

## Chapter 6

# The Structure of the Headquarters of The Scout Association

The Council and committees of The Scout Association, membership, national leadership and support.

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### The Royal Charter

The Scout Association exists by authority of a Royal Charter, granted by King George V in 1912 and supplemented by further Charters granted by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II.

These Charters give authority to the Bye Laws of the Association, which are approved by Her Majesty's Privy Council.

The Bye Laws, in turn, authorise the making of rules for the regulation of the Association's affairs, and thereby give authority for the Rules printed in *Policy, Organisation and Rules*.

### The Patron

Her Majesty The Queen is the Patron of The Scout Association.

### The President

His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent is the President of The Scout Association.

### The Council of The Scout Association

The Scout Association is governed by a Council of between 300 and 500 members as determined by the Royal Charter of 1912 and the Supplemental Royal Charters of 1949, 1959, 1967 and 1991.

The Council appoints the Chief Scout, who becomes the Chairman of the Council.

### Membership of the Council

The Council consists of:

#### Ex-officio members

- President;

- Chief Scout;
- Treasurer;
- Deputy Chief Scout
- Chief Executive;
- International Commissioner;
- Chairmen of National Boards;
- Chief Commissioners of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland;
- National Commissioners;
- Chief Commissioners of Overseas Branches;
- County Commissioners.

### Nominated Members

Each Scout County and each Overseas Branch may nominate members to the Council.

Each County or Overseas Branch may have one Nominated Member for every 10,000 Members or part thereof declared by the County or Branch at the time of the annual census taken prior to the nomination.

A Nominated Member serves for three years unless another is nominated in the member's place.

Salaried officials employed by County Scout Councils may be nominated, but persons in the full-time employment of Headquarters are not eligible for nomination.

### Nominated Youth Representative

Each Scout County may nominate one youth representative to the Council.

The Nominated Youth Representative must be a Member of the Association in the nominating County.

On nomination the representative must have passed his 18th birthday but not reached his 24th birthday at the date of the annual census.

A Nominated Youth Representative serves for three years unless another representative is nominated in the representative's place or the representative has reached his 25th birthday at the time of the County Annual General Meeting.

Salaried officials employed by County Scout Councils may be nominated, but persons in the full-time employment of Headquarters are not eligible for nomination.

### **Elected Members**

The Council may include up to sixty other persons of whom not more than three may be full-time employees of The Scout Association.

These Members are elected by the Council at the Annual General Meeting of the Council.

Elected Members serve for three years.

### **The Board of Trustees of The Scout Association**

The Board of Trustees exists to manage the business of the Association in accordance with the Bye Laws of the Association.

It is the body, which makes the Policy and Rules of the Association as published in *Policy, Organisation and Rules* and in the various handbooks and other official literature of the Association.

### **Membership of the Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees consists of:

#### **Ex-officio members**

- Chief Scout or Deputy Chief Scout (but not both); and
- Chief Executive.

#### **Elected members**

Nine Members or Associate Members of the Association (one each from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and three from northern England and three from southern England) elected at an Annual General Meeting of the Council.

### **Elected Youth Members**

Three youth Members or Associate Members of the Association elected by the Council at an Annual General Meeting of the Council

### **Appointed Members**

The Chairman of the Board, the Treasurer and up to three other persons who need not be, at the time of their nomination, Members or Associate Members of the Association, provided always that those so nominated accept to become at least Associate Members on their appointment by the Council at an Annual General Meeting.

Appointed Members are appointed for a period of three years.

### **Right of Attendance**

The Chief Scout and any Deputy Chief Scouts [if they are not Trustees], Chief Commissioners [including the International Commissioner], the UK Commissioners for Programme and Adult Support, Regional Commissioners, County Commissioners and County Chairmen have the right of attendance without vote at meetings of the Trustee Board and may put forward matters for discussion on giving fourteen days' notice to the Secretary of the Board.

### **The Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee exists to carry out the management oversight of the business of the Association as authorised by the Board of Trustees and to initiate and facilitate discussion of policy by the Board of Trustees within the overall policy decided by the Board.

### **Membership of the Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee consists of:

#### **Ex officio members**

- Chairman of the Board of Trustees;
- UK Chief Commissioner
- Treasurer;
- Chief Executive;
- Chairmen of the three main sub-Committees;

#### **Non voting members**

- Senior Management Team;

#### **Right of attendance**

- Members of the Board of Trustees.

### **Sub-Committees of the Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees delegates certain powers to four sub-Committees:

- The Finance sub-Committee;
- The General Purposes sub-Committee;
- The Operations sub-Committee; and
- The Headquarters Appointments sub-Committee.
- Risk Assurance Committee

The membership and terms of reference of these sub-Committees is determined by the Board of Trustees.

Two or more members of the Board of Trustees must serve on each.

Other persons may become members of the sub-Committee provided that the majority of the members of any sub-Committee are members of the Council of the Association.

Chairmen of sub-Committees are elected annually by the Board of Trustees.

### **Other National Groups**

The sub-Committees are advised by national groups appointed from time to time with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

The membership and terms of reference of each board or group is determined by the Board of Trustees.

### **National Leadership**

#### **Chief Scout**

The Chief Scout is appointed by the Council of The Scout Association according to the terms laid down by the Council.

#### **UK Chief Commissioner**

A UK Chief Commissioner may be appointed by the Association.

The UK Chief Commissioner is treated as a Deputy Chief Scout for the purposes of the Bye Laws.

#### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer is appointed by the Council of The Scout Association according to the terms laid down by the Council.

#### **Chief Commissioners**

Chief Commissioners are appointed by UK Chief Commissioner with the approval of the Headquarters Appointments Committee.

The appointment of a Chief Commissioner remains valid until the fifth anniversary of the date of the appointment.

The appointment of Chief Commissioners is subject to formal review by the UK Chief Commissioner.

The appointment of a Chief Commissioner may be renewed for a second period not exceeding five years.

Chief Commissioners are Ex-officio Members of the Council of The Scout Association.

#### **Regional Commissioners (England) <sup>sv</sup>**

Regional Commissioners (England) are appointed by the English Chief Commissioner with the approval of the Headquarters Appointments Committee. .

The appointment of a Regional Commissioner remains valid until the fifth anniversary of the date of the appointment.

The appointment of Regional Commissioners is subject to formal review by the English Chief Commissioner.

The appointment of a Regional Commissioner may be renewed for a second period not exceeding five years.

Regional Commissioners are Ex-officio members of all County Scout Councils in their region and have Right of Attendance at all County Executive Committees in their region.

Regional Commissioners (England) are treated as National Commissioners for the purposes of the Bye Laws.

## United Kingdom Commissioners

UK Commissioners are appointed by UK Chief Commissioner with the approval of the Headquarters Appointments Committee to undertake special responsibilities, such as the leadership and support of the Sections.

The appointment of a UK Commissioner remains valid until the fifth anniversary of the date of appointment.

The appointment of a UK Commissioner may be renewed for a second period not exceeding five years.

The appointment of UK Commissioners is subject to a formal review by the UK Chief Commissioner.

UK Commissioners are treated as National Commissioners for the purposes of the Bye Laws.

## Headquarters

The Board of Trustees of The Scout Association maintains a Headquarters staff with a departmental structure as required for the implementation of its policy and to provide services and materials necessary for the proper conduct and development of Scouting. (This includes Regional Development Managers and Officers who are appointed by Headquarters and assigned to work in support of the development of Scouting in Counties and Districts in England.)

## Chief Executive

The Chief Executive is appointed by the Board of Trustees. The Chief Executive is responsible for the co-ordination of all the work of the staff of Headquarters, for the implementation of the policy of the Board of Trustees and for such special tasks as may be requested by the Committee.

The Chief Executive is an Ex-officio Member of the Council of the Association and of the Board of Trustees.

## Board Secretary

The Board of Trustees appoints a Secretary to carry out the duties required of such a person by the Bye Laws.

**SCOUTING Magazine** is the national magazine of The Scout Association and provides practical resources, information and support for those involved in Scouting.

The **Scout Information Centre** provides information and resources to the Movement. It can be contacted as follows:

- tel - 0845 300 1818 (local rates apply)
- fax - 020 8433 7103
- email - [info.centre@scout.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scout.org.uk)

- letter - Scout Information Centre, The Scout Association, Gilwell Park, Chingford, London, E4 7QW.

[www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) is the official website of the Association and provides regular news updates, general information on Scouting, material for young people, Scouting magazine on-line and access to the Membership Services system.

## The Country Scout Councils of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

These Scout Councils exist to advise their respective Chief Commissioners in all matters relating to the exercise of the Commissioner's discretionary powers as specified by Headquarters, and to perform such administrative and executive duties as may be delegated to them by Headquarters, which may include management of their financial affairs. Headquarters makes and approves constitutions for Country Scout Councils in order to facilitate the performance of delegated duties.

**Northern Ireland** Under the Scout Constitution for Northern Ireland the affairs of The Scout Association are under the charge of The Northern Ireland Scout Council, with a Committee for the management of its business. Under the authority of Headquarters, Northern Ireland Headquarters is the body responsible for matters of programme, training and administration in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland has separate legal and educational systems and its own system of local government.

Certain Rules concerning trusteeship, property and charitable status therefore do not apply in Northern Ireland without modification.

**Scotland**<sup>SV</sup> Under the Scout Constitution for Scotland, the affairs of The Scout Association are under the charge of The Scottish Council of The Scout Association, with a committee for the management of its business. Under the authority of Headquarters, Scottish Headquarters is the body responsible for matters of programme, training and administration in Scotland.

Scotland has separate legal and educational systems and its own system of local government.

Certain Rules concerning trusteeship, property and charitable status therefore do not apply in Scotland without modification.

**Wales** Scouting in Wales is supported by the Welsh Scout Council. Headquarters in London undertakes for it many of the functions of a Country Headquarters. Scout Counties in Wales are known as Areas.

#### **The Overseas Branches of the Association**

Branches of The Scout Association are established in certain territories overseas, with local Chief Scouts and Chief Commissioners.

Their constitutions are granted by Headquarters and may be withdrawn at its discretion.

Variations to the Rules of the Association may be sanctioned by Headquarters to suit the local circumstances of an Overseas Branch.

The International Commissioner is responsible to the UK Chief Commissioner for the efficiency and well-being of Scouting in Overseas Branches and for relations with Scout Associations in Commonwealth Countries.

#### **British Groups Abroad**

In a number of countries throughout the world there are British Scout Groups, which are registered by The Scout Association.

These Groups are supported by Headquarters.

#### **Companies and Trusts Associated with The Scout Association**

**Scout Shops Limited** is the service for the supply of uniform, badges, resources and other items for the Association. It is a company owned by the Association, with its profits being returned to The Scout Association..

**The Scout Association Trust Corporation** is a company limited by guarantee formed by The Scout Association. Its powers and constitution are stated in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Scout Association Trust Corporation may act as sole trustee for land and investments for The Scout Association and for Scout Councils of Groups, Districts and Counties in the United Kingdom, excepting Scotland and Northern Ireland.

**Scout Services Limited** is a company formed by The Scout Association for the purpose of fund raising. It is wholly owned by the Association and the profit from its trading is covenanted to the Association.

**Scout Insurance (Guernsey) Limited** is a 'captive' insurance company registered in Guernsey. Its purpose is to undertake insurance business on behalf of the Scout Movement and thus, to a certain extent, protect the Movement from premium rates applicable to the general insurance market. The premiums charged can be related more directly to the risks involved in Scout activities instead of having to follow the open market rates.

**Scout Insurance Services Limited (trading as "Unity")** is a company wholly owned by The Scout Association. Its primary purpose is to provide insurance support to the Association, to the Scout Movement in the United Kingdom and to British Groups based abroad. Scout Insurance Services Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

#### **Girlguiding UK**

The Scout Association and Girlguiding UK, although separate organisations, share a common Founder and have similar aims, principles and methods. Co-operation between the two organisations is encouraged at all times and at all levels.

#### **Rule 6.1 National Scout Active Support Units**

- a. The UK Adviser (Scout Active Support) may form National Scout Active Support Units.
- b. Applications to form a National Scout Active Support Unit are made to the UK Adviser (Scout Active Support).
- c. The purpose of National Scout Active Support Units is to provide active support to Scouting at a national level.
- d. All adult only support groups linked to Scouting at a national level must be registered as National Scout Active Support Units.
- e. The UK Adviser (Scout Active Support) may delegate another national appointee to act as the responsible Commissioner to support the activities and development of a National Scout Active Support Unit, to agree and review the service agreement, and to maintain effective liaison between Headquarters and the National Scout Active Support Unit.
- f. Each National Scout Active Support Unit is led by a National Active Support Manager who is responsible for ensuring that the Unit meets its service agreement. One or more National Scout Active Support Co-ordinators may be appointed to assist in the running of the Unit. All appointments of National Scout Active Support Unit Managers and

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Co-ordinators will take place through arrangements nominated by the UK Adviser (Scout Active Support).

- g. Subject in all cases to a satisfactory Personal Enquiry (see Rule 3.26), membership of a National Scout Active Support Unit is open to any person aged 18 or over, including:
- i. those holding other appointments in Scouting, who will be expected to give priority to the duties of these local appointments;
  - ii. Scout Network Members, who will be expected to give priority to their Scout Network.
- h. The National Scout Active Support Manager must be a Member of the Association. All members of a National Scout Active Support Unit must be at least Associate Members. They may also become Members by making the Scout Promise.
- i. A National Scout Active Support Unit is responsible for providing active support in accordance with its service agreement, agreed annually with the UK Adviser (Scout Active Support) or nominee.
- j. The following minimum standards are laid down for National Scout Active Support Units:
- There must be an appointed National Scout Active Support Manager.
  - A National Scout Active Support Unit must provide active support to Scouting on a national level, as detailed in the service agreement.
  - A National Scout Active Support Unit must comply with the operational procedures agreed with the UK Adviser (Scout Active Support) or nominee.
- j. If a National Scout Active Support Unit fails to reach the minimum standards for two consecutive years, it may be closed by the UK Adviser (Scout Active Support) (acting together with the International Commissioner / UK Adviser (Activities) / UK Adviser (Diversity) – if appropriate), with the approval of the Operations sub-Committee.
- k. If a National Scout Active Support Unit fails to reach the minimum standard for three years it must be closed.