

Scientists for Labour

Constitution

as agreed at the Annual General Meeting, 1st March 1996 and amended at the Annual General Meeting of 14th May 2003

1. Name

Scientists for Labour (hereafter referred to as "The Association").

2. Objectives

2.1

To work for the return and maintenance of a Labour government.

2.2

To work to ensure that the government of the day maintains a clear commitment to science in the United Kingdom.

2.3

To facilitate communication between the scientific community and the Parliamentary Labour Party, and to make available the advice and expertise of members of the Association to local and national Labour Parties and affiliated organisations.

2.4

To promote greater debate and education on scientific matters, both within the Labour Party and nationally.

2.5

To provide a forum for the discussion, debate and formulation of policy on matters affecting or affected by science, technology and research.

2.6

To enable those working in science and technology to have a political voice.

3. Membership

3.1

Full membership of the Association shall be open to all members of the Labour Party who support the objectives of the Association and pay the current membership fee.

3.2

Associate membership of the association shall be open to all individuals who are not members of a political party, who have not been expelled from or denied membership of the Labour Party, and who are not otherwise disqualified from Labour Party membership.

3.3

Affiliate status shall be open to organisations affiliated to the Labour Party nationally, and also to organisations involved in science (including

the social and management sciences), technology and research which support the aims and objectives of the Association.

3.4

Sponsor status shall be open to organisations which support objectives 2.2, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 of the Association.

3.5

Application for membership or affiliation, or to sponsor the Association shall be made in writing to the responsible Executive Officer, and may only be declined by the Executive Committee.

3.6

The amounts to be subscribed by Full and Associate members, Affiliates and Sponsors shall be determined annually by the Annual General Meeting.

4. Method of Organisation

4.1

The Association shall be managed by the Executive Committee.

4.2

Matters relating to the policy and objectives of the Association shall be determined at General Meetings.

4.3

The financial year for the Association shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

4.4

There shall be established within the accounts of the Association a separate Campaigns Fund, into which all moneys received from Sponsor organisations shall be placed. This fund shall be used only for specific purposes related to objectives 2.2, 2.5 and 2.6.

4.5

Five or more individual members may establish Local or Subject Groups under the aegis of the Executive Committee. The rules of such Groups must be agreed by the Executive Committee.

4.6

The Association shall be permitted to affiliate, as a Socialist Society, to the Labour Party and local groups shall be permitted to affiliate to and send delegates to Constituency Labour Parties.

5. The Executive Committee

5.1

All members of the Executive Committee shall be members of the Labour Party.

5.2

The Executive Committee shall be appointed annually, and shall consist of:

- 8 members elected by postal ballot of Full and Associate members of the Association;

- **Up to 4 members nominated and elected by Affiliate and Sponsor organisations;**
- **Up to 6 members co-opted to ensure that there is gender balance and that different regions and disciplines are properly represented.**
Members of the Parliamentary Labour Party may attend as observers.

5.3

The Executive Committee shall elect, from amongst its number, a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall appoint from those members of the Association who are Labour Party members a delegate to the Labour Party Conference and a delegate to the Socialist Societies Committee

5.4

The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the principal records of the Association.

5.5

The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping accurate records of all financial transactions carried out for and on behalf of the Association, such records being available for at least annual audit by the Auditors.

5.6

Decisions by the Executive Committee shall be taken by a majority vote. In the event of a tie, the Chair (or in his/her absence, the Vice-Chair) shall have a casting vote.

5.7

The Executive Committee shall invite individuals prominent in science to become Honorary Patrons of the Association.

6. General Meetings

6.1

General Meetings shall be held annually on a date to be determined by the Executive Committee. In addition, they may be convened by the Executive Committee, or as Extraordinary General Meetings.

6.2

Notification of the date, time and place of each General Meeting and of any motions to amend this Constitution to be taken at such a meeting shall be given to individual members, Affiliates and Sponsors at least 28 days in advance.

6.3

General meetings shall be open to Full and Associate members and no more than two delegates from each Affiliate or Sponsor organisation.

6.4

A General Meeting shall be quorate if not less than 10 percent of the Full and Associate membership of the Association are present.

6.5

Ordinary motions for a General Meeting shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Executive Committee not less than 14 days before the date of a General Meeting.

6.6

The annual report and accounts shall be circulated to members not less than seven days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

6.7

The ordinary business of the Annual General Meeting shall comprise:

- **Election of the Executive Committee for the coming year**
- **Election of Constitutional Officers**
- **Election of Auditors**
- **Report of the Executive Committee**
- **Report of the Treasurer**
- **Report of the Auditors**
- **Other Business**

6.8

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association shall be convened for a specified purpose following receipt by the Executive Committee of a request signed by not less than one-third of the individual members of the Association. A full list of the current membership shall be made available to members of the Association for the specific purpose of calling an Extraordinary General Meeting

6.9

Full and Associate members and delegates shall each be entitled to one vote at General Meetings.

7. Discipline and Accountability

7.1

Any member who, in the opinion of a majority of the Executive Committee, acts or fails to act in such a way as to damage the Association, or acts against the aims of the Association, shall be accountable to the Executive Committee, and shall face such disciplinary measures as may be agreed by a majority of the Executive Committee, up to and including expulsion from the Association.

7.2

Three Constitutional Officers shall be elected annually by postal ballot of Full and Associate members of the Association. No member of the Executive Committee shall be permitted to be a Constitutional Officer.

7.3

A member may appeal to the Constitutional Officers against disciplinary measures taken by the Executive Committee. The Constitutional Officers shall be empowered to uphold, increase, diminish or suspend decisions of the Executive Committee in respect of disciplinary matters. The decision of the Constitutional Officers shall be final.

7.4

No member of any Committee or Group provided for under this Constitution shall be liable for any loss, damage or misfortune to the Association by any act, omission or error of judgement of:

- **any other member of such Committee or Group; or**

- **any person or body within whom funds of the Association are invested; or**
- **his or her own arising from the execution of his or her duties, unless the same shall arise as a result of his or her own dishonesty.**

8. Constitution

8.1

This Constitution shall only be amended by resolution of a General Meeting.

8.2

The Executive Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of this Constitution, and decisions of the Executive Committee upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Association not provided for by this Constitution shall be final and binding on the members.