

Northern Ireland Ethics Forum

Preamble

The Northern Ireland Ethics Forum is a not for profit association concerned with discussion of, and research into, the ethical, moral and legal issues affecting the practice and study of medicine and health and social care. The object of the Forum is:

To advance for the benefit of the general public and healthcare professions of Northern Ireland the education of ethical, moral, social and legal issues which affect the practice and study of medicine and health and social care through the provision of lectures, conferences, meetings, debates and any other suitable method.

Membership:

Academic meetings, conferences and debates organised by NIEF are open to all. Any interested person may apply to become a member of the Forum and any member may be nominated for council. Membership will be provided on an annual basis. The process for application will be decided upon by the Council and, in accordance with the normal operation of the council, it may be revised by them on an annual basis.

Council:

The Council of NIEF shall be made up of a minimum of 5 members and a maximum of 12 members.

The election of Council members will normally take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Forum.

Council members shall be appointed for a period of 1 year in the first instance. They shall be nominated by at least 2 members of the Forum and voted in at the Annual General Meeting.

The intention is for there to be a balanced representation on the Council from across the fields of law, medicine, philosophy, theology, nursing, midwifery, pharmacy, research and social work. The Council may also include lay members and student representatives.

The Council shall be responsible for overseeing the development of the Forum.

The Council shall meet at least twice a year – one meeting should be held in advance of the Annual General Meeting. If the council is made up of <5 members then the Quorum for a Council meeting shall be 3. If it is made up of 6-8 members then it will be 4. If it is made up of 9 or more members then it will be 5.

Council Officers

Members of the Council shall elect from within their number 3 Officers of the Council – President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each candidate shall be proposed by 2 members of the Council and shall be deemed to be elected if he/she enjoys the support of a majority of the members present.

Council Officers shall be responsible for the administrative organisation of the Forum. The President or their nominee shall chair all meetings of the NIEF, the Secretary will maintain the membership of the Forum and the Treasurer will administer and document the Forum's finances. With the approval of the council any council member may organise a meeting of the Forum, and may make use of the Forum's email address, mailing lists and website for the purposes of doing so.

Standing Orders

- (1) Meetings of the Council are to be arranged by the President. There should be at least 2 meetings of the Council in each calendar year.
- (2) One Annual General Meeting should be held in each calendar year. Virtual AGMs maybe conducted if they accord with the spirit of this document.
- (3) The terms of office of the Officers of the Council should run for 1 year. Officers are eligible for re-election. Officers should not serve in the same post for more than 3 years if there is a Council member who is willing to fulfil the role. Normally, no more than 2 posts should fall open for re-election in any one year.
- (4) The agenda for the Annual General Meeting will be circulated to all members of the Forum at least 14 days in advance of the meeting. Agenda items should be notified to the Secretary 7 days in advance of the meeting
- (5) All registered Forum members in good standing are eligible to vote on matters arising at the AGM.
- (6) The AGM will be quorate if 1/3 of the membership are present.
- (7) Voting at all meetings shall be by a simple show of hands and a simple majority of votes shall carry the motion.
- (8) These Standing Orders shall not be suspended, revoked or supplemented unless supported by two thirds of the total eligible voting membership.
- (9) This Constitution may only be amended at the Annual General Meeting with the support of two thirds of the total membership present. Notice of a motion to amend the Constitution should follow the procedure for agenda items as described at (4) above.
- (10) The Constitution should be reviewed every 3 years.

The following describes activities that lie beyond the scope of the Forum:

The Forum is a not for profit organisation and may not raise funds by means of taxable trading. It may not borrow money or secure any loans. It may not loan money. It may not acquire property.