

DOCTORS FOR THE NHS CONSTITUTION,

Sixth Draft 4/9/15 09.03

1) **NAME** – The name shall be Doctors for the NHS (hereinafter The Association)

2) **OBJECTIVES**

a) To support and further the original ideals of the National Health Service in the United Kingdom:

- That it should be publicly funded from central taxation;
- That the resources made available to it should be used to maximise health gain across the whole population, taking account of the need to reduce health inequalities;
- That it should provide a comprehensive publicly provided service, including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and care, available free to all at times at the place of need;
- That its services should always be publicly accountable.

b)) to co-operate and to collaborate with other bodies having similar aims and objectives.

3) **MEMBERSHIP**

There will be 3 categories -

Full Membership - all medically qualified doctors in the UK

Associate members - clinical scientists and equivalent public health personnel at the discretion of the committee

Student Membership, for medical students.

4) **MEMBERS** may pay annual or lifetime subscriptions. Student members are not required to pay.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The second annual subscription after election as a member and thereafter a renewed subscription shall become due on the last day of the month during which the member was elected to membership in each year. Membership is continuous and, unless written notice of resignation is received by the Secretary not later the day preceding the renewal date in any year, a member shall be liable for his subscription for the following year. The Committee may for special reasons wholly or partly remit or waive the payment of any subscription in any case and subject to any conditions they may think fit.

5. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- (1) Any member wishing to resign from the Association shall give notice in writing to the Secretary and shall be liable for all subscriptions then outstanding.
- (2) A member whose subscription is in arrear six calendar months after it has become due shall not be entitled to any of the rights and privileges of membership. The names of all members whose subscriptions remain unpaid nine calendar months after they have become due shall be

reported to the committee at its next meeting, and all members whose subscriptions are in arrears by the said nine calendar months shall thereafter be removed from membership unless the committee shall for special reasons otherwise determine.

6. HONORARY MEMBERS

The Committee may elect any person as an Honorary Member for such period and subject to such conditions as they think fit.

7. GENERAL MEETING

(a) The Annual General Meeting of individual members of the Association shall be held once in every calendar year to transact the following business:—

(i) To receive and if approved to adopt the annual report and an audited statement of the accounts to the end of the last preceding financial year.

(ii) To elect the Committee

(iii) To elect an auditor who shall be a chartered accountant.

(iv) To deal with any special matter which the Committee desires to bring before the members.

(v) To receive and consider suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee and to consider and decide on resolutions from the Committee, members or branches. The Chair of the Association shall take the chair at the Annual General Meeting but if s/he is not available the chair shall be taken by the Vice Chair. If no such person be present within twenty minutes of the time appointed for the meeting the members present shall elect a chairperson.

(b) An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association may be called at any time by the Committee and shall be so called within forty—eight days of receipt by the Honorary Secretary of a requisition in writing signed by not less than thirty members stating the purpose for which such meeting is desired and setting out an resolution which it is desired to propose thereat. No business shall be transacted at such meeting other than that specified in the notice and no amendment to any resolution proposed at the meeting shall be allowed. The chair of the meeting shall be nominated by the Committee.

(c) A notice convening any general meeting shall (with the annual report and account of the Committee in the case of the annual general meeting) be sent to all members not less than twenty-eight days before the meeting and shall specify the business of the meeting and set out any resolution to be proposed thereat. No amendment to any resolution proposed at any meeting shall be allowed.

(d) Every question submitted to a meeting shall be put to the meeting by the chair and his / her declaration as to the wishes or sense of the meeting shall be conclusive unless on his / her giving any decision it be challenged by not less than one fifth of the members present at the meeting.

At a general meeting:

(e) Each individual member whose subscription is fully paid up to the date of the meeting shall have one vote and no more except the chair who shall have a second or casting vote in the case of an equality of votes. No member shall be entitled to act as proxy for or to vote on behalf of any other member.

(f) Any resolution for consideration at any general meeting must be received by the Honorary Secretary not less than forty two days before the date appointed for the meeting. The Committee may direct that any resolution which appears to them to be scandalous or vexatious or contrary to the provisions of this constitution shall not be placed upon any agenda or discussed at any meeting.

8. OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) The business and affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Committee of individual members of the Association consisting of the President of the Association, not more than nine elected members of the Association and any members, co—opted under the provisions of sub—clause (d) below. The President and the nine other members of the Committee shall be elected annually by members of the Society and shall hold office until the conclusion of the following Annual General Meeting. Any member shall be eligible for re—election.

The Committee shall meet as soon as possible after each annual general meeting and elect the following officers of the Association and the Committee namely a Chair, a Vice Chair, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer from its members.

(b) Four members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

(c) The Committee may fill by co—option any casual vacancy which may occur in their number but the person so filling the vacancy shall retire at the Annual General Meeting next following his co—option and shall be eligible for election.

(d) The Committee may in addition to the officers and members elected at the Annual General Meeting co—opt not more than three members but such co—opted members shall without prejudice to their re—appointment retire from office at the conclusion of the annual general meeting following their appointment.

(e) The Committee may regulate their own proceedings as they may think fit.

(f) No resolution passed by the Committee shall be rescinded within one year of the date thereof except by a two—thirds majority of those present and voting at any subsequent meeting of the Committee. At least fourteen days notice in writing shall be given to the secretary of any proposal to rescind any such resolution, and the secretary shall give at least seven days notice in writing of the proposal to each and every member of the committee.

(g) At least seven days written notice of a meeting of the Committee shall so far as practicable be given to every officer and other member of the Committee.

9. DECISIONS AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS ANT) VOTING THEREAT

Every question to be submitted to any meeting of the Committee or any sub—committee thereof shall be put to the meeting by the chair thereof and the decision as to the wishes or sense of the meeting shall be conclusive unless it be challenged by any member properly present at the said meeting and entitled to vote thereat. If any decision of the chair at any meeting shall be challenged by any such member a vote shall be taken by a show of hands. All questions arising at any meeting of the Committee or any sub—committee thereof which have to be decided by a vote shall, with the exception of those for which a special majority is required by this Constitution, be decided by a simple majority of those present and voting at such meeting.

10. SUB—COMMITTEES

The Committee may appoint sub-committees to consider and report on any matter, and members of such sub-committees need not necessarily be members of the Committee. At least one member of each sub-committee shall be a member of the committee. Unless otherwise decided by the Committee, all sub-committees shall elect their own chairs' and have power to co-opt not more than three members per sub-committee. The Committee may alter the membership of any sub-committee at any time and no sub-committee shall have power to act on behalf of the Association unless expressly authorised to do so by a minute in writing of the Committee. No sub-committee may spend any money on behalf of the Association, or enter into any obligation on behalf of the Association unless expressly authorised to do so by a minute in writing of the Committee.

11. ALTERATION TO RULES

The Rules of the Association may be altered at an Extraordinary or Annual General Meeting, there having been at least twenty-one days' notice of any such meeting, during which time any such proposed alteration shall be presented to all members. In order to effect an alteration of a rule, at least two-thirds of the members actually present and voting at the meeting shall vote in favour of the proposed change. No amendment to any proposed alteration shall be allowed.

12. RECORDS AND MINUTES

(a) Records shall be taken and minutes kept in such form as the committee may direct of the proceedings at all general meetings and at all meetings of the Committee and of sub-committees of the Committee of the Association and the minutes of every such meeting shall be confirmed at and signed by the chair of a subsequent meeting and when so confirmed and signed shall be conclusive as to all matters and things therein recorded and purported to have been done or directed to be done.

(b) A resolution in writing signed and agreed to by all the members of the Committee for the time being in the United Kingdom shall be as valid and effectual as if it has been passed at a meeting of the Committee duly called and held, and may consist of several documents in the like form each signed by one or more members of the Committee.

(13) FINANCE AND PROPERTY

(a) The Association may receive and disclaim property of any nature whether or not it is subject to any express conditions or trusts. The Association may purchase or otherwise acquire and hold property of any nature and may sell lease mortgage or otherwise deal with the same. Any property belonging to the Association may be invested in the names of not more than

- four nor less than two trustees who may be appointed from time to time by the Committee and any vacancy amongst such trustees shall be filled by the Committee.
- (b) The Trustees shall be effectually indemnified by the Committee from and against any liability costs expenses and payments whatsoever which may be properly incurred or made by them in relation to the trusts of the property and investments of the Association or in relation to any legal proceedings or which otherwise relate directly or indirectly to the performance of the functions of a trustee of the Association.

GOVERNANCE

The Committee shall have the sole control and management of the income and property of the Association and also the entire management and superintendence of all other of the affairs and concerns thereof, and the exclusive right of appointing and of prescribing the respective duties, salaries and remuneration of, and/removing, such paid officers and servants as they deem necessary or useful for the purposes of the Association.