

GOVERNORS

Q: What are the qualifications for governors?

A: Governors are either elected by their constituency or appointed if they are part of a stakeholder constituency. They do not need any specific qualifications but must be committed to being involved in helping to shape the future of the Trust.

Q: Do Governors get paid?

A: No, they don't receive a salary but they receive travel expenses.

Q: What is the role of the governors of an NHS Foundation Trust?

A:

- Governors represent the interests of NHS Foundation Trust members (public and staff).
- Governors hold the Board of Directors to account for performance of the Trust and to exercise statutory duties.
- Governors appoint or remove the Chair and Non Executive Directors of the Trust.
- Governors approve the appointment of the Chief Executive.
- Governors decide the remuneration, allowances and terms and conditions of office for the Chair and other Non Executive Directors.
- Governors appoint or remove the Trust's auditor.
- Governors receive the Trust Audit Report and scrutinise the Trust's Annual Plan.
- Governors assist in membership recruitment and development.
- Governors lead "Member Focus Groups".
- Governors play a critical role in making sure that information flows from both the community to the Board of Directors and from the Board of Directors to the community.

Q: Who is eligible to become a governor?

A: All members are eligible for nomination and election to become a governor as long as they are not disqualified according to the constitution. (This will be available after consultation).

Q: How did we settle on the number of governors to represent each public constituency?

A: Each constituency will have two representatives regardless of population size. This is consistent with the way we run the rest of the Trust. The exception is the adjacent counties who have one governor position to represent them

Q: How are members nominated to stand for governor election?

A: Each candidate must nominate themselves by completing a nomination paper – more details will be provided after consultation.

Q: How can a governor be removed from office and on what grounds?

A: Yes they can including;

- Financial bankruptcy.
- Those convicted of an offence within the preceding five years.
- Those who have acted in a manner detrimental to the interests of the Trust. This is on the basis of a majority of not less than 75% of the members of the Council of Governors adjudging the governor to have acted so.

Q: In the event of a disagreement between the Board of Directors and the Council of Governors, can the Board of Directors ignore the views of the Council of Governors? If not how is the disagreement to be resolved?

A: In the event of a disagreement between the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors the Chairman, on advice of the Board Secretary, shall seek to resolve the dispute.

If the Chairman is unable to resolve the dispute he shall appoint a 'Special Committee' comprising of equal numbers of Directors and Governors to resolve the dispute. If there is no resolution the Chairman will refer back to the Board of Directors who will make the final decision.

Q: What are the qualifications that have to be met by governors who wish to be elected as Non-Executive Directors?

A: Governors cannot become Non Executive Directors while they hold office as a governor. A person may be appointed as a Non-Executive Director if he is a member of the public constituency and is not disqualified under paragraph 27 of the constitution (to be published after our public consultation).

Q: What role will the governors play in the appointment of Executive Directors?

A: The Council of Governors can only appoint and remove the Non-Executive Directors, including the Chairman. The Non-Executive Directors, Chairman and Chief Executive appoint the Executive Directors.

Q: At what intervals will the Board of Directors meet with governors and members in a general meeting?

A: There will be a general meeting each year at which the Directors present to the Council of Governors the Annual Accounts and Forward Plan.