency, for which the election is being held,
- (c) the number of members of the council of governors to be elected from that constituency, or class with that constituency,
- (d) the names, contact addresses, and other particulars of the candidates standing for election, with the details and order being the same as in the statement of nominated candidates,
- (e) that the ballot papers for the election are to be issued and returned, if appropriate, by post,
- (f) the methods of polling by which votes may be cast at the election by voters un a constituency or class within a constituency, as determined by the corporation in accordance with rule 19(3),
- (g) the address for return of the ballot papers,
- (h) the uniform resource locator (url) where, if internet voting is a method of polling, the polling website is located,
- (i) the telephone number where, if telephone voting is a method of polling, the telephone voting facility is located,
- (j) the telephone number or telephone short code where, if text message voting is a method of polling, the text message voting facility is located,
- (k) the date and time of the close of the poll,
- (l) the address and final dates for applications for replacement voting information, and
- (m) the contact details of the returning officer.

**24. Issue of voting information by returning officer**

- (1) Subject to rule 24(3), as soon as is reasonably practicable on or after the publication of the notice of the poll, the returning officer is to send the following information by post to each member of the corporation named in the list of eligible voters:
  - (a) a ballot paper and ballot paper envelope,
  - (b) the ID declaration form (if required),
  - (c) information about each candidate standing for election, pursuant to rule 64, and
  - (d) a covering envelope;
 (“postal voting information”).
- (2) Subject to rules 24(3) and 24(4), as soon as is reasonably practicable on or after the publication of the notice of poll, the returning officer is to send the following information by e-mail and/or post to each member of the corporation named in the list of eligible voters whom the corporation determines in accordance with rule 19(3) and/or rule 19(4) may cast his or her vote by an e-voting method of polling:
  - (a) instructions on how to vote and how to make a declaration of identity (if required)
  - (b) the voter’s voter ID number,
  - (c) information about each candidate standing for election, pursuant to rule 64, or details of where this information is readily available on the internet or available in such other formats as the returning officer thinks appropriate.

- (d) contact details of the returning officer,  
("e-voting information").
- (3) The corporation may determine that any member of the corporation shall:
  - (a) only be sent postal voting information; or
  - (b) only be sent e-voting information; or
  - (c) be sent both postal voting information and e-voting information;for the purposes of the poll.
- (4) If the corporation determines, in accordance with rule 22(3), that the e-voting information is to be sent only by e-mail to those members in the list of eligible voters for whom an e-mail address is included in that list, then the returning officer shall only send that information by e-mail.
- (5) The voting information is to be sent to the postal address and/or e-mail address for each member, as specified in the list of eligible voters.

**25. Ballot paper envelope and covering envelope**

- (1) The ballot paper envelope must have clear instructions to the voter printed on it, instructing the voter to seal the ballot paper inside the envelope once the ballot paper has been marked.
- (2) The covering envelope is to have:
  - (a) the address for return of the ballot paper printed on it, and
  - (b) pre-paid postage for return to that address.
- (3) There should be clear instructions, either printed on the covering envelope or elsewhere, instructing the voter to seal the following documents inside the covering envelope and return it to the returning officer:
  - (a) the completed ID declaration form if required, and
  - (b) the ballot paper envelope, with the ballot paper sealed inside it.

**26. E-voting systems**

- (1) If internet voting is a method of polling for the relevant election then the returning officer must provide a website for the purpose of voting over the internet (in these rules referred to as "the polling website").
- (2) If telephone voting is a method of polling for the relevant election then the returning officer must provide an automated telephone system for the purpose of voting by the use of a touch-tone telephone (in these rules referred to as "the telephone voting facility").
- (3) If text message voting is a method of polling for the relevant election then the returning officer must provide an automated text messaging system for the purpose of voting by text message (in these rules referred to as "the text message voting facility").
- (4) The returning officer shall ensure that the polling website and internet voting system provided will:
  - (a) require a voter, to:
    - (i) enter his or her voter ID number; and
    - (ii) where the election is for a public or patient constituency, make a declaration of identity;

In order to be able to cast his or her vote;

- (b) specify:
    - (i) the name of the corporation,
    - (ii) the constituency, or class within a constituency, for which the election is being held,
    - (iii) the number of members of the council of governors to be elected from that constituency, or class within that constituency,
    - (iv) the names and other particulars of the candidates standing for election, with the details and order being the same as in the statement of nominated candidates,
    - (v) instructions on how to vote and how to make a declaration of identity,
    - (vi) the date and time of the close of poll,
    - (vii) the contact details of the returning officer;
  - (c) prevent a voter from voting for more candidates than he or she is entitled to at the election;
  - (d) create a record ("internet voting record") that is stored in the internet voting system in respect of each vote cast by a voter using the internet that comprises of:
    - (i) the voter's voter ID number;
    - (ii) the voter's declaration of identity (where required);
    - (ii) the candidate or candidates for whom the voter has voted; and
    - (iii) the date and time of the voter's vote;
  - (e) if the voter's vote has been duly cast and recorded, provide the voter with confirmation of this; and
  - (f) prevent any voter from voting after the close of poll.
- (5) The returning officer shall ensure that the telephone voting facility and telephone voting system provided will:
- (a) require a voter to
    - (i) enter his or her voter ID number in order to be able to cast his or her vote; and
    - (ii) where the election is for a public or patient constituency, make a declaration of identity;
  - (b) specify:
    - (i) the name of the corporation,
    - (ii) the constituency, or class within a constituency, for which the election is being held,
    - (iii) the number of members of the council of governors to be elected from that constituency, or class within that constituency,
    - (iv) instructions on how to vote and how to make a declaration of identity,
    - (v) the date and time of the close of the poll, and

- (vi) the contact details of the returning officer;
  - (c) prevent a voter from voting for more candidates than he or she is entitled to at the election;
  - (d) create a record ("telephone voting record") that is stored in the telephone voting system in respect of each vote cast by a voter using the telephone that comprises of:
    - (i) the voter's voter ID number;
    - (ii) the voter's declaration of identity (where required);
    - (iii) the candidate or candidates for whom the voter has voted; and
    - (iv) the date and time of the voter's vote
  - (e) if the voter's vote has been cast and recorded, provide the voter with confirmation of this;
  - (f) prevent any voter from voting after the close of poll.
- (6) The returning officer shall ensure that the text message voting facility and text messaging voting system provided will:
- (a) require a voter to:
    - (i) provide his or her voter ID number; and
    - (ii) where the election is for a public or patient constituency, make a declaration of identity;
 in order to be able to cast his or her vote;
  - (b) prevent a voter from voting for more candidates than he or she is entitled to at the election;
  - (c) create a record ("text voting record") that is stored in the text messaging voting system in respect of each vote cast by a voter by text message that comprises of:
    - (i) the voter's voter ID number;
    - (ii) the voter's declaration of identity (where required);
    - (iii) the candidate or candidates for whom the voter has voted; and
    - (iv) the date and time of the voter's vote
  - (d) if the voter's vote has been duly cast and recorded, provide the voter with confirmation of this;
  - (e) prevent any voter from voting after the close of poll.

***The poll***

**27. Eligibility to vote**

- (1) An individual who becomes a member of the corporation on or before the closing date for the receipt of nominations by candidates for the election, is eligible to vote in that election.

**28. Voting by persons who require assistance**

- (1) The returning officer is to put in place arrangements to enable requests for assistance to vote to be made.

- (2) Where the returning officer receives a request from a voter who requires assistance to vote, the returning officer is to make such arrangements as he or she considers necessary to enable that voter to vote.

**29. Spoilt ballot papers and spilt test message votes**

- (1) If a voter has dealt with his or her ballot paper in such a manner that it cannot be accepted as a ballot paper (referred to as a “spoilt ballot paper”), that voter may apply to the returning officer for a replacement ballot paper.
- (2) On receiving an application, the returning officer is to obtain the details of the unique identifier on the spoilt ballot paper, if he or she can obtain it.
- (3) The returning officer may not issue a replacement ballot paper for a spoilt ballot paper unless he or she:
  - (a) is satisfied as to the voter’s identity, and
  - (b) has ensured that the completed ID declaration form, if required, has not been returned.
- (4) After issuing a replacement ballot paper for a spoilt ballot paper, the returning officer shall enter in a list (“list of spoilt ballot papers”):
  - (a) the name of the voter; and
  - (b) the details of the unique identifier of the spoilt ballot paper (if that officer was able to obtain it), and
  - (c) the details of the unique identifier of the replacement ballot paper.
- (5) If a voter has dealt with his or her text message vote in such a manner that it cannot be accepted as a vote (referred to as a “spoilt text message vote”), that voter may apply to the returning officer for a replacement voter ID number.
- (6) On receiving the application, the returning officer is to obtain details of the voter ID number on the spoilt text message vote, if he or she can obtain it.
- (7) The returning officer may not issue a replacement voter ID number in respect of a spoilt text message vote unless he or she is satisfied as to the voter’s identity.
- (8) After issuing a replacement voter ID number in respect of a spoilt test message vote, the returning officer shall enter in a list (“list of spoilt text message votes”):
  - (a) the name of the voter; and
  - (b) the details of the voter ID number on the spoilt text message vote (if that officer was able to obtain it); and
  - (c) the details of the replacement voter ID number issued to the voter.

**30. Lost voting information**

- (1) Where a voter has not received his or her voting information by the tenth day before the close of the poll, that voter may apply to the returning officer for replacement voting information.
- (2) The returning officer may not issue replacement voting information in respect of lost voting information unless he or she:
  - (a) is satisfied as to the voter’s identity,
  - (b) has no reason to doubt that the voter did not receive the original voting information,

- (c) has ensured that no declaration of identity if required has been returned.
- (3) After issuing replacement voting information in respect of lost voting information, the returning officer shall enter in a list ("list of lost ballot documents"):
  - (a) the name of the voter,
  - (b) the details of the unique identifier of the replacement ballot paper, if applicable, and
  - (c) the voter ID number of the voter.

**31. Issue of replacement voting information**

- (1) If a person applies for replacement voting information under rule 29 or 30 and a declaration of identity has already been received by the returning officer in the name of that voter, the returning officer may not issue replacement voting information unless, in addition to the requirements imposed by rule 29(3) or 30(2), he or she is also satisfied that that person has not already voted in the election, notwithstanding the fact that a declaration of identity if required has already been received by the returning officer in the name of that voter.
- (2) After issuing replacement voting information under this rule, the returning officer shall enter in a list ("the list of tendered voting information"):
  - (a) the name of the voter,
  - (b) the unique identifier of any replacement ballot paper issued under this rule, and
  - (c) the voter ID number of the voter.

**32. ID declaration form for replacement ballot papers (public and patient constituencies)**

- (1) In respect of an election for a public or patient constituency an ID declaration form must be issued with each replacement ballot paper requiring the voter to make a declaration of identity.

***Polling by internet, telephone or text***

**33. Procedure for remote voting by internet**

- (1) To cast his or vote using the internet, a voter will need to gain access to the polling website by keying in the url of the polling website provided in the voting information.
- (2) When prompted to do so, the voter will need to enter his or her voter ID number.
- (3) If the internet voting system authenticates the voter ID number the system will give the voter access to the polling website for the election in which the voter is eligible to vote.
- (4) To cast his or her vote the voter will need to key in a mark on the screen opposite the particulars of the candidate or candidates for whom he or she wishes to cast his or her vote.
- (5) The voter will not be able to access the internet voting system for an election once his or her vote at that election has been cast.

**34. Voting procedure for remote voting by telephone**

- (1) To cast his or her vote by telephone the voter will need to gain access to the telephone voting facility by calling the designated telephone number provided in the voter information using a telephone with a touch-tone keypad.
- (2) When prompted to do so, the voter will need to enter his or her voter ID number using the keypad.
- (3) If the telephone voting facility authenticates the voter ID number, the voter will be prompted to vote in the election.

- (4) When prompted to do so the voter may then cast his or her vote by keying in the numerical voting code of the candidate or candidates for whom he or she wishes to vote.
- (5) The voter will not be able to access the telephone voting facility for an election once his or her vote at that election has been cast.

**35. Voting procedure for remote voting by text message**

- (1) To cast his or her vote by text message the voter will need to gain access to the text message voting facility by sending a text message to the designated telephone number or telephone short code provided in the voter information.
- (2) The text message sent by the voter must contain his or her voter ID number and the numerical voting code for the candidate or candidates for whom he or she wishes to vote.
- (3) The text message sent by the voter will need to be structured in accordance with the instructions on how to vote contained in the voter information, otherwise the vote will not be cast.

***Procedure for receipt of envelopes, internet votes, telephone votes and text message votes***

**36. Receipt of voting documents**

- (1) Where the returning officer receives:
  - (a) a covering envelope, or
  - (b) any other envelope containing an ID declaration form if required, a ballot paper envelope, or a ballot paper,before the close of the poll, that officer is to open it as soon as is practicable; and rules 37 and 38 are to apply.
- (2) The returning officer may open any covering envelope or any ballot paper envelope for the purposes of rules 37 and 38, but must make arrangements to ensure that no person obtains or communicates information as to:
  - (a) the candidate for whom a voter has voted, or
  - (b) the unique identifier on a ballot paper.
- (3) The returning officer must make arrangements to ensure the safety and security of the ballot papers and other documents.

**37. Validity of votes**

- (1) A ballot paper shall not be taken to be duly returned unless the returning officer is satisfied that it has been received by the returning officer before the close of the poll, with an ID declaration form if required that has been correctly completed, signed, and dated.
- (2) Where the returning officer is satisfied that rule 37(1) has been fulfilled, he or she is to:
  - (a) put the ID declaration form if required in a separate packet, and
  - (b) put the ballot paper aside for counting after the close of the poll.
- (3) Where the returning officer is not satisfied that rule 37(1) has been fulfilled, he or she is to:
  - (a) mark the ballot paper “disqualified”,
  - (b) if there is an ID declaration form accompanying the ballot paper, mark it “disqualified” and attach it to the ballot paper,



- (c) record the unique identifier on the ballot paper in a list of disqualified documents (“list of disqualified documents”), and
  - (d) place the document or documents in a separate packet.
- (4) An internet, telephone or text message vote shall not be taken to be duly returned unless the returning officer is satisfied that the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) has been received by the returning officer before the close of the poll, with a declaration of identity if required that has been correctly made.
- (5) Where the returning officer is satisfied that rule 37(4) has been fulfilled, he or she is to put the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) aside for counting after the close of poll.
- (6) Where the returning officer is not satisfied that rule 37(4) has been fulfilled, he or she is to:
- (a) mark the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) “disqualified”;
  - (b) record the voter ID number on the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) in the list of disqualified documents; and
  - (c) place the document or documents in a separate packet.

**38. Declaration of identity but no ballot paper (public and patient constituency)<sup>1</sup>**

- (1) Where the returning officer receives an ID declaration form if required but no ballot paper, the returning officer is to:
- (a) mark the ID declaration for “disqualified”;
  - (b) record the name of the voter in the list of disqualified documents, indicating that a declaration of identity was received from the voter without a ballot paper; and
  - (c) place the ID declaration form in a separate packet.

**39. De-duplication of votes**

- (1) Where different methods of polling are being used in an election, the returning officer shall examine all votes cast to ascertain if a voter ID number has been used more than once to cast a vote in the election.
- (2) If the returning officer ascertains that a voter ID number has been used more than once to cast a vote in the election he or she shall:
- (a) only accept as duly returned the first vote received that was cast using the relevant voter ID number; and
  - (b) mark as “disqualified” all other votes that were cast using the relevant voter ID number
- (3) Where a ballot paper is “disqualified” under this rule the returning officer shall:
- (a) mark the ballot paper “disqualified”,
  - (b) if there is an ID declaration form accompanying the ballot paper, mark it “disqualified” and attach it to the ballot paper;
  - (c) record the unique identifier and the voter ID number on the ballot paper in the list of disqualified documents;

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<sup>1</sup> It should not be possible, technically, to make a declaration of identity electronically without also submitting a vote.

- (d) place the document or documents in a separate packet; and
  - (e) disregard the ballot paper when counting the votes in accordance with these rules.
- (4) Where an internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record is “disqualified” under this rule the returning officer shall:
- (a) mark the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) as “disqualified”,
  - (b) record the voter ID number on the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) in the list of disqualified documents,
  - (c) place the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) when counting the votes in accordance with these rules.
  - (d) disregard the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) when counting the votes in accordance with these rules.

#### 40. Sealing of packets

- (1) As soon as is possible after the close of the poll and after the completion of the procedure under rules 37 and 38, the returning officer is to seal the packets containing:
- (a) the disqualified documents, together with the list of disqualified documents inside it,
  - (b) the ID declaration forms, if required,
  - (c) the list of spoilt ballot papers and the list of spoilt text message votes,
  - (d) the list of lost ballot documents,
  - (e) the list of eligible voters, and
  - (f) the list of tendered voting information

and ensure that complete electronic copies of the internet voting records, telephone voting records and text voting records created in accordance with rule 26 are held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage.

### Part 6 - Counting the votes

#### 41. Interpretation of Part 6

- (1) In Part 6 of these rules:

**“ballot documents”** means a ballot paper, internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record.

**“continuing candidate”** means any candidate not deemed to be elected, and not excluded,

**“count”** means all the operations involved in counting of the first preferences recorded for candidates, the transfer of the surpluses of elected candidates, and the transfer of the votes of the excluded candidates,

**“deemed to be elected”** means deemed to be elected for the purposes of counting of votes but without prejudice to the declaration of the result of the poll,

**“mark”** means a figure, an identifiable written word, or a mark such as “X”,

**“non-transferable vote”** means a ballot document:

- (a) on which no second or subsequent preference is recorded for a continuing candidate, or

(b) which is excluded by the returning officer under rule 49,

“**preference**” as used in the following contexts has the meaning assigned below:

- (a) “**first preference**” means the figure “1” or any mark or word which clearly indicates a first (or only) preference,
- (b) “**next available preference**” means a preference which is the second, or as the case may be, subsequent preference recorded in consecutive order for a continuing candidate (any candidate who is deemed to be elected or is excluded thereby being ignored), and
- (c) in this context, a “**second preference**” is shown by the figure “2” or any mark or word which clearly indicates a second preference, and a third preference by the figure “3” or any mark or word which clearly indicates a third preference, and so on,

“**quota**” means the number calculated in accordance with rule 46,

“**surplus**” means the number of votes by which the total number of votes for any candidate (whether first preference or transferred votes, or a combination of both) exceeds the quota; but references in these rules to the transfer of the surplus means the transfer (at a transfer value) of all transferable ballot documents from the candidate who has the surplus,

“**stage of the count**” means:

- (a) the determination of the first preference vote of each candidate,
- (b) the transfer of a surplus of a candidate deemed to be elected, or
- (c) the exclusion of one or more candidates at any given time,

“**transferable vote**” means a ballot document on which, following a first preference, a second or subsequent preference is recorded in consecutive numerical order for a continuing candidate,

“**transferred vote**” means a vote derived from a ballot document on which a second or subsequent preference is recorded for the candidate to whom that ballot document has been transferred, and

“**transfer value**” means the value of a transferred vote calculated in accordance with rules 47(4) and 47(7) below.

#### **42. Arrangements for counting of the votes**

- (1) The returning officer is to make arrangements for counting the votes as soon as is practicable after the close of the poll.
- (2) The returning officer may make arrangements for any votes to be counted using vote counting software where:
  - (a) the board of directors and council of governors of the corporation have approved:
    - (i) the use of such software for the purpose of counting votes in the relevant elections, and
    - (ii) a policy governing the use of such software, and
  - (b) the corporation and the returning officer are satisfied that the use of such software will produce an accurate result.

#### **43. The count**

- (1) The returning officer is to:
  - (a) count and record the number of:
    - (i) ballot papers that have been returned, and

- (ii) the number of internet voting records, telephone voting records and/or text voting records that have been created; and
- (b) count the votes according to the provisions in this part of the rules and/or the provisions of any policy approved pursuant to rule 42.2(ii) where vote counting software is being used.
- (2) The returning officer, while counting and recording the number of ballot papers, internet voting records, telephone voting records and/or text voting records and counting the votes, must make arrangements to ensure that no person obtains or communicates information as to the unique identifier on a ballot paper or the voter ID number on an internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record.
- (3) The returning officer is to proceed continuously with counting the votes as far as is practicable.

**44. Rejected ballot papers and rejected text voting records**

- (1) Any ballot paper:
  - (a) which does not bear the features that have been incorporated into the other ballot papers to prevent them from being reproduced,
  - (b) on which the figure “1” standing alone is not placed so as to indicate a first preference for any candidate,
  - (c) on which anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified except the unique identifier, or
  - (d) which is unmarked or rejected because of uncertainty,

shall be rejected and not counted but the ballot paper shall not be rejected by reason only of carrying the words “one”, “two”, “three” and so on, or any other mark instead of a figure if, in the opinion of the returning officer, the word or mark clearly indicates a preference or preferences.

- (2) The returning officer is to endorse the word “rejected” on any ballot paper which under this rule is not to be counted.
- (3) Any text voting record:
  - (a) on which the figure “1” standing alone is not placed so as to indicate a first preference for any candidate,
  - (b) on which anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified except the unique identifier, or
  - (c) which is unmarked or rejected because of uncertainty,

shall be rejected and not counted, but the text voting record shall not be rejected by reason of only carrying the words “one”, “two”, “three” and so on, or any other mark instead of a figure if, in the opinion of the returning officer, the word or mark clearly indicates a preference or preferences.

- (4) The returning officer is to endorse the word “rejected” on any text voting record which under this rule is not to be counted.
- (5) The returning officer is to draw up a statement showing the number of ballot papers rejected by him or her under each of the sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) of rule 44(1) and the number of text voting records rejected by him or her under each of the sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) of rule 44(3).

**45. First stage**

- (1) The returning officer is to sort the ballot documents into parcels according to the candidates for whom the first preference votes are given.
- (2) The returning officer is to then count the number of first preference votes given on ballot documents for each candidate, and is to record those numbers.
- (3) The returning officer is to also ascertain and record the number of valid ballot documents.

**46. The quota**

- (1) The returning officer is to divide the number of valid ballot documents by a number exceeding by one the number of members to be elected.
- (2) The result, increased by one, of the division under rule 46(1) (any fraction being disregarded) shall be the number of votes sufficient to secure the election of a candidate (in these rules referred to as “the quota”).
- (3) At any stage of the count a candidate whose total votes equals or exceeds the quota shall be deemed to be elected, except that any election where there is only one vacancy a candidate shall not be deemed to be elected until the procedure set out in rules 47(1) to 47(3) has been complied with.

**47. Transfer of votes**

- (1) Where the number of first preference votes for any candidate exceeds the quota, the returning officer is to sort all the ballot documents on which first preference votes are given for that candidate into sub-parcels so that they are grouped:
  - (a) according to next available preference given on those ballot documents for any continuing candidate, or
  - (b) where no such preference is given, as the sub-parcel of non-transferable votes.
- (2) The returning officer is to count the number of ballot documents in each parcel referred to in rule 47(1).
- (3) The returning officer is, in accordance with this rule and rule 48, to transfer each sub-parcel of ballot documents referred to in rule 47(1)(a) to the candidate for whom the next available preference is given on those ballot documents.
- (4) The vote on each ballot document transferred under rule 47(3) shall be at a value (“the transfer value”) which:
  - (a) reduces the value of each vote transferred so that the total value of all such votes does not exceed the surplus, and
  - (b) is calculated by dividing the surplus of the candidate from whom the votes are being transferred by the total number of the ballot documents on which those votes are given, the calculation being made to two decimal places (ignoring the remainder if any).
- (5) Where at the end of any stage of the count involving the transfer of ballot documents, the number of votes for any candidate exceeds the quota, the returning officer is to sort the ballot documents in the sub-parcel of transferred votes which was last received by that candidate into separate sub-parcels so that they are grouped:
  - (a) according to the next available preference given on those ballot documents for any continuing candidate, or
  - (b) where no such preference is given, as the sub-parcel of non-transferable votes.

- (6) The returning officer is, in accordance with this rule and rule 48, to transfer each sub-parcel of ballot documents referred to in rule 47(5)(a) to the candidate for whom the next available preference is given on those ballot documents.
- (7) The vote on each ballot document transferred under rule 47(6) shall be at:
  - (a) a transfer value calculated as set out in rule 47(4)(b), or
  - (b) at the value at which that vote was received by the candidate from whom it is now being transferred,
 whichever is the less.
- (8) Each transfer of a surplus constitutes a stage in the count.
- (9) Subject to rule 47(10), the returning officer shall proceed to transfer transferable ballot documents until no candidate who is deemed to be elected has a surplus or all the vacancies have been filled.
- (10) Transferable ballot documents shall not be liable to be transferred where any surplus or surpluses which, at a particular stage of the count, have not already been transferred, are:
  - (a) less than the difference between the total vote then credited to the continuing candidate with the lowest recorded vote and the vote of the candidate with the next lowest recorded vote, or
  - (b) less than the difference between the total votes of the two or more continuing candidates, credited at that stage of the count with the lowest recorded total numbers of votes and the candidate next above such candidates.
- (11) This rule does not apply at an election where there is only one vacancy.

**48. Supplementary provisions on transfer**

- (1) If, at any stage of the count, two or more candidates have surpluses, the transferable ballot documents of the candidate with the highest surplus shall be transferred first, and if:
  - (a) the surpluses determined in respect of two or more candidates are equal, the transferable ballot documents of the candidate who had the highest recorded vote at the earliest preceding stage at which they had unequal votes shall be transferred first, and
  - (b) the votes credited to two or more candidates were equal at all stages of the count, the returning officer shall decide between those candidates by lot, and the transferable ballot documents of the candidate on whom the lot falls shall be transferred first.
- (2) The returning officer shall, on each transfer of transferable ballot documents under rule 47 above:
  - (a) record the total value of the votes transferred to each candidate,
  - (b) add that value to the previous total of votes recorded for each candidate and record the new total,
  - (c) record as non-transferable votes the difference between the surplus and the total transfer value of the transferred votes and add that difference to the previously recorded total of non-transferable votes, and
  - (d) compare:
    - (i) the total number of votes then recorded for all of the candidates, together with the total number of non-transferable votes, with

- (ii) the recorded total of valid first preference votes.
- (3) All ballot documents transferred under rule 47 or 49 shall be clearly marked, either individually or as a sub-parcel, so as to indicate the transfer value recorded at that time to each vote on that ballot document or, as the case may be, all the ballot documents in that sub-parcel.
- (4) Where a ballot document is so marked that it is unclear to the returning officer at any stage of the count under rule 47 or 49 for which candidate the next preference is recorded, the returning officer shall treat any vote on that ballot document as a non-transferable vote; and votes on a ballot document shall be so treated where, for example, the names of two or more candidates (whether continuing candidates or not) are so marked that, in the opinion of the returning officer, the same order of preference is indicated or the numerical sequence is broken.

**49. Exclusion of candidates**

- (1) If:
  - (a) all transferable ballot documents which under the provisions of rule 47 above (including that rule as applied by rule 49(11)) and this rule are required to be transferred, have been transferred, and
  - (b) subject to rule 50, one or more vacancies remain to be filled,the returning officer shall exclude from the election at that stage the candidate with the then lowest vote (or, where rule 49(12) applies, the candidates with the then lowest votes).
- (2) The returning officer shall sort all the ballot documents on which first preference votes are given for the candidate or candidates excluded under rule 49(1) into two sub-parcels so that they are grouped as:
  - (a) ballot documents on which a next available preference is given, and
  - (b) ballot documents on which no such preference is given (thereby including ballot documents on which preferences are given only for candidates who are deemed to be elected or are excluded).
- (3) The returning officer shall, in accordance with this rule and rule 48, transfer each sub-parcel of ballot documents referred to in rule 49(2) to the candidate for whom the next available preference is given on those ballot documents.
- (4) The exclusion of a candidate, or of two or more candidates together, constitutes a further stage of the count.
- (5) If, subject to rule 50, one or more vacancies still remain to be filled, the returning officer shall then sort the transferable ballot documents, if any, which had been transferred to any candidate excluded under rule 49(1) into sub-parcels according to their transfer value.
- (6) The returning officer shall transfer those ballot documents in the sub-parcel of transferable ballot documents with the highest transfer value to the continuing candidates in accordance with the next available preferences given on those ballot documents (thereby passing over candidates who are deemed to be elected or are excluded).
- (7) The vote on each transferable ballot document transferred under rule 49(6) shall be at the value at which that vote was received by the candidate excluded under rule 49(1).
- (8) Any ballot documents on which no next available preferences have been expressed shall be set aside as non-transferable votes.
- (9) After the returning officer has completed the transfer of the ballot documents in the sub-parcel of ballot documents with the highest transfer value he or she shall proceed to transfer in the same way the sub-parcel of ballot documents with the next highest value and so on until he or she has dealt with each sub-parcel of a candidate excluded under rule 49(1).

- (10) The returning officer shall after each stage of the count completed under this rule:
- (a) record:
    - (i) the total value of votes, or
    - (ii) the total transfer value of votes transferred to each candidate,
  - (b) add that total to the previous total of votes recorded for each candidate and record the new total,
  - (c) record the value of non-transferable votes and add that value to the previous non-transferable votes total, and
  - (d) compare:
    - (i) the total number of votes then recorded for each candidate together with the total number of non-transferable votes, with
    - (ii) the recorded total of valid first preference votes.
- (11) If after a transfer of votes under any provision of this rule, a candidate has a surplus, that surplus shall be dealt with in accordance with rules 47(5) to 47(10) and rule 48.
- (12) Where the total of the votes of the two or more lowest candidates, together with any surpluses not transferred, is less than the number of votes credited to the next lowest candidate, the returning officer shall in one operation exclude such two or more candidates.
- (13) If when a candidate has to be excluded under this rule, two or more candidates each have the same number of votes and are lowest:
- (a) regard shall be had to the total number of votes credited to those candidates at the earliest stage of the count at which they had an unequal number of votes and the candidate with the lowest number of votes at that stage shall be excluded, and
  - (b) where the number of votes credited to those candidates was equal at all stages, the returning officer shall decide between the candidates by lot and the candidate on whom the lot falls shall be excluded.

**50. Filling of last vacancies**

- (1) Where the number of continuing candidates is equal to the number of vacancies remaining unfilled the continuing candidates shall thereupon be deemed to be elected.
- (2) Where only one vacancy remains unfilled and the votes of any one continuing candidate are equal to or greater than the total of votes credited to other continuing candidates together with any surplus not transferred, the candidate shall thereupon be deemed to be elected.
- (3) Where the last vacancies can be filled under this rule, no further transfer of votes shall be made.

**51. Order of election of candidates**

- (1) The order in which candidates whose votes equal or exceed the quota are deemed to be elected shall be the order in which their respective surpluses were transferred, or would have been transferred but for rule 47(10).
- (2) A candidate credited with a number of votes equal to, and not greater than, the quota shall, for the purposes of this rule, be regarded as having had the smallest surplus at the stage of the count at which he or she obtained the quota.
- (3) Where the surpluses of two or more candidates are equal and are not required to be transferred, regard shall be had to the total number of votes credited to such candidates at the



earliest stage of the count at which they had an unequal number of votes and the surplus of the candidate who had the greatest number of votes at that stage shall be deemed to be the largest.

- (4) Where the number of votes credited to two or more candidates were equal at all stages of the count, the returning officer shall decide between them by lot and the candidate on whom the lot falls shall be deemed to have been elected first.

## **Part 7 – Final proceedings in contested and uncontested elections**

### **52. Declaration of result for contested elections**

- (1) In a contested election, when the result of the poll has been ascertained, the returning officer is to:
- (a) declare the candidates who are deemed to be elected under Part 6 of these rules as elected,
  - (b) give notice of the name of each candidate who he/she has declared elected:
    - (i) where the election is held under a proposed constitution pursuant to powers conferred on the University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust by section 33(4) of the 2006 Act, to the chair of the NHS trust, or
    - (ii) in any other case, to the chair of the corporation, and
  - (c) give public notice of the name of each candidate who he or she has declared elected.
- (2) The returning officer is to make:
- (a) the number of first preference votes for each candidate whether elected or not,
  - (b) any transfer of votes,
  - (c) the total number of votes for each candidate at each stage of the count at which such transfer took place,
  - (d) the order in which the successful candidates were elected,
  - (e) the number of rejected ballot papers under each of the headings in rule 44(1), and
  - (f) the number of rejected text voting records under each of the headings in rule 44(6), available on request.

### **53. Declaration of result for uncontested elections**

- (1) In an uncontested election, the returning officer is to as soon as is practicable after final day for the delivery of notices of withdrawals by candidates from the election:
- (a) declare the candidate or candidates remaining validly nominated to be elected,
  - (b) give notice of the name of each candidate who he or she has declared elected to the chair of the corporation, and
  - (c) give public notice of the name of each candidate who he or she has declared elected.

## **Part 8 – Disposal of documents**

### **54. Sealing up of documents relating to the poll**

- (1) On completion of the counting at a contested election, the returning officer is to seal up the following documents in separate packets:

- (a) the counted ballot papers, internet voting records, telephone voting records and text voting records,
- (b) the ballot papers and text voting records endorsed with “rejected in part”,
- (c) the rejected ballot papers and text voting records, and
- (d) the statement of rejected ballot papers and text voting records,

and ensure that complete electronic copies of the internet voting records, telephone voting records and text voting records created in accordance with rule 26 are held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage.

(2) The returning officer must not open the sealed packets of:

- (a) the disqualified documents, with the list of disqualified documents inside it,
- (b) the list of spoilt ballot papers and the list of spoilt text messages,
- (c) the list of lost ballot documents, and
- (d) the list of eligible voters,

or access the complete electronic copies of the internet voting records, telephone voting records and text voting records created in accordance with rule 26 held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage.

(3) The returning officer must endorse on each packet a description of:

- (a) its contents,
- (b) the date of the publication of notice of the election,
- (c) the name of the corporation to which the election relates, and
- (d) the constituency or class within a constituency, to which the election relates.

**55. Delivery of documents**

(1) Once the documents relating to the poll have been sealed up and endorsed pursuant to rule 54, the returning officer is to forward them to the chair of the corporation.

**56. Forwarding of documents received after close of the poll**

(1) Where:

- (a) any voting documents are received by the returning officer after the close of the poll, or
- (b) any envelopes addressed to eligible voters are returned as undelivered too late to be resent, or
- (c) any applications for replacement voting information are made too late to enable new voting information to be issued,

the returning officer is to put them in a separate packet, seal it up, and endorse and forward it to the chairman of the corporation.

**57. Retention and public inspection of documents**

(1) The corporation is to retain the documents relating to an election that are forwarded to the chair by the returning officer under these rules for one year, and then, unless otherwise directed by the board of directors of the corporation, cause them to be destroyed.

- (2) With the exception of the documents listed in rule 58(1), the documents relating to an election that are held by the corporation shall be available for inspection by members of the public at all reasonable times.
- (3) A person may request a copy or extract from the documents relating to an election that are held by the corporation, and the corporation is to provide it, and may impose a reasonable charge for doing so.

**58. Application for inspection of certain documents relating to an election**

- (1) The corporation may not allow:
  - (a) the inspection of, or the opening of any sealed packet containing:
    - (i) any rejected ballot papers, including ballot papers rejected in part,
    - (ii) any rejected text voting records, including text voting records rejected in part,
    - (iii) any disqualified documents, or the list of disqualified documents,
    - (iv) any counted ballot papers, internet voting records, telephone voting records or text voting records, or
    - (v) the list of eligible voters, or
  - (b) access to or the inspection of the complete electronic copies of the internet voting records, the telephone voting record and the text voting records created in accordance with rule 26 held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage

by any person without the consent of the board of directors of the corporation.

- (2) A person may apply to the board of directors of the corporation to inspect any of the documents listed in rule 58(1), and the board of directors if the corporation may only consent to such inspection if it is satisfied that it is necessary for the purpose of questioning an election pursuant to Part 11.
- (3) The board of directors of the corporation's consent may be on any terms or conditions that it thinks necessary, including conditions as to:
  - (a) persons,
  - (b) time,
  - (c) place and mode of inspection,
  - (d) production or opening,

and the corporation must only make the documents available for inspection in accordance with those terms and conditions.

- (4) On an application to inspect any of the documents listed in rule 58(1), the board of directors of the corporation must:
  - (a) in giving its consent, and
  - (b) in making the documents available for inspection,

must ensure that the way in which the vote of any particular member has been given shall not be disclosed, until it has been established:

- (i) that his or her vote was given, and
- (ii) that Monitor has declared that the vote was invalid.

## **Part 9 – Death of a candidate during a contested election**

### **59. Countermand or abandonment of poll on death of candidate**

- (1) If, at a contested election, proof is given to the returning officer's satisfaction before the result of the election is declared that one of the persons named or to be named as a candidate has died, then the returning officer is to:
  - (a) publish a notice stating that the candidate has died, and
  - (b) proceed with the counting of the votes as if that candidate had been excluded from the count so that:
    - (i) ballot documents which only have a first preference recorded for the candidate that has died, and no preferences for any other candidates, are not to be counted, and
    - (ii) ballot documents which have preferences recorded for other candidates are to be counted according to the consecutive order of those preferences, passing over preferences marked for the candidate who has died.
- (2) The ballot documents which have preferences recorded for the candidate who has died are to be sealed with the other counted ballot documents pursuant to rule 54(1)(a).

## **Part 10 – Election expenses and publicity**

### ***Expenses***

### **60. Election expenses**

- (1) Any expenses incurred, or payments made, for the purposes of an election which contravene this Part are an electoral irregularity, which may only be questioned in an application to Monitor under Part 11 of these rules.

### **61. Expenses and payments by candidates**

- (1) A candidate may not incur any expenses or make a payment (of whatever nature) for the purposes of an election, other than expenses or payments that relate to:
  - (a) personal expenses,
  - (b) travelling expenses, and expenses incurred while living away from home, and
  - (c) expenses for stationery, postage, telephone, internet (or any similar means of communication) and other petty expenses, to a limit of £100.

### **62. Election expenses incurred by other persons**

- (1) No person may:
  - (a) incur any expenses or make a payment (of whatever nature) for the purposes of a candidate's election, whether on that candidate's behalf or otherwise, or
  - (b) give a candidate or his or her family any money or property (whether as a gift, donation, loan, or otherwise) to meet or contribute to expenses incurred by or on behalf of the candidate for the purposes of an election.
- (2) Nothing in this rule is to prevent the corporation from incurring such expenses, and making such payments, as it considers necessary pursuant to rules 63 and 64.

## **Publicity**

### **63. Publicity about election by the corporation**

- (1) The corporation may:
  - (a) compile and distribute such information about the candidates, and
  - (b) organise and hold such meetings to enable the candidates to speak and respond to questions, as it considers necessary
- (2) Any information provided by the corporation about the candidates, including information compiled by the corporation under rule 64 must be:
  - (a) objective, balanced and fair,
  - (b) equivalent in size and content for all candidates,
  - (c) compiled and distributed in consultation with all of the candidates standing for election, and
  - (d) must not seek to promote or procure the election of a specific candidate or candidates, at the expense of the electoral prospects of one or more other candidates.
- (3) Where the corporation proposes to hold a meeting to enable the candidates to speak, the corporation must ensure that all of the candidates are invited to attend, and in organising and holding such a meeting, the corporation must not seek to promote or procure the election of a specific candidate or candidates at the expense of the electoral prospects of one or more other candidates.

### **64. Information about candidates for inclusion with voting information**

- (1) The corporation must compile information about the candidates standing for election, to be distributed by the returning officer pursuant to rule 24 of these rules.
- (2) The information must consist of:
  - (a) a statement submitted by the candidate of no more than 250 words,
  - (b) if voting by telephone or text message is a method of polling for the election, the numerical voting code, allocated by the returning officer, to each candidate, for the purpose of recording votes using the telephone voting facility or the text message voting facility (“numerical voting code”), and
  - (c) a photograph of the candidate.

### **65. Meaning of “for the purposes of an election”**

- (1) In this Part, the phrase “for the purposes of an election” means with a view to, or otherwise in connection with, promoting or procuring a candidate’s election, including the prejudicing of another candidate’s electoral prospects; and the phrase “for the purposes of a candidate’s election” is to be construed accordingly.
- (2) The provision by any individual of his or her own services voluntarily, on his or her own time, and free of charge is not to be considered an expense for the purposes of this Part.

## **Part 11 – Questioning elections and the consequence of irregularities**

### **66. Application to question an election**

- (1) An application alleging a breach of these rules, including an electoral irregularity under Part 10, may be made to Monitor.

- (2) An application may only be made once the outcome of the election has been declared by the returning officer.
- (3) An application may only be made to Monitor by:
  - (a) a person who voted at the election or who claimed to have had the right to vote, or
  - (b) a candidate, or a person claiming to have had a right to be elected at the election.
- (4) The application must:
  - (a) describe the alleged breach of the rules or electoral irregularity, and
  - (b) be in such a form as Monitor may require.
- (5) The application must be presented in writing within 21 days of the declaration of the result of the election.
- (6) If Monitor requests further information from the applicant, then that person must provide it as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- (7) Monitor shall delegate the determination of an application to a person or panel of persons to be nominated for the purpose.
- (8) The determination by the person or panel of persons nominated in accordance with rule 66(7) shall be binding on and shall be given effect by the corporation, the applicant and the members of the constituency (or class within a constituency) including all the candidates for the election to which the application relates.
- (9) Monitor may prescribe rules of procedure for the determination of an application including costs.

## **Part 12 – Miscellaneous**

### **67. Secrecy**

- (1) The following persons:
  - (a) the returning officer,
  - (b) the returning officer's staff,

must maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting and the counting of the votes, and must not, except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person any information as to:

  - (i) the name of any member of the corporation who has or has not been given voting information or who has or has not voted,
  - (ii) the unique identifier on any ballot paper,
  - (iii) the voter ID number allocated to any voter
  - (iv) the candidate(s) for whom any member has voted.
- (2) No person may obtain or attempt to obtain information as to the candidate(s) for whom a voter is about to vote or has voted, or communicate such information to any person at any time, including the unique identifier on a ballot paper given to a voter or the voter ID number allocated to a voter.
- (3) The returning officer is to make such arrangements as he or she thinks fit to ensure that the individuals who are affected by this provision are aware of the duties it imposes.

**68. Prohibition of disclosure of vote**

- (1) No person who has voted at an election shall, in any legal or other proceedings to question the election, be required to state for whom he or she has voted.

**69. Disqualification**

- (1) A person may not be appointed as a returning officer, or as staff of the returning officer pursuant to these rules, if that person is:
- (a) a member of the corporation,
  - (b) an employee of the corporation,
  - (c) a director of the corporation, or
  - (d) employed by or on behalf of a person who has been nominated for election.

**70. Delay in postal service through industrial action or unforeseen event**

- (1) If industrial action, or some other unforeseen event, results in a delay in:
- (a) the delivery of the documents in rule 24 or
  - (b) the return of the ballot papers,

the returning officer may extend the time between the publication of the notice of the poll and the close of the poll by such period as he or she considers appropriate.

**ANNEX 5**  
**Additional Provisions – Council of Governors**

**1. Process for investigating and resolving complaints made against a governor**

- 1.1 A person wishing to make a complaint concerning the conduct of a governor shall do so in writing to the chair.
- 1.2 Where a complaint is made under paragraph 1.1 above:
  - 1.2.1 the chair, shall, if in their opinion it is appropriate do so, take fair and reasonable steps to resolve the matter informally within 10 working days from receipt of the written complaint.
  - 1.2.2 the chair, may choose to delegate their responsibility under paragraph 1.2.1 above to another person.
- 1.3 If the complaint cannot be resolved by informal resolution under paragraph 1.2 above, or the chair decides that informal resolution is not appropriate, the chair may take such action as they consider is appropriate in the circumstances, including, but not limited to:
  - 1.3.1 the suspension of the governor against whom the complaint has been made from the council of governors so that the matter can be investigated. Any suspension of a governor shall be confirmed to them in writing; and
  - 1.3.2 commissioning an investigation into the complaint, to be conducted by individuals with relevant experience from either within or outside of the Trust.
- 1.4 As soon as reasonably practicable following any decision taken by the chair under clause 1.3 above, the chair shall inform the council of governors that such a decision has been taken, and, to the extent appropriate the reasons for it.
- 1.5 As soon as reasonably practicable following a decision to commission an investigation, the chair shall provide to the council of governors, to the extent they consider it appropriate, a copy of the terms of reference of such investigation.
- 1.6 Where an investigation identifies, or, if no investigation is commissioned, the chair believes, a governor has failed to comply with this constitution and/or any code of conduct applying to governors, and/or the Standing Orders, the council of governors shall be asked to decide by a majority of those present and voting, whether to approve a statement of non-compliance or misconduct, which shall set out the reasons for such non-compliance or misconduct.
- 1.7 The governor concerned shall be notified in writing and provided with a copy of the statement of non-compliance and will be invited to respond within an appropriate and reasonable timescale as determined by the council of governors in the statement of non-compliance. The governor shall be invited to address the Council of Governors in person if the matter cannot be resolved satisfactorily through correspondence.
- 1.8 Having considered the governor's response, the council of governors shall decide by a majority of those present and voting whether to uphold the statement of non-compliance.
- 1.9 If the statement of non-compliance is upheld:



- 1.9.1 subject to paragraph 1.9.2 below, the council of governors may by a majority of those present and voting impose such sanctions as it deems appropriate. This may include a written warning, non-payment of expense suspension from office.
- 1.9.2 the chair or any other governor may propose a resolution to remove the governor in question from office.
- 1.10 Where a resolution to remove a governor is proposed and the governor concerned does not believe that the proposal is justified, the chair shall offer the governor in question the opportunity to have the reasonableness of the proposal reviewed by an independent assessor (a "review"). The chair and the governor shall seek to agree on a mutually acceptable independent assessor. If no agreement can be reached within 14 days of the governor requesting a review, then the chair shall decide on the independent assessor.

## **2. Suspension or termination of office of a governor**

- 2.1 A governor may resign from office by giving notice in writing to the secretary.
- 2.2 If a governor fails to attend two successive meetings of the council of governors, his/her tenure of office is to be immediately terminated by the council of governors unless the council is satisfied that:
  - 2.2.1 the absences were due to reasonable cause; and
  - 2.2.2 he/she will be able to attend meetings of the council of governors within such a period, as the council of governors considers reasonable.
- 2.3 Subject to paragraph 1 the council of governors may by a resolution approved by a majority of governors present and entitled to vote at a properly constituted meeting of the council of governors terminate a governor's tenure of office if it considers:
  - 2.3.1 he/she has failed to undertake any training which the council of governors requires all governors to undertake;
  - 2.3.2 he/she has committed a serious breach of the code of conduct for governors, or
  - 2.3.3 he/she has acted in a manner detrimental to the interests of the Trust.

**ANNEX 6**  
**Standing Orders for the Practice and Procedure of the Council of Governors**

(Paragraph 18)

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## 1. Introduction

These standing orders for the practice and procedures of the council of governors (and any sub-committees) are the standing orders referred to in paragraph 18 of the Constitution.

## 2. Interpretation

- 2.1 The definition and interpretation of words and expressions contained in these standing orders are as set out at paragraph 47 of the constitution.
- 2.2 Save as otherwise permitted by law, at any meeting the chair of the Trust shall be the final authority on the interpretation of Standing Orders (on which he/she should be advised by the chief executive and the secretary).

## 3. The council of governors

The council of governors may only exercise its powers in formal session.

## 4. Meetings of the council of governors

### 4.1 *Admission of the Public and the Press*

The public and representatives of the press shall be afforded facilities to attend all formal meetings of the council of governors subject to Standing Orders 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 below.

- 4.1.1 The council of governors may resolve to exclude members of the public and representative of the press from any meeting or part of a meeting on the grounds that:
  - 4.1.1.1 publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted; or
  - 4.1.1.2 there are special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of the business of the proceedings.
- 4.1.2 The council of governors may resolve, in the interests of public order, that the meeting shall adjourn for a period to be specified in the resolution to enable the council of governors to complete business without the presence of the public.
- 4.1.3 Nothing in these standing orders shall require the council of governors to allow members of the public and representatives of the press to record proceedings in any manner whatsoever, other than writing, or to make any oral report of proceedings as they take place, without the prior agreement of the council of governors.
- 4.1.4 In the event that the public and press are admitted to all or part of a meeting, the chair (or other person presiding) shall give such directions as he/she thinks fit in regard to the arrangements for meetings and accommodation of the public and press so as to ensure that the council of governors' business shall be conducted without interruption and disruption.
- 4.1.5 The Trust may make such arrangements from time to time as it sees fit with regards to extending of invitations to observers to attend and address the council of governors.

### 4.2 *Calling meetings*

- 4.2.1 Meetings of the council of governors shall be held at such times and places as the council of governors may determine and there shall be not less than

four meetings in any year.

- 4.2.2 The chair, or in his/her absence the deputy chair, may call a meeting of the council of governors at any time. If the chair refuses to call a meeting after a requisition for that purpose, signed by at least one third of the whole number of the governors and specifying the business to be transacted at the meeting, has been presented to them, or if, without so refusing, the chair does not call a meeting within seven clear days after such requisition has been presented to them at the Trust's Headquarters, such one third or more of the governors may forthwith call a meeting for the purpose of conducting that business.

#### 4.3 ***Notice of meetings***

- 4.3.1 Before each meeting of the council of governors, a notice of the meeting, specifying the business proposed to be transacted at it, and signed by the chair or by an officer of the Trust authorised by the chair to sign on his/her behalf, shall be delivered to, or sent by email, or sent by post to the usual place of residence of every governor, so as to be available to them at least five clear days before the meeting save in the case of emergencies. Subject to Standing Order 4.3.4 below, lack of service of the notice on any governor shall not affect the validity of a meeting.
- 4.3.2 Notwithstanding the above requirement for notice, the chair may waive notice in writing on written receipt of agreement of at least half of the governors.
- 4.3.3 In the case of a meeting called by governors in default of the chair, the notice shall be signed by those governors and no business shall be transacted at the meeting other than that specified in the requisition.
- 4.3.4 Subject to Standing Order 4.3.2, failure to serve notice on more than three-quarters of governors will invalidate any meeting. A notice will be presumed to have been served 48 hours after it was posted.
- 4.3.5 Save in an emergency, an agenda shall be sent to each governor so as to arrive no later than 5 days in advance of each meeting and supporting papers, whenever possible, shall accompany the agenda. Minutes of the previous meeting will be circulated with the papers for approval and this will be a specific agenda item.
- 4.3.6 Before any meeting of the council of governors which is to be held in public, a public notice of the time and place of the meeting, and the public part of the agenda, shall be displayed on the Trust's website and at the Trust's premises at least three clear days before the meeting.

#### 4.4 ***Setting the agenda***

- 4.4.1 The council of governors may determine that certain matters shall appear on every agenda for a meeting and shall be addressed prior to any other business being conducted.
- 4.4.2 A governor desiring a matter to be included on an agenda shall make his/her request in writing to the chair at least ten clear days before the meeting. The request should state whether the item of business is proposed to be transacted in the presence of the public and should include appropriate supporting information. Requests made less than ten clear days before a meeting may be included on the agenda at the discretion of the chair.

4.5 **Chair of meeting**

- 4.5.1 The chair is appointed in accordance with the constitution.
- 4.5.2 At any council of governors meeting, the chair, if present, shall preside.
- 4.5.3 If the chair is absent from the meeting or is absent temporarily on the grounds of a declared conflict of interest the deputy chair shall preside.
- 4.5.4 If the deputy chair is also absent from the meeting or is absent temporarily on the grounds of a declared conflict of interest, another non-executive director shall preside.
- 4.5.5 If no non-executive director is available such governor as the governors that are present shall appoint, shall preside.

4.6 **Motions**

- 4.6.1 A governor wishing to move or amend a motion shall send written notice of it to the chair at least ten clear days before the meeting. Requests made less than ten days before a meeting may be included on the agenda at the discretion of the chair. This paragraph shall not prevent any motion being moved during the meeting, without notice, on any business mentioned on the agenda subject to Standing Order 4.3.3.
- 4.6.2 A motion or amendment once moved and seconded, may be withdrawn by the proposer with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the chair.
- 4.6.3 Notice of a motion to amend or rescind any resolution (or the general substance of any resolution) which has been passed within the preceding six calendar months, shall bear the signature of the governors who gave it and also the signature of four other governors. When the council of governors has disposed of any such motion it shall not be competent for any governor to propose a motion to the same effect within six months; however the chair may do so if he/she considers it appropriate.
- 4.6.4 The mover of a motion shall have the right of reply at the close of any discussion on the motion or any amendment thereto.
- 4.6.5 When a motion is under discussion or immediately prior to discussion it shall be open to a governor to move:
  - 4.6.5.1 an amendment to the motion;
  - 4.6.5.2 the adjournment of the discussion or the meeting;
  - 4.6.5.3 that the meeting proceed to the next business;
  - 4.6.5.4 the appointment of an ad hoc committee to deal with a specific item of business;
  - 4.6.5.5 that the motion be now put.

No amendment to the motion shall be admitted if, in the opinion of the chair of the meeting, the amendment negates the substance of the motion.

4.6.6 **Emergency motion**

Subject to the agreement of the chair and this Standing Order 4.7.6, a governor may give written notice of an emergency motion after the issue of the notice of meeting and agenda up to one hour before the time fixed for the meeting. The notice shall state the grounds of urgency. At the chair's

discretion, the emergency motion shall be declared to the council of governors at the commencement of the business of the meeting as an additional item included on the agenda. The chair's decision to include the item shall be final.

#### **4.7 Chair's ruling**

Statements of governors made at meetings of the council of governors shall be relevant to the matter under discussion at the material time and the decision of the chair of the meeting on questions of order, relevancy, regularity and any other matters shall be final.

#### **4.8 Voting**

- 4.8.1 A governor may not vote at a meeting of the council of governors unless he/she has made a declaration in the form specified within these Standing Orders, that he/she is a member of the constituency which elected him/her and is not prevented from being a member of the council of governors by paragraph 8 of Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act or under the Constitution. Such declaration must be dated at least 7 Clear Days prior to the commencement of the meeting.
- 4.8.2 Except as stated otherwise in the constitution or these standing orders, every question at a meeting shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the governors present and voting on the question.
- 4.8.3 All questions put to the vote shall, at the discretion of the chair of the meeting, be determined by oral expression or by a show of hands. A paper ballot may also be used if a majority of the governors present so request.
- 4.8.4 Whoever is chair of the meeting of the council of governors shall in the case of an equality of votes on any question or proposal have a casting vote.
- 4.8.5 If at least one-third of the governors present so request, the voting (other than by paper ballot) on any question may be recorded to show how each governor present voted or abstained.
- 4.8.6 If a governor so requests, his/her vote shall be recorded by name upon any vote (other than by paper ballot).
- 4.8.7 A governor may only vote if present at the time of the vote on which the question is to be decided; no governor may vote by proxy.
- 4.8.8 Any matter which could be decided by the council of governors in a meeting may be determined by written resolution. A written resolution shall, with any accompanying papers which are relevant, describe the matter to be decided and provide for governors to sign the resolution to confirm their agreement. A written resolution may comprise identical documents sent to all governors, each to be signed by a governor, or one document to be signed by all governors. A written resolution shall be passed only when at least three-quarters of the governors, including a majority of governors who are members of the public constituency of the Trust, approve the resolution in writing within the timescale imposed in such a notice. A written resolution may be circulated in electronic form (including by email) and signed and returned electronically or approval indicated in writing by email from the email address to which the written resolution was sent in order to meet the requirements of this provision. The secretary shall keep records of all written resolutions.

#### 4.9 **Meetings: Electronic Communication**

- 4.9.1 In this Standing Order “communication” and “electronic communication” shall have the meanings set out in the Electronic Communications Act 2000 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof.
- 4.9.2 A governor in electronic communication with the chair and all other parties to a meeting of the council of governors or of a committee or sub-committee of the governors shall be regarded for all purposes as personally attending such a meeting provided that, but only for so long as, at such a meeting he/she has the ability to communicate interactively and simultaneously with all other parties attending the meeting including all persons attending by way of electronic communication.
- 4.9.3 A meeting at which one or more of the governors attends by way of electronic communication is deemed to be held at such a place as the governors shall at the said meeting resolve. In the absence of such a resolution, the meeting shall be deemed to be held at the place (if any) where a majority of the governors attending the meeting are physically present, or in default of such a majority, the place at which the chair of the meeting is physically present.
- 4.9.4 Meetings held in accordance with this standing order are subject to requirements in respect of quorum. For such a meeting to be valid, a quorum must be present and maintained throughout the meeting.
- 4.9.5 The minutes of a meeting held in this way must state that it was held by electronic communication and that the governors were all able to hear each other and were present throughout the meeting.

#### 4.10 **Minutes**

- 4.10.1 The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting shall be drawn up by the secretary and submitted for agreement at the next ensuing meeting where the chair presiding at it will sign them.
- 4.10.2 No discussion shall take place upon the minutes except upon their accuracy or where the chair considers discussion appropriate. Any amendment to the minutes shall be agreed and recorded at the next meeting.

#### 4.11 **Attendance**

Governors who are unable to attend a meeting shall notify the secretary in advance of the meeting so that their apologies may be submitted.

#### 4.12 **Suspension of Standing Orders**

- 4.12.1 Except where this would contravene any statutory provision or any direction made by NHS England, any one or more of the standing orders may be suspended at any meeting, provided that at least two-thirds of the governors are present, there is a majority of governors who are members of the public constituency of the Trust, and that a majority of those present vote in favour of suspension.
- 4.12.2 A decision to suspend the standing orders shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 4.12.3 A separate record of matters discussed during the suspension of standing orders shall be made and shall be available to the chair and governors.
- 4.12.4 No formal business may be transacted while standing orders are

suspended.

**4.13 Variation and amendment of Standing Orders**

These standing orders may only be amended in accordance with paragraph 44 of the constitution.

**4.14 Record of attendance**

The names of the chair and governors present at the meeting shall be recorded in the minutes.

**4.15 Quorum**

4.15.1 No business shall be transacted at a meeting unless at least one third of the total number of governors entitled to vote are present at the meeting with the majority of those governors present being from the public constituency.

4.15.2 If at any meeting there is no quorum present within 30 minutes of the time fixed for the start of the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned for five clear days and upon reconvening, those present shall constitute a quorum.

4.15.3 If a governor has been disqualified from participating in the discussion on any matter and/or from other voting on any resolution by reason of the declaration of a conflict of interest then he/she shall no longer count towards the quorum. If a quorum is then not available for the discussion and/or the passing of a resolution on any matter, that matter may not be discussed further or voted upon at that meeting. Such a position shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The meeting must then proceed to the next business.

**5. Committees**

5.1 Subject to any direction and/or guidance of NHS England, the council of governors may and, if directed by NHS England, shall appoint committees of the council of governors from time to time to assist it in the proper performance of its functions under the constitution and the regulatory framework, consisting wholly or partly of members of the council of governors and the board of directors.

5.2 A committee appointed under Standing Order 5.1 may, subject to such directions as may be given by NHS England or the council of governors, appoint sub-committees consisting wholly or partly of members of the council of governors and the board of directors.

5.3 These standing orders, as far as they are applicable, shall apply with appropriate alteration to meetings of any committees established by the council of governors with the term "chair" to be read as a reference to the chair of the committee and the term "member" to be read as a reference to a member of the committee as the context permits.

5.4 Each committee of the council of governors shall have such terms of reference and remit and shall be subject to such conditions as the council of governors shall decide and shall be in accordance with the regulatory framework and any direction or guidance issued by NHS England but, for the avoidance of doubt, the council of governors may not delegate to any such committee any of its powers or responsibilities.

5.5 Where committees are authorised to establish sub-committees they may not require such sub-committees to carry out any of their responsibilities unless expressly authorised by the council of governors.



- 5.6 Where the council of governors determines that persons who are neither governors, nor members of the board of directors nor officers of the Trust, shall be appointed to a committee, the terms of such appointment shall be determined by the council of governors subject to the payment of travelling expenses and other allowances being in accordance with such sum as may be determined by the board of directors or NHS England.
- 5.7 If the Board of Directors agrees, the Council of Governors may appoint Governors to serve on joint committees with the Board of Directors or committees of the Board of Directors. Where Governors are appointed to committees of the Board of Directors they shall have observer status only.

## **6. Declarations of interests and register of interests**

### **6.1 Declaration of interests**

- 6.1.1 The regulatory framework and the constitution require each governor to declare to the secretary :
- 6.1.1.1 any actual or potential, direct or indirect, financial interest which is material to any discussion or decision they are involved, or likely to be involved, in making, as described in Standing Orders 6.2.2 and 6.2.6 (subject to Standing Order 6.2.3); and
- 6.1.1.2 any actual or potential, direct or indirect, non-financial professional interest, which is material to any discussion or decision they are involved, or likely to be involved, in making, as described in Standing Orders 6.2.4 and 6.2.6; and
- 6.1.1.3 any actual or potential, direct or indirect, non-financial personal interest, which is material to any discussion or decision they are involved, or likely to be involved, in making, as described in Standing Orders 6.2.5 and 6.2.6 .
- 6.1.2 Such a declaration shall be made either at the time of the governor's election or appointment or as soon thereafter as the interest arises, but within five clear days of becoming aware of the existence of that interest, and in such manner as the secretary may prescribe from time to time.
- 6.1.3 In addition, if a governor is present at a meeting of the council of governors and has an interest of any sort in any matter which is the subject of consideration, he/she shall, at the meeting and as soon as practicable after its commencement, disclose the fact and the chair shall then decide what action to take. This may include excluding the governor from discussion on the matter and/or prohibiting the governor from voting on any question with respect to the matter.
- 6.1.4 Subject to Standing Order 6.2.3, if a governor has declared a pecuniary interest (as described in Standing Order 6.2.2) he/she shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of the matter.
- 6.1.5 Any interest declared at a meeting of the council of governors and subsequent action taken should be recorded in the council of governors' meeting minutes. Any changes in interests should be officially declared at the next relevant meeting following the change occurring.
- 6.1.6 This Standing Order 6 applies to any committee, sub-committee or joint committee of the council of governors and applies to any member of any such committee, sub-committee, or joint committee (whether or not he/she is also a governor).

- 6.1.7 The interests of governors in companies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS should be published in the Trust's Annual Report. The information should be kept up to date for inclusion in succeeding Annual Reports.

## 6.2 **Nature of Interests**

- 6.2.1 Interests which should be regarded as "material" are ones which a reasonable person would take into account when making a decision regarding the use of taxpayers' money because the interest has relevance to that decision. Material interests are to be interpreted in accordance with guidance issued by NHS England.
- 6.2.2 A financial interest is where a governor may receive direct financial benefits (by either making a gain or avoiding a loss) from the consequences of a decision of the council of governors. This could include:
- 6.2.2.1 directorships, including non-executive directorships held in any other organisation which is doing, or is likely to be doing business with an organisation in receipt of NHS funding;
  - 6.2.2.2 employment in an organisation which is doing, or is likely to do business with an organisation in receipt of NHS funding; or
  - 6.2.2.3 a shareholding, partnerships, ownership or part ownership of an organisation which is doing, or is likely to do business with an organisation in receipt of NHS funding.
- 6.2.3 A governor shall not be treated as having a financial interest in any a matter by reason only:
- 6.2.3.1 of his/her membership of a company or other body, if he/she has no beneficial interest in any securities of that company or other body; or
  - 6.2.3.2 of shares or securities held in collective investment or pensions funds or units of authorised unit trusts; or
  - 6.2.3.3 of an interest in any company, body or person with which he/she is connected which is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence a governor in the consideration or discussion of or in voting on, any question with respect to that contract or matter; or
  - 6.2.3.4 of any travelling or other expenses or allowances payable to a governor in accordance with the constitution.
- 6.2.4 A non-financial professional interest is where a governor may obtain a non-financial professional benefit from the consequence of a decision that the council of governors makes, such as increasing their professional reputation or status or promoting their professional career. This could include situations where a governor is:
- 6.2.4.1 an advocate for a particular group of patients; or
  - 6.2.4.2 a clinician with a special interest; or
  - 6.2.4.3 an active member of a particular specialist body; or
  - 6.2.4.4 an advisor for the Care Quality Commission or National Institute of Health and Care Excellence.

- 6.2.5 A non-financial personal interest is where a governor may benefit personally from a decision that the council of governors makes in ways which are not directly linked to their professional career and do not give rise to a direct financial benefit. This could include where the governor is:
- 6.2.5.1 a member of a voluntary sector board or has a position of authority within a voluntary sector organisation with an interest in health and/or social care; or
  - 6.2.5.2 a member of a lobbying or pressure group with an interest in health and/or social care.
- 6.2.6 A governor will be treated as having an indirect financial interest, non-financial professional interest or non-financial personal interest where he/she has a close association with another individual who has a financial interest, a non-financial professional interest or a non-financial personal interest who would stand to benefit from a decision in which the governor is involved in making. This includes material interests of:
- 6.2.6.1 close family members and relatives, including a spouse or partner or any parent, child, brother or sister of a governor;
  - 6.2.6.2 close friends and associates; and
  - 6.2.6.3 business partners.
- 6.2.7 If governors have any doubt about the relevance or materiality of an interest, this should be discussed with the chair. Influence rather than the immediacy of the relationship is more important in assessing the relevance of an interest. The interests of partners in professional partnerships including General Practitioners should also be considered.

### 6.3 ***Register of interests***

- 6.3.1 The secretary shall keep a register of interests of governors, which shall contain the names of each governor, whether he/she has declared any interest, and if so, the interest declared.
- 6.3.2 These details will be kept up to date by means of an annual review of the register of interests in which any changes to interests declared during the preceding twelve months will be incorporated.
- 6.3.3 The register of interests will be available to the public in accordance with the constitution and the chief executive will take reasonable steps to bring the existence of the register of interests to the attention of the local population.
- 6.3.4 In establishing, maintaining and publicising the register of interests, the Trust shall comply with all guidance issued from time to time by NHS England.

## 7. **Standards of business conduct**

Each governor shall comply with the Trust's code of conduct and any guidance and directions issued by NHS England, in particular the NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance.

## 8. **Appointments and recommendations**

- 8.1 A governor shall not solicit for any person any appointment under the Trust or recommend any person for such appointment but this paragraph of this standing order shall not preclude members from giving written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience or character for submission to the Trust in relation to any appointment.

- 8.2 Informal discussions outside appointments panels or committees, whether solicited or unsolicited, should be declared to the panel or committee.
- 8.3 Candidates for any staff appointment under the Trust shall, when making such an application, disclose in writing to the Trust whether they are related to any governors or the holder of any office within the Trust. Failure to disclose such a relationship shall disqualify a candidate and, if appointed, render them liable to instant dismissal.
- 8.4 The chair and every governor shall disclose to the chief executive or his/her delegated officer any relationship between themselves and a candidate of whose candidature that governor or officer is aware. It shall be the duty of the chief executive or his/her delegated officer to report to the council of governors any such disclosure made.
- 8.5 On appointment, each governor should disclose to the council of governors whether they are related to any other governor or holder of any office in the Trust.
- 8.6 Where the relationship to another governor is disclosed, Standing Order 6 shall apply.

## **9. Confidentiality**

- 9.1 All governors shall abide by the Trust's policies on confidentiality and code of conduct.
- 9.2 A member of the council of governors or an attendee on a committee of the council of governors shall not disclose a matter dealt with by, or brought before, the council of governors without its permission, or until the committee shall have reported to the council of governors or shall otherwise have concluded on that matter.
- 9.3 A governor or other attendee at a committee shall not disclose any matter dealt with by the committee, notwithstanding that the matter has been reported or action has been concluded, if the council of governors or committee resolves that it is confidential.

## **10. Interface between the council of governors and the board of directors**

The council of governors will cooperate with the board of directors as far as possible in order to comply with the regulatory framework in all respects and in particular in relation to matters set out in the constitution. In the event of a dispute arrangements are set out in annex 8, appendix 2, paragraph 2.

## **11. Miscellaneous**

- 11.1 The secretary shall provide a copy of these standing orders to each governor and endeavour to ensure that each governor understands his/her responsibilities within these standing orders.
- 11.2 If for any reason these standing orders are not complied with, full details of the non-compliance and any justification for non-compliance and the circumstances around the non-compliance, shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the council of governors for action or ratification. All governors have a duty to disclose any non-compliance with these standing orders to the chair as soon as possible.

## **12. Council of governors: declarations**

- 12.1 A member of a public constituency standing for election as governor must make a declaration for the purposes of Section 60(2) of the 2006 Act in the form specified stating the particulars of his/her qualification to vote as a member and that he/she is not prevented from being a governor by virtue of paragraph 8 of Schedule 7 of the 2006 Act. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a statement or declaration in respect of Section 60(2) of the 2006 Act which is false in material particular.
- 12.2 The specified form of declaration shall be set out on the nomination form referred to in the model election rules at annex 4.

- 12.3 A governor elected to the council of governors by the public constituency or staff constituency may not for the purposes of Section 60(3) of the 2006 Act vote at a meeting of the council of governors unless within the period since his/her election, he/she has made a declaration in the form specified below stating which constituency he/she is a member of, and is not prevented from being a member of the council of governors by paragraph 8 of Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act:

*"I declare that I am a member of the public constituency or staff constituency and am eligible to vote at a meeting of the council of governors, and that I am not debarred from voting by any of the provisions in paragraph 8 of Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act".*

### **13. Lead governor and deputy lead governor**

- 13.1 The council of governors shall appoint or elect a governor as the lead governor.
- 13.2 A governor seeking election as lead governor will be required to submit a written statement to the secretary or equivalent in support of their candidature by a specific deadline. The statement must not be in excess of 300 words. Statements will be circulated to all governors by the secretary by email following the expiry of the deadline for submission. Governors shall be provided with a deadline to register an electronic vote by email. The secretary shall act as the returning officer in respect of the election.
- 13.3 The lead governor shall provide his/her contact details to NHS Improvement (NHSI) and continue to update NHSI and the council of governors with his/her contact details as and when they change.
- 13.4 The role of the lead governor is to facilitate direct communication between NHSI and the council of governors in the limited circumstances where it may not be appropriate to communicate through the normal channels. The council of governors may agree that the lead governor should undertake other specified duties.
- 13.5 The lead governor shall take steps to understand NHSI's role, the available guidance and the basis on which NHS England may take regulatory action.
- 13.6 In the event that an individual governor wishes to make contact with NHSI, this contact will be through the lead governor.
- 13.7 The council of governors may appoint or elect a deputy lead governor to undertake such responsibilities as the council of governors may specify.
- 13.8 The same process set out at 13.1 used for the appointment of the lead governor will be used for the appointment of the deputy lead governor.

**ANNEX 7**  
**Standing Orders for the Practice and Procedure of the Board of Directors**

(Paragraph 31)

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24. Suspension of standing orders
25. Confidentiality
26. Interface between the board of directors and the council of governors
27. Standing orders to be given to members of the Board and officers

## **Introduction**

These standing orders for the practice and procedures of the board of directors (and any sub-committees) are the standing orders referred to in paragraph 31 of the constitution.

### **1. Interpretation**

The definition and interpretation of words and expressions contained in these standing orders are as set out at paragraph 47 of the constitution.

Save as otherwise permitted by law, at any meeting the chair of the Trust shall be the final authority on the interpretation of Standing Orders (on which he/she should be advised by the chief executive and secretary).

### **2. Not Used**

### **3. Not Used**

### **4. Meetings**

#### **4.1 *Calling of meetings***

4.1.1 Ordinary meetings of the board of directors shall be held at regular intervals at such times and in such places as the board of directors may determine. Board meetings shall be held in public but the whole or any part of a meeting may be held in private if the Board so resolves.

4.1.2 The chair may call a meeting of the Board at any time.

4.1.3 One third or more directors of the Board may requisition a meeting in writing. If the chair refuses, or fails, to call a meeting within seven clear days of a requisition being presented, the directors signing the requisition may forthwith call a meeting.

#### **4.2 *Notice of meetings***

4.2.1 Before each meeting of the Board, a notice of the meeting, specifying the business proposed to be transacted at it, and signed by the chair or by an officer of the Trust authorised by the chair to sign on his/her behalf, shall be delivered to, or sent by email, or sent by post to the usual place of residence of every director, so as to be available to them at least five clear days before the meeting save in the case of emergencies.

4.2.2 In the case of a meeting called by directors in default of the chair calling the meeting, the notice shall be signed by those directors.

4.2.3 Failure to serve notice on more than three directors will invalidate any meeting. A notice will be deemed to have been served 48 hours after it was posted.

4.2.4 Before any meeting of the Board which is to be held in public, a public notice of the time and place of the meeting, and the public part of the agenda, shall be displayed on the Trust's website and at the Trust's premises at least three clear days before the meeting.

### **5. Agendas and supporting papers**

Save in an emergency, an agenda shall be sent to each director so as to arrive with each director no later than 5 days in advance of each meeting and supporting papers, whenever possible, shall accompany the agenda. Minutes of the previous meeting will be circulated with the papers for approval and this will be a specific agenda item.



## 6. Motions

- 6.1 A member of the Board wishing to move or amend a motion shall send written notice of it to the chair at least ten clear days before the meeting. Requests made less than ten days before a meeting may be included on the agenda at the discretion of the chair. This paragraph shall not prevent any motion being moved during the meeting, without notice, on any business mentioned on the agenda subject to standing order 7.5.
- 6.2 A motion or amendment once moved and seconded, may be withdrawn by the proposer with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the chair.
- 6.3 Notice of a motion to amend or rescind any resolution (or the general substance of any resolution) which has been passed within the preceding six calendar months, shall bear the signature of the director who gave it and also the signature of four other members of the Board. When the Board has disposed of any such motion it shall not be competent for any member of the Board, other than the chair, to propose a motion to the same effect within six months; however the chair may do so if he/she considers it appropriate.
- 6.4 The mover of a motion shall have the right of reply at the close of any discussion on the motion or any amendment thereto.
- 6.5 When a motion is under discussion or immediately prior to discussion it shall be open to a director to move:
- 6.5.1 an amendment to the motion;
  - 6.5.2 the adjournment of the discussion or the meeting;
  - 6.5.3 that the meeting proceed to the next business;
  - 6.5.4 the appointment of an ad hoc committee to deal with a specific item of business;
  - 6.5.5 that the motion be now put.

No amendment to the motion shall be admitted if, in the opinion of the chair of the meeting, the amendment negates the substance of the motion.

### 6.6 ***Emergency Motion***

Subject to the agreement of the chair and this standing order 7, a director may give written notice of an emergency motion after the issue of the notice of meeting and agenda up to one hour before the time fixed for the meeting. The notice shall state the grounds of urgency. At the chair's discretion, the emergency motion shall be declared to the Board at the commencement of the business of the meeting as an additional item included on the agenda. The chair's decision to include the item shall be final.

## 7. Voting

- 7.1 All questions put to the vote shall, at the discretion of the chair, be decided by a show of hands. A paper ballot may be used if a majority of the board of directors present so request.
- 7.2 Save as provided in the constitution, every question put to a vote at a meeting shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the directors present and voting on the question.
- 7.3 In no circumstances may an absent director vote by proxy. Absence is defined as being absent at the time of the vote.
- 7.4 In the case of an equal vote, the chair or such other person presiding at the meeting

shall have a second, and casting vote.

- 7.5 If at least one-third of the Directors present so request, the voting (other than by paper ballot), on any question may be recorded to show how each Director present voted or abstained.
- 7.6 If a Director so requests, his/her vote shall be recorded by name upon any vote (other than by paper ballot).
- 7.7 An Officer who has been appointed formally by the board of directors to act up for an executive director during a period of incapacity or temporarily to fill an executive director vacancy, shall be entitled to exercise the voting rights of the executive director. An Officer attending the board of directors to represent an executive director during a period of incapacity or temporary absence without formal acting up status may not exercise the voting rights of the executive director. An Officer's status when attending a meeting shall be recorded in the minutes.
- 7.8 Any matter which could be decided by the board of directors in a meeting may be determined by written resolution. A written resolution shall, with any accompanying papers which are relevant, describe the matter to be decided and provide for directors to sign the resolution to confirm their agreement. A written resolution may comprise identical documents sent to all directors, each to be signed by a director. or one document to be signed by all directors. A written resolution shall be passed only when at least three-quarters of the directors approve the resolution in writing within the timescale imposed when sent. A written resolution may be circulated in electronic form (including by email) and signed and returned electronically or approval indicated in writing by email from the email address to which the written resolution was sent in order to meet the requirements of this provision. The secretary shall keep records of all written resolutions.

## **8. Meetings: Electronic Communication**

- 8.1 In this Standing Order "communication" and "electronic communication" shall have the meanings set out in the Electronic Communications Act 2000 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof.
- 8.2 A director in electronic communication with the chair and all other parties to a meeting of the board of directors or of a committee or sub-committee of the directors shall be regarded for all purposes as personally attending such a meeting provided that, but only for so long as, at such a meeting he/she has the ability to communicate interactively and simultaneously with all other parties attending the meeting including all persons attending by way of electronic communication.
- 8.3 A meeting at which one or more of the directors attends by way of electronic communication is deemed to be held at such a place as the directors shall at the said meeting resolve. In the absence of such a resolution, the meeting shall be deemed to be held at the place (if any) where a majority of the directors attending the meeting are physically present, or in default of such a majority, the place at which the chair of the meeting is physically present.
- 8.4 The minutes of a meeting held in this way must state that it was held by electronic communication and that the directors were all able to hear each other and were present throughout the meeting.

## **9. Attendance**

Directors who are unable to attend a meeting shall notify the secretary in advance of the meeting in question so that their apologies may be submitted.

## **10. Quorum**

- 10.1 The quorum of a meeting will be at least half of the whole number of members of the

Board (including at least one non-executive director and one executive director).

10.2 An Officer in attendance for an Executive Director but without formal acting up status may not count towards the quorum.

10.3 If a member of the Board has been disqualified from participating in the discussion on any matter and/or from voting on any resolution by reason of a declaration of a conflict of interest that person shall no longer count towards the quorum. If a quorum is then not available for the discussion and/or the passing of a resolution on any matter, that matter may not be discussed further or voted upon at that meeting. Such a position shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The meeting must then proceed to the next business.

10.4 The requirement in standing order 10.1 above for a least one executive director to form part of the quorum shall not apply where the executive directors are excluded from a meeting.

#### **11. Chair**

The chair is appointed in accordance with the constitution and shall be responsible for the operation of the board of directors (and council of governors), and chair all board of directors (and council of governors) meetings when present.

#### **12. 12.1 Deputy Chair**

The deputy chair is appointed in accordance with the constitution.

#### **12.2 Senior Independent Director**

The senior independent director is appointed in accordance with the constitution.

#### **13 Executive directors**

Executive directors are appointed in accordance with the constitution and shall exercise their authority within the terms of these standing orders, the standing financial instructions and the scheme of reservation and delegation.

#### **14 Chief executive**

The chief executive shall be responsible for the overall performance of the executive functions of the Trust and is the accountable officer for the Trust.

#### **15 Finance director**

The finance director shall be responsible for the provision of financial advice to the Trust and for the supervision of financial control and accounting systems.

#### **16 Non-executive directors**

The non-executive directors shall not be granted nor shall they seek to exercise any individual executive powers on behalf of the Trust.

#### **17 Not used**

#### **18 Arrangements for the exercise of Trust functions by delegation**

##### **18.2 *Scheme of reservation and delegation***

The chief executive shall prepare a scheme of reservation and delegation identifying matters that shall be reserved and those to be delegated which shall be considered and approved by the Board.

18.3 ***Delegation of function to committees, officers or other bodies***

Subject to the regulatory framework and such guidance, if any, as may be given by NHS England, the board of directors may make arrangements on behalf of the Trust for the exercise of any of its functions by a formally constituted committee, sub-committee, or an officer of the Trust; in each case subject to such restrictions and conditions as the board of directors think fit.

18.4 ***Delegation to committees***

The Board shall agree from time to time to the delegation of executive powers to be exercised by committees, or sub-committees, which it has formally constituted in accordance with the constitution, the terms of authorisation, binding guidance issued by NHS England and the 2006 Act. The constitution and terms of reference of these committees, or sub-committees and their specific executive powers shall be approved by the Board in respect of its sub-committees.

18.5 ***Not used***

18.6 ***Delegation to officers***

Those functions of the Trust which have not been retained as reserved by the Board or delegated to other committee or sub-committee shall be exercised on behalf of the Trust by the chief executive. The chief executive shall determine which functions he/she will perform personally and shall nominate officers to undertake the remaining functions for which he/she will still retain accountability to the Trust.

18.7 ***Discharge of the direct accountability***

Nothing in the scheme of reservation and delegation shall impair the discharge of the direct accountability to the Board of the finance director to provide information and advise the Board in accordance with statutory requirements or any requirements of NHS England.

18.8 ***Duty to report non-compliance with standing orders and standing financial instructions***

If for any reason these standing orders are not complied with, full details of the non-compliance, and the circumstance around the non-compliance, shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Board for action or ratification. All members of the Board and officers have a duty to disclose any non-compliance with these standing orders to the secretary as soon as possible.

**19 Appointment of committees and sub-committees**

19.2 ***Appointment of committees and sub-committees***

Subject to the paragraph 3.3 of the constitution and such directions and guidance as may be issued by NHS England from time to time, the Board may appoint committees of the Board consisting of one or more members of the Board.

A committee appointed under this standing order may, subject to such directions and guidance as may be issued by NHS England or the Board, appoint sub-committees.

19.3 ***Applicability of standing orders and standing financial instructions to committees and sub-committees***

The standing orders and standing financial instructions of the Trust, as far as applicable, shall, as appropriate, apply to meetings and any committees and sub-committees established by the Board. In which case the term "chair" is to be read as a reference to the chair of the committee or sub-committee as the context permits, and

the term "member of the Board" is to be read as a reference to a member of the committee or sub-committee also as the context permits.

19.4 ***Delegation of powers by committees to sub-committees***

Where committees are authorised to establish sub-committees they may not delegate executive powers to the sub-committees unless expressly authorised by the Board.

19.5 ***Terms of reference of committees***

Each such committee or sub-committee shall have such terms of reference and powers and be subject to such conditions as the Board shall decide. Such terms of reference shall be in accordance with the regulatory framework and any directions and guidance issued by NHS England.

19.6 ***Approval of appointments to committees***

Subject to standing order 19.6, the Board shall approve the appointments to each of the committees which it has formally constituted.

19.7 ***Appointments for statutory functions***

Where the Board is required by the constitution, by any applicable statute or regulations or by any directions or guidance issued by NHS England to appoint persons to a committee to undertake statutory functions, and where such appointments are to operate independently of the Board, such appointments shall be made in accordance with the constitution or such applicable statute or regulations or such directions or guidance issued by NHS England.

19.8 ***Committees established by the Board***

The committees established by the Board are:

19.8.1 Audit and Risk Committee;

19.8.2 Finance and Investment Committee;

19.8.3 People and Organisational Development Committee;

19.8.4 Quality Committee;

19.8.5 Remuneration and Appointment Committee;

19.8.6 Charitable Funds Committee; and

19.8.7 where so required, a committee to act as a joint special committee with a committee of the council of governors for the purpose of resolving disputes between the council of governors and the Board in accordance with the dispute resolution procedure.

19.9 ***Other committees and sub-committees***

The Board may also establish such other committees and sub-committees as required to discharge the Board's responsibilities.

20 **Declarations of interest and register of interests**

20.2 **Declarations of interests**

20.2.1 Each director shall comply with paragraph 32 of the constitution regarding conflicts of interest.

20.2.2 Interests that need to be declared by a director in accordance with paragraph 32 of the constitution (a Declarable Interest) are:

20.2.2.1 any actual or potential, direct or indirect, financial interest which is material to any discussion or decision they are involved, or likely to be involved, in making, as described in Standing Orders 20.2.2 and 20.2.7 (subject to Standing Orders 20.2.3 and 20.2.4); and

20.2.2.2 any actual or potential, direct or indirect, non-financial professional

interest, which is material to any discussion or decision they are involved or likely to be involved in making, as described in Standing Orders 20.2.5 and 20.2.7; and

20.2.2.3 any actual or potential, direct or indirect, non-financial personal interest, which is material to any discussion or decision they are involved or likely to be involved in making, as described in Standing Orders 20.2.6 and 20.2.7.

20.2.3 If a director has a Declarable Interest, he/she shall make the declaration at the time of his/her appointment or as soon thereafter as the interest arises, and in any event within five clear days of becoming aware of the existence of that interest. The interest shall be declared in such manner as the secretary may prescribe from time to time.

20.2.4 If a director is present at a meeting of the board of directors and has a Declarable Interest, he/she shall, as soon as practicable after the commencement of the meeting, or after the conflict of interest is established, disclose that fact and the chair shall decide what action to take. This may include excluding the director from discussions on the matter and/or prohibiting the director from voting. Subject to Standing Orders 20.2.3 and 20.2.4, if a Director has declared financial interest (as described in Standing Order 20.2.2) he/she shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of the matter.

20.2.5 At the time the interest is declared, it shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Any change in interests should be officially declared at the next relevant meeting following the change occurring.

20.2.6 The interests of directors in companies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS should be published in the Trust's Annual Report. The information should be kept up to date for inclusion in succeeding Annual Reports.

### 20.3 **Nature of interests**

20.3.1 A Declarable Interest is one which a reasonable person would take into account when making a decision regarding the use of taxpayers' money because the interest has relevance to that decision. Declarable Interests are to be interpreted in accordance with guidance issued by NHS England.

20.3.2 A financial interest is where a director may receive direct financial benefits (by either making a gain or avoiding a loss) from the consequences of a decision of the Trust. This could include:

20.3.2.1 directorships, including non-executive directorships held in another organisation which is doing, or is likely to do business with an organisation in receipt of NHS funding; or

20.3.2.2 employment in an organisation which is doing, or is likely to do business with an organisation in receipt of NHS funding; or

20.3.2.3 a shareholding, partnerships, ownership or part ownership of an organisation which is doing, or is likely to do business with an organisation in receipt of NHS funding.

20.3.3 A Director shall not be treated as having a financial interest in any matter by reason only:

20.3.3.1 of his/her membership of a company or other body, if he/she has no beneficial interest in any securities of that company or other body; or

20.3.3.2 of his/her ownership of shares or securities held in collective investment or pensions funds or units of authorised unit trusts; or

20.3.3.3 of an interest in any company, body or person with which he/she is connected which is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence a director in the consideration or discussion of or in voting on, any question with respect to that matter.

20.3.4 Any remuneration, compensation or allowances payable to a Director by virtue of paragraph 18 of Schedule 7 of the 2006 Act shall not be treated as a financial interest for the purpose of this Standing Order.

20.3.5 A non-financial professional interest is where a Director may obtain a non-financial professional benefit from the consequence of a decision that the Trust makes, such as increasing their professional reputation or status or promoting their professional career. This could include situations where a Director is:

20.3.5.1 an advocate for a particular group of patients; or

20.3.5.2 a clinician with a special interest; or

20.3.5.3 an active member of a particular specialist body; or

20.3.5.4 an advisor for the Care Quality Commission or National Institute of Health and Care Excellence.

20.3.6 A non-financial personal interest is where a Director may benefit personally from a decision that the Trust makes in ways which are not directly linked to their professional career and do not give rise to a direct financial benefit. This could include where the Director is:

20.3.6.1 a member of a voluntary sector board or has a position of authority within a voluntary sector organisation with an interest in health and/or social care; or

20.3.6.2 a member of a lobbying or pressure group with an interest in health and/or social care.

20.3.7 A Director will be treated as having an indirect financial interest, non-financial professional interest or non-financial personal interest where he/she has a close association with another individual who has a financial interest, a non-financial professional interest, or a non-financial personal interest who would stand to benefit from a decision of the Trust. This includes material interests of:

20.3.7.1 close family members and relatives, including a spouse, partner, parent, child or sibling;

20.3.7.2 close friends and associates; and

20.3.7.3 business partners.

#### 20.4 **Register of interests**

20.4.1 The secretary shall keep a register of interests of directors, which shall contain the names of each director, whether he/she has declared any interest, and if so, the interest declared.

20.4.2 These details will be kept up to date by means of an annual review of the register of interests in which any changes to interests declared during the preceding twelve months will be incorporated.



20.4.3 The register of interests will be available to the public in accordance with the constitution and the chief executive will take reasonable steps to bring the existence of the register of interests to the attention of the local population.

20.4.4 In establishing, maintaining and publicising the register of interests, the Trust shall comply with all guidance issued from time to time by NHS England.

## **21 Custody of seal**

The common seal of the Trust shall be kept by the secretary in a secure place.

## **22 Register of sealing**

An entry of every sealing shall be made and numbered consecutively in a register provided for that purpose recording the persons who shall have approved and authorised the document and those who attested the seal. A report of all sealings shall be made to the Board at least quarterly. (The report shall contain details of the seal number, a description of the document and the date of sealing).

## **23 Sealing of documents**

The common seal of the Trust shall not be fixed to any documents unless the sealing has been authorised by a resolution of the Board which expression includes, by virtue of the resolution of the Board adopting these standing orders, documents approved for sealing by the chair and either the chief executive or another executive director.

## **24 Signature of documents**

The chief executive or nominated officers shall be authorised, by resolution of the Board, to sign on behalf of the Trust any agreement or other document not requested to be executed as a deed, the subject matter of which has been approved by the Board or any committee or sub-committee with delegated authority.

## **25 Suspension of standing orders**

Except where this would contravene any statutory provision, or guidance issued by NHS England any one or more of the standing orders may be suspended at any meeting, provided the meeting is quorate.

## **26 Confidentiality**

All members of the board of directors shall abide by the Trust's policies on confidentiality and code of conduct.

## **27 Interface between the board of directors and the council of governors**

The Board will cooperate with the council of governors as far as possible in order to comply with the regulatory framework in all respects and in particular in relation to matters set out in the constitution. In the event of a dispute arrangements are set out in annex 8, appendix 2, paragraph 2.

**28 Standing orders to be given to members of the Board and officers**

It is the duty of the chief executive to ensure that existing members of the Board and officers and all new appointees are notified of and understand their responsibilities within standing orders and standing financial instructions. Updated copies shall be issued to staff designated by the chief executive.

**ANNEX 8**  
**Further Provisions**

**Appendix 1 - Membership**

**1. Membership**

Representative membership

- 1.1 The Trust shall at all times strive to ensure that, taken as a whole, its actual membership is representative of those eligible for membership. To this end the Trust shall at all times have in place and pursue a membership strategy which shall be approved by the council of governors and shall be reviewed by them from time to time and at least every three years.
- 1.2 The council of governors shall present to each annual members' meeting:
  - 1.1.1 a report on steps taken to secure that, taken as a whole, the actual membership of its constituencies and the classes of constituencies is representative of those eligible for such membership;
  - 1.1.2 the progress of the membership strategy; and
  - 1.1.3 any changes to the membership strategy.

## **Annex 8: Appendix 2**

### **Dispute resolution procedures**

#### **1. Dispute: general**

In the event of any dispute about the entitlement to membership the dispute shall be referred to the secretary who shall make a determination on the point in issue. If the member is aggrieved at the decision of the secretary he/she may appeal in writing within 14 days of the secretary's decision to the council of governors whose decision shall be final.

#### **2. Dispute: council of governors and the board of directors**

In the event of dispute between the council of governors and the board of directors:

- 2.1 In the first instance the chair on the advice of the secretary, and such other advice as the chair may see fit to obtain, shall seek to resolve the dispute;
- 2.2 If the chair is unable to resolve the dispute he/she shall refer the dispute to the secretary who shall appoint a joint special committee constituted as a committee of the board of directors and a committee of the council of governors, both comprising equal numbers, to consider the circumstances and to make recommendations to the council of governors and the board of directors with a view to resolving the dispute;
- 2.3 If the recommendations (if any) of the joint special committee are unsuccessful in resolving the dispute, the chair may refer the dispute back to the board of directors who shall make the final decision.

## **Annex 8: Appendix 3**

### **Legal issues**

#### **1. Indemnity insurance**

The Trust will purchase indemnity insurance cover for governors, directors and the secretary, who have acted honestly and in good faith. They will not be required to meet out of their personal resources, any personal civil liability incurred in the execution or purported execution of their functions save where they have acted recklessly.

#### **2. Checking process: governors and non-executive directors**

Governors and non-executive directors will be subject to a checking process at the time of election/appointment to ensure that they meet the fit and proper persons requirements set out in the Trust's NHS provider licence and, in the case of non-executive directors, in regulation 5 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014; this may involve Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and a health assessment undertaken by the Trust's occupational health department. NB: executive directors undergo these checks as part of the Trust's recruitment process.

#### **3. Review of Trust documents**

As part of its commitment to good governance, the Trust will undertake regular reviews of all documentation associated with governance. Any change/amendment will be considered by the appropriate board or committee, or the council of governors if appropriate, and will be submitted to NHS England where this is required.

#### **4. Interpretation**

In the event of a question arising about any ambiguity, meaning or internal inconsistency within this constitution or about any matter not provided for by the constitution the Board shall have jurisdiction to determine that question and its decision shall be binding.