

999 Call for the NHS

Unincorporated Association Constitution



Name: 999 Call for the NHS

Objects of organisation

999 Call for the NHS is a non-party/cross-party campaign group with the following [aims & policies](#) .

The primary aim is to protect, save and restore a National Health Service that puts the patient before profit. Allowing doctors, nurses and all health workers to focus on the needs of their patients, not private company profit for shareholders

To this end, 999 Call for the NHS aims to steer the process of:

- Restoring a fully democratic & publicly accountable NHS which stops and reverses the break up of the NHS due to marketisation & privatisation, to bring about a fully renationalised NHS – back in full public ownership
- Enacting the National Health Bill (NHS Reinstatement Bill) before the end of the current parliament. Also to ensure the Secretary of State's duty to provide a universal, comprehensive health care service based on people's medical needs not ability to pay
- Restoring adequate NHS investment to make good the projected £22bn/year funding shortfall by 2020, stopping cuts, establishing & maintaining GDP spend to 10%
- Achieving full UK withdrawal from any global corporate agreements that seek to undermine public services and place ownership into the hands of UK & non-UK private companies.
- Renegotiating All Public Finance Initiative debts and investigating them for fraud and onerous debt. Wherever onerous debt is proven PFI should be scrapped.
- Maximising the ability of a renationalised NHS to limit, research and control the power of the pharmaceutical industry, basing financing of drugs on fair value not large profits
- Liaise and collaborate with other campaigns in support of these aims and objectives, on specific local NHS and social care issues, to reach and involve as wide a range of local citizens as possible

Powers

In order to pursue its objects, the group may:

- set up a bank account
- apply for grant funding and other sources of funding (eg crowdfunding, donations etc) to pursue the above objects - but is not allowed to borrow or arrange loans
- carry out educational, research, campaigning, media, networking and information-sharing activities to help it pursue its objects
- employ the services of professionals (such as lawyers, journalists etc), who shall not be Management Committee members, to further the objects of the group
- do such things as are lawful and necessary in order to pursue the objects of the organisation

Membership

Membership is open to individuals who share the aims of the group and wish to actively work with other members in pursuit of the group's aims

To become a member, an individual can either apply in writing to the group's Secretary or attend a group meeting and state they'd like to become a member and agree to abide by the rules of this Constitution.

Members may terminate their membership at any time by notifying the group's Secretary.

The group's committee has the right to end the membership of individuals who behave in ways inconsistent with the rules or values of the association.

The group's committee also has the right to refuse membership if it is felt that individuals do not have the best interests of the group and its aims in their application

Management

It is impractical for every member to have a vote on every decision. Therefore, an elected management committee will run the organisation on behalf of the members.

The Management committee requires at least these three officer roles:

Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

If possible, the management committee will also include a Press Officer and a Public Participation person. If needed, the management committee officers may co-opt up to three additional members. These must not be Councillors or MPs from any political party. The management committee must meet at least 4 times a year, with no longer than three months between meetings. The quorum is three members.

The authority of the voluntary management committee flows from the constitution because every member has agreed to those rules when they sign up as a member. That leaves the office holders as agents for all the members.

The office bearers of the management committee will be elected at the first working meeting of the group. They may then co-opt up to three additional management committee members if they wish to do so. Management committee membership will last for one year.

After year 1, management committee members will be elected at the Annual General Meeting. (see 6. General Meetings, below).

The management committee has the duty, power and responsibility to pursue the group's objects (see 2, above) by acting on its powers (see 3 above).

Membership of the management committee will end if the member acts against the objects and constitutional rules of the group and a majority of the group's members present at a special general meeting votes for the management committee member's appointment to end.

General meetings

The first Annual General Meeting will be held within a year of the group's formation, and then at twelve month intervals. It will be called giving at least 7 days' notice to all members. The quorum is 5 members. Its business will include:

- Receiving from the management committee an annual report and statement of accounts
- Electing office bearers and other members of the management committee
- Appointing an independent examiner for the coming year

Members may call a special general meeting of the entire membership of the group when there is special business to consider.

Procedure at meetings

If the Chair is absent, another office holder will take the chair. The chair will have a casting vote.

The secretary will keep minutes of all meetings and circulate them for approval at the following meeting.

Meetings can take place online and by phone due to the geographical spread of membership. Decisions can also be made via emails providing a clear thread of evidence as well as minuted notes.

Finance

The group's funds may only be used to further the objects of the group and for no other purpose.

When the group opens a bank account, two signatories are required to sign the group's cheques. Signatories will not sign 'blank' cheques. The signatories will be the Treasurer and the other approved/nominated signatory, who must both be members of the management committee.

The treasurer shall keep proper accounts of 999 Call for the NHS and report regularly to the Management Committee on the finances.

The accounts of the group are to be independently examined by a reliable, appropriate person nominated and approved by the management committee.

Amendments to the constitution

The constitution may be altered by its members at the AGM, or at a special general meeting for the purpose, which members have received proper notice of. Any alteration to the constitution shall require the approval of a two-thirds majority of a quorate meeting.

Dissolution

If the group decides to wind up and there is money in its bank account after all liabilities have been met, the committee shall have the power to pay this to another organisation with similar aims and objectives.

Any decision to dissolve the group will be made by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a quorate meeting of all the members of 999 Call for the NHS (ie a meeting where at least 1/3 of members are present.)

Any decision to call a members' meeting to vote on the dissolution of the group will be made by a quorate Management Committee meeting. There shall be at least 21 days' notice, stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed to the meeting.

Adopted by

Steven Carne, Emma Tyers, Joanna Adams, Barbara Campbell, Jo Ritson

Monday 13th February 2017