

## **BGS NORTHERN IRELAND: TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Revised October 2024**

### **Purpose of BGS Northern Ireland**

1. To promote the health and wellbeing of older people in Northern Ireland; and
2. To act as the forum within the BGS to debate, articulate and represent issues of concern and interest to BGS members based in Northern Ireland that relate to the healthcare of older people; to represent the perspective of Northern Ireland members to the BGS as a whole, to relevant committees within the BGS, and other internal and relevant external stakeholders.

### **Objectives of BGS Northern Ireland**

To promote the health and wellbeing of older people in Northern Ireland through:

- a. encouraging the highest possible standards of healthcare for older people
- b. promoting interdisciplinary working and the multidisciplinary professions providing care for older people in acute, community, primary and social care settings
- c. holding meetings for the discussion of clinical and scientific work relating to the healthcare of older people
- d. publishing and sharing the results of such meetings, discussion and research
- e. encouraging original research into ageing and geriatric medicine in Northern Ireland
- f. sharing expertise with appropriate professional bodies, voluntary and lay bodies working for the welfare of older people
- g. seeking to influence government and NHS policy on healthcare of older people in Northern Ireland
- h. promoting high quality medical training and continuing medical education and professional development
- i. maintaining a community of those working to improve healthcare for older people, and providing a forum for the communication of ideas and mutual support of the members

### **Legal status and relationship with the British Geriatrics Society**

BGS Northern Ireland is a branch of the British Geriatrics Society ('the BGS'). It is not a separate legal entity but is part of the BGS. The existence of a Nation Council in Northern Ireland is provided for under Article 42 of BGS's Articles of Association.

BGS Northern Ireland and its Council committee shall at all times conform to the Articles of Association of the British Geriatrics Society and the directives of the Society's Trustee Board, and where there is any omission in the BGS Northern Ireland Terms of Reference,

or any discrepancy between these Terms of Reference and the Articles of Association as to the conduct of the Council in Northern Ireland, the terms of the Articles shall apply.

The Northern Ireland Council will ensure that it pursues the Society's mission of improving healthcare for older people and carries out its activities consistently with the BGS's charitable objects. These are set out in the Articles and are:

*"the relief of suffering and distress amongst the aged and infirm by the improvement of standards of medical care for such persons, the holding of meetings and the publication of papers, the encouragement of research on special problems of such persons and the publication and distribution of the results of such research".*

The BGS Northern Ireland Council will at all times take all reasonable measures to act in the best interests of the BGS and avoid damaging the BGS's reputation and/or doing anything that might negatively impact on the BGS's charitable status.

### **Membership of BGS Northern Ireland**

Membership of BGS Northern Ireland is open to all members of the British Geriatrics Society living or working in Northern Ireland unless they have elected to belong to a different national BGS group. (A BGS member may only be a member of one BGS national group at any one time).

The BGS is a multidisciplinary society. Its membership includes, but is not limited to, consultant geriatricians, nurses, GPs, old age psychiatrists, allied healthcare professionals, pharmacists and researchers; anyone specialising in the healthcare of older people in Northern Ireland is welcome to join.

### **The BGS Northern Ireland Council**

All members of BGS Northern Ireland belong to the Northern Ireland Council. The Council has a governing committee which is responsible for the conduct of BGS Northern Ireland.

The Council committee meets regularly (and not less than twice per annum) to manage the affairs of BGS Northern Ireland diligently.

The Council committee reports on its activities at educational meetings of BGS Northern Ireland, held up to twice a year in-person, online or in hybrid formats. The committee also provides written updates in the form of regular newsletters.

### **Composition, appointments and terms of office for BGS Northern Ireland Committee**

BGS Northern Ireland members from all professions caring for older people are encouraged to consider joining the Committee, which aims to be inclusive and multidisciplinary.

The members of the Council committee will include, but not be limited to:

- Chair

- Vice Chair
- At least 3 representatives on BGS committees (eg Trainees' Council committee, Nurses and AHPs' Council committee, Policy and Communications Committee, Research and Academic Affairs committee)

Other BGS members may be invited to join the committee in specific roles, for example as representatives of specific regions/health boards. All BGS members on the committee will have full voting rights.

The Council committee may also choose to co-opt up to two representatives who are not members of the BGS, for up to three years; co-opted members will not have voting rights at committee meetings.

#### Appointments

The BGS will invite self-nominations for the position of Chair. If there is only one candidate, they are deemed elected unopposed. If there is more than one candidate, an election of the BGS Northern Ireland membership will be held. The Chair will be ex officio a member of the BGS Board of Trustees. This ex officio appointment will terminate when the term of office as Northern Ireland Chair ceases.

The Council committee will give due notice of other vacancies on the Northern Ireland committee or other BGS committees.

#### Terms of office

The term of office for the Chair of the committee is three years. Other members of the committee serve for three years and may be re-appointed for a further period, not exceeding six years in total.

Office bearers may be removed during their term of office by a two thirds majority of members in Northern Ireland voting for their removal at a general meeting of BGS Northern Ireland members for which due notice has been given.

### **Meetings of BGS Northern Ireland**

The Council committee will organise educational meetings in Northern Ireland, working with the BGS events team.

They will ensure that BGS Northern Ireland holds educational meetings at least twice a year, with one meeting being in person. These meetings will be open to all members of the BGS. The meetings may be held in collaboration with the Irish Gerontological Society (IGS), the Royal College of Psychiatry or other relevant regional groups.

### **Quorum at General Meetings**

The quorum for committee meetings is six members.

### **Accountability**

BGS Northern Ireland and its Council committee are accountable to the BGS Trustee Board.

<b>Amending these Terms of Reference</b>
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Changes to these Terms of Reference may be made with the approval of a two thirds majority in a vote by BGS Northern Ireland members. Any amendments require approval by the BGS Trustee Board.

**APPENDIX**

**Extract from the BGS Articles of Association as at 15 November 2023**

**NATION COUNCILS, REGIONS, PROFESSIONAL AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

**42. Nation Councils**

- The Association shall have a Council for each of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.
- Each Member shall be allocated to the Nation Councils in the geographical area where the postal address they have provided to the Association is located. A Member may belong to one Nation Council only, but may elect to join a different Nation Council (and change their choice of Nation Council) by notifying the Company Secretary in writing.
- Each Nation Council shall be governed by a committee comprising officers which shall include as a minimum a chair (who is also an ex officio Trustee) and an honorary secretary or deputy chair.
- The Board shall by regulations specify terms of reference for each committee setting out its delegated powers, arrangements for the election of officers, terms of office and the proceedings of a Nation Council and its committee.