

D2

Motion

Proposer: Democracy & Accountability Committee (decided on:
01/03/2026)

Title: Standing Orders

Motion text

Young Greens Standing Orders

A. Young Greens Convention

A.1. Scheduling

A.1.1. The Young Greens Convention shall be held once per year in the months of June, July or August.

A.1.2. The Young Greens Convention will take place for two days during a weekend.

A.2. Location

A.2.1. The Young Greens Convention shall not be held twice in the same Region Block, defined in A.2.2, consecutively.

A.2.2. Within each five-year period, as determined by DAC, the Young Greens Convention must take place within the bounds of at least three of these four Region Blocks:

A.2.2.1. The South East, and the South West.

A.2.2.2. The North East, the North West, and Yorkshire and the Humber.

A.2.2.3. The Midlands, and Wales.

A.2.2.4. The East, and London.

A.3. Liberation Group Sessions

A.3.1. Liberation groups will be allocated a session online within the two weeks prior to convention where they will provide a report to its membership on activities undertaken since last convention and for any other purpose the group sees fit. Liberation Groups may request a slot at convention, and the Young Greens Executive must fulfil this request.

24 **B. Annual General Meetings**

25 B.1. Competency of the Annual General Meeting

26 B.1.1. The Young Greens Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at Young
27 Greens Annual Convention.

28 B.1.2. The Annual General Meeting is the highest decision-making body within the
29 Young Greens.

30 B.1.3. There must be at least 25 members of the Young Greens at any General
31 Meeting for decisions to be binding.

32 B.1.4. The AGM accepts/rejects/amends reports, motions, resolutions and changes
33 to the Constitution or Standing Orders, collectively referred to as 'papers'.

34 B.1.5. The AGM ratifies decisions about joining or leaving partnerships and
35 membership within other organisations/networks.

36 B.2. Organisation of the Annual General Meeting

37 B.2.1. The Annual General Meeting agenda must be structured, organised and
38 agreed by the Executive Committee (EC) and Democracy and Accountability
39 Committee (DAC).

40 B.2.2. DAC must appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair for each session of the Annual
41 General Meeting. The Chair and Deputy Chair must not be proposers of any Papers
42 or Amendments to the session of the Annual General Meeting that they are
43 chairing.

44 B.2.3. DAC must ensure that all members respect the Constitution and Standing
45 Orders.

46 B.2.4. DAC must take Annual General Meeting minutes of all official business
47 including recording any votes, important discussions, and decisions.

48 B.2.5. DAC must keep a record of newly adopted/amended documents and email the
49 Young Greens' Co-Chairs a copy of newly adopted/amended documents as well as the
50 minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

51 B.2.6. DAC must inform EC to take note of any newly adopted papers.

52 B.2.7. A prioritisation ballot will occur, conducted by DAC, on the first day of
53 Convention for attendees at the Annual General Meeting in order to decide the
54 order of papers taken.

55 B.3. Motions & Reports

56 B.3.1. It shall be the role of DAC to compile submitted papers, which consist of

57 B.3.1.1. Changes to the Constitution or Standing Orders.

58 B.3.1.2. Resolutions, which note the priorities of the Executive Committee for
59 the upcoming term.

60 B.3.1.3. Motions, which insert entries into the Record of Policy Statements or
61 Record of Organisational Statements.

62 B.3.1.4. Reports, as outlined in B.3.2.

63 B.3.1.5. Emergency Motions, as outlined in B3.10.

64 B.3.1.6. Motions of Commendation and Motions of Censure.

65 B.3.2. The Annual General Meeting must take note of mandatory annual reports by
66 the:

67 B.3.2.1. Executive Committee Co-Chairs.

68 B.3.2.2. Treasurer.

69 B.3.2.3. Elections Officer.

70 B.3.2.4. Digital Communications Officer.

71 B.3.2.5. Press Officer.

72 B.3.2.6. Campaigns Officer.

- 73 B.3.2.7. Events Officer.
- 74 B.3.2.8. International Officer.
- 75 B.3.2.9. Membership and Inclusion Officer.
- 76 B.3.2.10. Political Education and Training Officer.
- 77 B.3.2.11. Liberation Officers (from each formally constituted Liberation Group).
- 78 B.3.2.12. Under 18s Officer.
- 79 B.3.2.13. Democracy and Accountability Committee.
- 80 B.3.2.14. Green Students Committee Co-Convenors.
- 81 B.3.3. Annual reports detailed in B.3.2 must be submitted to DAC at least 2
82 weeks before the AGM.
- 83 B.3.4. Individual members, EC and Affiliated Young Greens Groups have the right
84 to submit papers and amendments.
- 85 B.3.5. For all submissions, there must be a named proposer and at least 3 other
86 co-proposers or at least one other co-proposer if submitting on behalf of an
87 Affiliated YG Group or recognised committee.
- 88 B.3.6. Paper copies of the Constitution, Standing Orders, Record of Policy
89 Statements and Record of Organisational Statements must be made available for
90 members attending the General Meeting.
- 91 B.3.7. The timescale for the submission of papers and amendments shall be as
92 follows:
- 93 B.3.7.1. At least 8 weeks before the Annual General Meeting, EC must send out a
94 call including guidelines for submission of papers, all relevant dates and where
95 to find papers once they are posted on the members' website.
- 96 B.3.7.2. Submission for Papers shall close at 5pm on the Saturday exactly 4
97 weeks before the AGM, aside from submission for Motions of Commendation and
98 Motions of Censure which shall close 1 week before the AGM.

99 B.3.7.3. Following this, DAC must post all submissions at the earliest possible
100 moment.

101 B.3.7.4. At 5pm on the Saturday exactly 1 week before the AGM, submission of
102 amendments to papers will close.

103 B.3.7.5. Amendments may not substantially change the intention of the paper and
104 nor may they impact things irrelevant to the original substantive motion.

105 B.3.8. Exactly 5 days before the Annual General Meeting, DAC must ensure that
106 all members are emailed (regardless of Annual General Meeting registration
107 status) copies of all papers and amendments to both as well as the reports
108 detailed in B3.2.

109 B.3.9. The only amendments which shall be accepted from the floor during the AGM
110 are minor textual amendments (e.g. grammatical corrections) and friendly verbal
111 amendments (i.e. where both the proposer of the original paper and the proposer
112 of the verbal amendment agree to an amendment).

113 B.3.10. Emergency motions, defined as being brought due to an event occurring
114 past the original motion deadline, will be accepted up until 17.00 on the day
115 before the AGM.

116 B.3.11. The text of Emergency Motions and the accompanying list of Proposers and
117 Supporters should be submitted electronically to DAC .

118 B.3.12. Emergency Motions shall be prioritised at the AGM by DAC on the basis of
119 the number of co-proposers to each Emergency Motion.

120 B.4. Motion Voting Procedures

121 B.4.1. When debating a paper or amendment at the Annual General Meeting, the
122 proposer will be asked by the chair to propose the motion or amendment by
123 explaining what the paper or amendment is for and then giving a brief speech in
124 favour of the paper.

125 B.4.2. Following this the chair will open debate on the paper or amendment by
126 asking for a speech against the paper or amendment.

127 B.4.3. The chair may continue debate by taking speeches in favour and against
128 the paper or amendment in pairs, so that debate remains as balanced as possible.

129 In each pair of speeches, the speech in favour of the paper or amendment will be
130 heard first.

131 B.4.4. If it is unclear if there has been sufficient debate a straw poll will be
132 taken by raising hands with the options either for more debate or move to a
133 vote.

134 B.4.5. At any point before the vote is taken, any member can ask for
135 clarification, raise points of information or propose procedural motions (e.g.
136 minor textural amendments, taking by parts).

137 B.4.6. If a paper or amendment has received lengthy debate the proposer may
138 request a brief right of reply before the vote is taken.

139 B.4.7. When voting on paper proposals the possibilities are 'yes', 'no' or
140 'abstention'.

141 B.4.8. All voting on papers and amendments shall be confidential.

142 B.4.9. Depending on the nature of the proposal, the following types of majority
143 may be required for a motion to be passed.

144 B.4.9.1. Simple majority: majority of the votes cast in person.

145 B.4.9.2. Two-thirds majority: two-thirds of the votes cast in person.

146 B.4.9.3. Absolute two-thirds majority: two-thirds majority of the votes cast by
147 the entire membership of the body.

148 B.4.10. Amendments to the Constitution including accompanying Byelaws or
149 Standing Orders will be accepted with a two-thirds majority.

150 B.4.11. Unless otherwise stated in the Constitution or Standing Orders,
151 everything else will be accepted with a simple majority.

152 B.4.12. DAC shall be responsible for counting the votes.

153 B.4.13. Results of votes must be announced during the meeting.

154 **C. Emergency General Meetings**

155 C.1. Calling an EGM

156 C.1.1. An Emergency General Meeting (EGM) may be called at any time by an
157 absolute two-thirds majority of EC, or by members double in number to the amount
158 of members who are requisite for Emergency General Meeting quorum of the Young
159 Greens membership petitioning DAC for an EGM.

160 C.2. Timescale & Procedure

161 C.2.1. The same procedure as for AGM paper submission, organisation and voting
162 shall apply to an EGM following Section B Parts 2,3,4, however the timescale
163 will be halved.

164 **D. Winter General Meeting**

165 D.1. Scheduling

166 D.1.1. There will be a Young Greens General Meeting held in the months of
167 December, January or February.

168 D.2. Accountability Sessions

169 D.2.1. The Winter General Meeting (WGM) consists of accountability sessions for
170 the following representatives elected in the annual ballot:

171 D.2.1.1. Executive Committee Co-chairs.

172 D.2.1.2. Treasurer.

173 D.2.1.3. Elections Officer.

174 D.2.1.4. Digital Communications Officer.

175 D.2.1.5. Press Officer.

176 D.2.1.6. Campaigns Officer.

177 D.2.1.7. Events Officer.

178 D.2.1.8. International Officer.

179 D.2.1.9. Membership and Inclusion Officer.

180 D.2.1.10. Political Education and Training Officer.

181 D.2.1.11. Liberation Officers.

182 D.2.1.12. Under 18s officer.

183 D.2.1.13. Green Students Committee Co-convenors.

184 D.2.2. The Winter General Meeting must take note of the mandatory six-month
185 progress reports from those representatives.

186 D.2.3. The accountability session will take the form of a face-to-face Q&A with
187 the membership.

188 D.3. Competency of the Winter General Meeting

189 D.3.1. There must be at least 25 members of the Young Greens at any General
190 Meeting for decisions to be binding.

191 D.3.2. Motions of no confidence shall be heard during the accountability session
192 and will pass with a two-thirds majority.

193 D.3.3. Motions of Censure (formal warnings) and Motions of Commendation (formal
194 praise) shall be heard during the accountability session. Censures and
195 Commendations shall pass with a simple majority. The subjects(s) of Censures
196 and Commendations shall be holders of any official post within the Young Greens,
197 including elected and co-opted members of national, regional, and local
198 committees, selected delegates, and staff members.

199 D.3.4. Every Young Green is eligible to vote at the Winter General Meeting.

200 D.3.5. The Winter General Meeting shall additionally hold the democratic powers
201 of an Emergency General Meeting, with the same timescale as an Emergency General
202 Meeting for paper submission, organisation, and voting.

203 **E. Internal Elections**

204 E.1. Candidacy

205 E.1.1. All members of the Young Greens are eligible to be candidates for roles
206 within the Executive Committee, Democracy and Accountability Committee members
207 and the Green Students Committee Co-Convenors providing they abide by the rules
208 such as gender quotas, except in the case of Liberation Officers stated in E1.2.

209 E.1.2. Only those Young Greens who self-define as belonging to a specific
210 Liberation group may stand to be the Liberation Officer, Co-chair or committee
211 member candidates for election within that respective Liberation group.

212 E.1.2.1. Only Young Greens who are members of Wales Green Party may stand to be
213 the Wales Officer.

214 E.1.3. Members who hold a position on the Democracy and Accountability Committee
215 who stand as a candidate for any role in the Annual Ballot, other than a
216 Democracy and Accountability Committee role, must in every case recuse
217 themselves or be recused from all business involving Annual Ballot Internal
218 Elections.

219 E.1.4. DAC Members must in every case recuse themselves or be recused from all
220 business involving an Affiliated Group in which they hold or play an active
221 role.

222 E.1.5. The Electoral Returning Officer and the Deputy shall assume the role of
223 the Democracy and Accountability Committee in the case that all Members are
224 recused with regards to the Annual Ballot.

225 E.1.6. Candidates must have two nominees, who are members of the Young Greens in
226 accordance with Article 1 of the constitution, and may provide a candidate
227 statement, campaign video, and social media links if they wish.

228 E.1.7. Members of the Young Greens may not: be a nominee for more than one of
229 the following positions at any one time; nor hold more than one of the following
230 posts at any one time in the Young Greens:

231 E.1.7.1. Any EC role.

232 E.1.7.2. Democracy and Accountability Committee.

233 E.1.7.3. Green Students Committee Co-Convenor.

234 E.1.8. Members of the Young Greens may put themselves forward as a job share for
235 any of the following posts within the Young Greens annual ballot:

236 E.1.8.1. Treasurer.

237 E.1.8.2. Elections Officer.

238 E.1.8.3. Digital Communications Officer.

239 E.1.8.4. Press Officer.

240 E.1.8.5. Campaigns Officer.

241 E.1.8.6. Events Officer.

242 E.1.8.7. International Officer.

243 E.1.8.8. Membership and Inclusion Officer.

244 E.1.8.9. Political Education and Training Officer.

245 E.1.8.10. Liberation Officers (from each formally constituted Liberation Group).

246 E.1.8.11. Under 18s Officer.

247 E.1.8.12. Wales Officer

248 E.1.8.13. Member of the Democracy and Accountability Committee.

249 E.1.8.14. Member of the International Committee

250 E.1.9. Should one part of the job share resign or be removed from their position
251 for whatever reason, their counterpart(s) will be able to either:

252 E.1.9.1. Advertise to co-opt a replacement for the existing part of the job
253 share.

254 E.1.9.2. Continue to carry out their role without the existing part of the job
255 share, without replacing them.

256 E.1.9.3. Resign from their role.

257 E.1.10. No member may sit on the same body for more than 5 terms consecutively,
258 irrespective of election or co-option.

259 E.1.11. No member may hold the same post for more than 3 terms, irrespective of
260 election or co-option.

261 E.2. Term of Office

262 E.2.1. All roles shall be elected for a term of office of 1 year, not including
263 the Handover Period, which should be completed should the officer no longer fit
264 the requirements described in Constitution Clause 1.5.1 or 1.5.2 during their
265 term, accepting variations as described below.

266 E.2.2. For all roles elected at the AGM in the annual ballot, the term of office
267 shall run until the following year's AGM except in the cases of resignation or
268 removal by a vote of no confidence.

269 E.3. Accountability

270 E.3.1. A vote of no confidence shall occur for an individual role if the
271 Democracy and Accountability Committee are petitioned by 25% of the committee or
272 other body which the role is part of.

273 E.3.2. A vote of no confidence may also be called for any individual role if the
274 Democracy and Accountability Committee are petitioned by a number of members
275 equal to 10% of votes cast in the election for this role in the most recent
276 elections, but never less than 25 members of the Young Greens.

277 E.3.3. If the role which a vote of no confidence is being petitioned for falls
278 within the Democracy and Accountability Committee, then it shall instead be EC
279 that is petitioned by the members of the relevant committee, body, or general
280 membership.

281 E.3.4. Complete anonymity shall be maintained throughout by the committee which
282 is petitioned, both relating to the petitioners and the vote.

283 E.3.5. EC voting members have a responsibility to attend EC meetings and to stay
284 accountable:

285 E.3.5.1. Failure to attend four regularly scheduled meetings consecutively shall
286 either: initiate an automatic immediate committee-internal vote of no confidence
287 held via secret ballot by DAC, repeatable during a term; or result in the civil
288 resignation of the member at their discretion, prior to the vote of no
289 confidence.

290 E.3.5.2. Failure to attend ten regularly scheduled meetings in total over the
291 course of one term shall either: initiate an immediate automatic committee-
292 internal vote of no confidence held via secret ballot by DAC, repeatable during
293 a term; or result in the civil resignation of the member at their discretion,
294 prior to the vote of no confidence.

295 E.3.5.3. Failure to complete two individual quarterly reports in total over the
296 course of one term shall either: initiate an automatic immediate committee-
297 internal vote of no confidence held via secret ballot by DAC, repeatable during
298 a term; or result in the civil resignation of the member at their discretion,
299 prior to the vote of no confidence.

300 E.3.5.4. Failure to complete a mandatory individual six-month progress report
301 shall either: initiate an automatic immediate committee-internal vote of no
302 confidence held via secret ballot by DAC; or result in the civil resignation of
303 the member at their discretion, prior to the vote of no confidence. This clause
304 does not apply to members of either EC or DAC who have been co-opted within one
305 month of the report's due date.

306 E.3.5.5. Failure to complete a mandatory individual annual report shall result
307 in the ERO reporting this information at the final Convention Hustings if the
308 Candidate is standing for election again.

309 E.3.6. If an individual EC voting member invokes three of the actions noted in
310 E3.5.1 through E3.5.4, but remains on EC, then DAC shall have the following
311 options available:

312 E.3.6.1. Initiate immediate informal mediation to find the causes of the issues
313 at hand and offer support and guidance on various options available.

314 E.3.6.2. Initiate another immediate committee-internal vote of no confidence
315 within EC.

316 E.3.6.3. Initiate an online ballot, to be held within one month of the DAC
317 decision, open to all Young Greens members where a majority of voting members
318 may vote to remove the EC voting member.

319 E.4. Election Timescale

320 E.4.1. All processes and the election timescale described between Clauses E4.4
321 and E4.11 (inclusive) apply only to positions elected in the “Annual Ballot” at
322 convention, namely Executive Committee, Democracy and Accountability Committee
323 members.

324 E.4.2. Co-Chairs, Committees, or other positions in Young Greens Affiliated
325 Groups shall be elected with a separate timescale to be decided by those
326 respective groups.

327 E.4.3. At least 8 weeks before the AGM the Executive Committee must send out a
328 call for applications to all Executive Committee positions, all Democracy and
329 Accountability Committee positions, and Green Students Committee Co-Convenor
330 positions. This callout must set out the rest of the timescale and how to apply.

331 E.4.4. Exactly 4 weeks before the AGM applications will close for all roles
332 elected at Convention except for roles that received no applications during the
333 initial period.

334 E.4.5. As close as possible to 2 weeks before the start of the AGM a live online
335 video hustings will take place for all roles elected in the Annual Ballot, which
336 all candidates for these roles are invited to take part in.

337 E.4.6. Exactly 2 weeks before the start of the AGM voting will open in
338 accordance with Standing Order E5.3.

339 E.4.7. At 17.00 the day before the AGM applications will close for roles covered
340 by E4.1 which gained no applications as of E4.5.

341 E.4.8. A further in-person hustings shall be held at Convention; each candidate
342 has the right to participate in these as well as to submit a statement in
343 advance.

344 E.4.9. Voting shall close during Convention between the in-person hustings
345 detailed in E4.8 and the announcement of results (the exact time to be at the
346 discretion of DAC). The time of this should be clearly identified on the
347 Convention Timetable and voting platform.

348 E.4.10. The election of successful candidates shall be announced during
349 Convention.

350 E.5. Electoral System & Gender Balancing

351 E.5.1. Every Young Green is eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting and
352 associated elections where they have 1 vote, except in the case of the elections
353 for Liberation Officers and Officers representing a Special Interest Group on
354 the Executive Committee, where only members of those relevant groups may vote
355 for their representative officer.

356 E.5.2. All positions shall all be elected using the Single Transferable Vote
357 (STV) system with a provision for negative voting (re-open nominations, acronym
358 RON).

359 E.5.2.1. Single Transferable Vote quota for election is calculated as follows:
360 total valid vote divided by one more than the number of seats up for election
361 plus one (or rounded up) to avoid ties: $(TVV/(seats+1)) +1$.

362 E.5.3. Voting will take place via secret, secure online ballot arranged by an
363 Electoral Returning Officer (ERO), appointed by the Democracy and Accountability
364 Committee (DAC).

365 E.5.4. DAC, or the ERO if authorised to do so by DAC, is responsible for
366 counting the votes.

367 E.5.5. The counting of votes and electing of successful candidates for the
368 positions of Executive Committee Co-Chair and Treasurer will take place before
369 the counting for other EC positions so that the gender balance criteria
370 described in E5.6, E5.7, E5.8 and E5.9 can be applied.

371 E.5.6. The following rules will apply exclusively to the election of Co-chairs
372 in compliance with Clause 1.1.1 of Constitution Byelaw 1.

373 E.5.6.1. The candidate with the highest number of first preference votes will be
374 elected in the first round in which a candidate passes the quota required by the
375 STV method.

376 E.5.6.2. If the successful candidate is not a self-defining man, the second
377 candidate elected by the STV method will be elected to the second Co-Chair
378 position, regardless of gender identity.

379 E.5.6.3. If the first successful candidate is a self-defining man, all other
380 self-defining men will be excluded from the vote and their further preferences

381 allocated to the remaining candidates from whom the second Co-Chair will be
382 elected.

383 E.5.7. The election of Green Students Committee Co-Convenors will take place
384 following the same rules as laid out for EC Co-Chairs in E5.6.

385 E.5.8. The election of members to the Democracy and Accountability Committee
386 will be carried out such that no more than 3 of the places are taken by self-
387 defining men with places reserved, as necessary, to ensure this.

388 E.5.9. The election of members to the International Committee will be carried
389 out such that no more than 3 of the places are taken by self-defining men with
390 places reserved, as necessary, to ensure this.

391 E.6. Campaigning Rules

392 E.6.1. Candidates for any role in Young Greens elections, and proposers of
393 papers, are entitled to campaign and must all follow the same rules except for
394 E6.2 which shall only apply to roles explicitly mentioned.

395 E.6.2. The amount spent on a campaign by a candidate in the Young Greens annual
396 ballot (EC, Democracy and Accountability Committee, Green Students Committee Co-
397 Convenors) must not exceed £30. This includes leaflets, online campaigning and
398 similar expenditures the candidate has incurred as a result of being a candidate
399 for this position within the Young Greens. It also includes expenditure incurred
400 by the supporters of the candidate. At least 50% of all spending will be
401 reimbursed by the Young Greens provided that receipts are given to the Young
402 Greens Treasurer within 30 days of the close of elections - the Treasurer may
403 query the relevance of any expenditure with the Candidate and the Electoral
404 Returning Officer, the Electoral Returning Officer may declare any expenditure
405 to be irrelevant to the election and thus ineligible for reimbursement, the
406 relevant Candidate must be informed if ever this is the case and has the
407 inalienable right to appeal to the Democracy and Accountability Committee where
408 they shall be recused if they sit on this body or were a named Proposers of the
409 relevant candidate. The same amount of money will be reimbursed for every
410 candidate running for any one role. Jobshare candidates share one £30 limit as
411 if they were one person.

412 E.6.3. Candidates and proposers may use the contact details of people they know
413 personally to directly canvass for support, via their own networks, in the run
414 up to the election but must not use administrative privileges to attain contact
415 details inappropriately such as through access to mailing lists, nor may

416 Candidates or Proposers unduly use their position or prospective position for a
417 strategic advantage such as by offering incentives or through a quid pro quo.

418 E.6.4. Candidates and proposers may campaign online and use social media to
419 canvas for support but only strictly in a personal capacity. All campaign
420 materials must clearly state in legible typeface "Promoted and produced by
421 [Candidate Name] as part of their campaign for election for [Role]. This is not
422 an official communication from the Young Greens of England and Wales." - this
423 rule shall always be enforced and the repeated use of misleading campaign
424 materials after a warning will lead to disqualification.

425 E.6.5. Candidates and proposers may not use official Young Greens or Green Party
426 communication channels such as administrative email and Facebook privileges.
427 Official Young Greens channels may not amplify those running for election beyond
428 the limited specific scope of their current role (if they hold one), nor may the
429 Young Greens approve, endorse, or allow Candidates to be external
430 representatives on a National or International level during the electoral
431 period, except if: the Candidate is a duly selected representative at an
432 international event for Green Parties or Youth Green Parties; or if the platform
433 is specifically as part of an electoral campaign to elected office for a local,
434 regional, national, or international position for example a local Council,
435 regional Assembly, or Parliament. Materials produced, co-produced, or approved
436 by candidates which are exact or highly similar in likeness to wording from
437 candidates' statements or campaign materials may not be amplified on official
438 Young Greens channels during the election period.

439 E.6.6. All Candidate Statements shall be distributed to all Young Greens Members
440 online.

441 E.6.7. Campaigns must focus on the benefits of the candidate they are
442 supporting, not the flaws of the candidates opposing them. Negative campaigning,
443 smear campaigns, and mudslinging are not permitted. If anonymous smear campaigns
444 take place, the Electoral Returning Officer may rerun the election until they
445 are satisfied that the issue has been resolved. References to actions done or
446 things said in the past by other candidates are not necessarily negative
447 campaigning. This can often be an essential part of an accountable democracy,
448 and these rules are not intended to prevent rigorous and in-depth campaigns from
449 other candidates. The ERO should ensure they act in a fair and consistent manner
450 towards all candidates when adjudicating these matters.

451 E.6.8. The following acts are strictly forbidden: bribery, coercion,
452 manipulation, disregard for decisions properly made and within the remit of the
453 Electoral Returning Officer or relevant bodies, corruption, intimidation, lying,

454 production and/or distribution of false or misleading campaign materials, and
455 mistreating of members.

456 E.6.9. Candidates or Proposers with Young Greens email addresses, admin rights,
457 or other privileges due to their role may not use these unduly during the
458 election period. This includes but isn't limited to: Candidates or Proposers
459 must not canvass for support using official email channels; Candidates with
460 Admin privileges on any Young Greens social media group must declare this to the
461 Electoral Returning Officer within 5 days after the announcement of candidates;
462 Admins of groups or channels who happen to be Candidates or Proposers must not
463 approve any posts relating to the elections whatsoever, and the Electoral
464 Returning Officer and Deputy Electoral Returning Officer must be made Admins and
465 be given this sole power.

466 E.6.10. The Electoral Returning Officer may, from time to time and with the
467 express consent of the Democracy and Accountability Committee, implement
468 specific further regulations which do not conflict with any rules in the
469 Constitution or Standing Orders which also do not impact the equitable and fair
470 treatment of campaigns - time-limited further specific regulations shall not be
471 retrospective nor retroactive and all Candidates and Proposers must be informed
472 of the implementation of any further rules.

473 E.6.11. Any member, regardless of candidate status, can report a suspected
474 breach of these rules to the Electoral Returning Officer in the case of
475 electoral breaches, Democracy and Accountability Committee in the case of
476 motions or electoral breaches, or, where they feel that is inappropriate, to
477 Young Greens Staff.

478 E.6.12. Any suspected electoral breach of these rules shall be investigated by
479 the Electoral Returning Officer and the Democracy and Accountability Committee
480 who have the following options open to them:

481 E.6.12.1. Suspension of a candidate from the current election, who is suspected
482 to have breached these rules, pending investigation by the Electoral Returning
483 Officer and the Democracy and Accountability Committee. If the investigation
484 cannot be completed by the AGM, the election will be re-run.

485 E.6.12.2. Expulsion from the current election of a candidate found to be in
486 breach of these rules, by the Electoral Returning Officer and the Democracy and
487 Accountability Committee - the election shall otherwise continue as normal.

488 E.6.12.3. Expulsion from the current election of a candidate where it has been

489 found that person(s) acting on their behalf have breached these rules.

490 E.6.12.4. Additionally, Candidates removed from the current election due to the
491 actions of themselves or others will still be eligible to be a candidate for
492 future elections to any position within the Young Greens. However, Candidates or
493 Proposers who are found to be in breach shall automatically be referred to the
494 Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee which may impose further sanctions.

495 E.6.13. Any suspected non-electoral breaches, during an election and by a
496 candidate, of the Young Greens Constitution, Young Greens Standing Orders, Green
497 Party Constitution, Green Party Standing Orders, Green Party Code of Conduct or
498 any other organisational policies of the Green Party of England and Wales and
499 Young Greens, including anti-harassment and Safe Space policies, shall be
500 investigated by the Democracy and Accountability Committee who shall have the
501 following options open to them:

502 E.6.13.1. Suspension of a candidate from the current election, who is suspected
503 to have breached these rules, pending investigation by the Democracy and
504 Accountability Committee. If the investigation cannot be completed by the AGM,
505 the election will be re- run.

506 E.6.13.2. Expulsion from the current election of a candidate found to have
507 breached these rules with the election otherwise continuing as normal.

508 E.6.14. Following any action as described in E6.13.1 or E6.13.2, the Democracy
509 and Accountability Committee shall refer the case to the Complaints and Disputes
510 Subcommittee for full investigation as described in Article 5 of the
511 Constitution, from 5.6 onwards.

512 E.6.15. Any suspected breach of these rules in relation to the proposal of
513 papers will be investigated by the Democracy and Accountability Committee who
514 will have the following options open to them:

515 E.6.15.1. Suspension of a proposer suspected of breaking these rules may be
516 suspended from proposing the paper pending investigation by the Democracy and
517 Accountability Committee and an alternative proposer must be found by the
518 remaining co-proposers.

519 E.6.15.2. For serious breaches of these rules, the Democracy and Accountability
520 Committee may rule the paper or amendment Out of Order and remove it from the
521 General Meeting agenda.

522 E.6.16. A person is accountable to these rules from the opening of the
523 nominations period, however, may only announce their candidacy and begin
524 publicly campaigning after the close of nominations.

525 E.7. Co-Options

526 E.7.1. Any vacant EC role may be co-opted by a majority vote of EC plus the
527 agreement of the Chair of the Democracy and Accountability Committee, after a
528 call out and interviews have taken place.

529 E.7.2. Any vacant DAC role may be co-opted by a majority vote of DAC, after a
530 call out has taken place.

531 E.7.3. If it is not possible to co-opt for DAC roles in accordance with E7.2,
532 these roles may be co-opted by a majority vote of EC, after a call out has taken
533 place.

534 E.7.4. Vacant Green Students Committee Co-Convenor roles may be co-opted by a
535 majority vote of the Green Students Committee after a call out by the Green
536 Students Committee has taken place.

537 E.7.5. If it is not possible to co-opt for Green Students Committee Co-Convenor
538 roles in accordance with E7.4, these roles may be co-opted by a majority vote of
539 EC plus the agreement of the Chair of the Democracy and Accountability
540 Committee, after a call out and a hustings has taken place.

541 E.7.6. Gender balance criteria as defined under section E5.5 through to E5.9
542 should also apply to any co-options.

543 **F. Format and Exceptional Democratic Accountability Measures**

544 F.1. Format

545 F.1.1. The General Meetings defined in Sections B, C, and D shall all be held as
546 hybrid events, with democratic functions and activities exercised on a hybrid
547 basis - where 'hybrid' refers to an event where Official Business may be
548 accessed equally by those in-person and those online with provisions for both
549 types of attendees.

550 F.2. Exceptional Democratic Accountability Measures (EDAM)

551 F.2.1. In exceptional circumstances in-person functions may not be possible and
552 when this is the case these protocols shall be followed in order:

553 F.2.1.1. No less than three voting members of the Executive Committee shall
554 bring forward a motion to a meeting of the Executive Committee, expressing
555 intent and reasoning to invoke Exceptional Democratic Accountability Measures
556 (hereafter referred to as "Exceptional Measures" or colloquially as "EDAM").

557 F.2.1.2. The Executive Committee shall vote on whether or not to invoke
558 Exceptional Measures, invocation shall require a two-thirds majority.

559 F.2.1.3. If Exceptional Measures are invoked, then the Co-Chairs of the
560 Executive Committee shall inform the Chair or Co-Chairs of the Democracy and
561 Accountability Committee of the decision, alongside documents which shall
562 provide all reasoning and minutes of debate.

563 F.2.1.4. The Democracy and Accountability Committee shall thoroughly review the
564 declaration of Exceptional Measures and shall vote on whether or not to ratify
565 the decision, ratification shall require a simple majority of the whole
566 Committee.

567 F.2.1.5. If Exceptional Measures are ratified, then the Executive Committee and
568 the Democracy and Accountability Committee shall move to F2.2.

569 F.2.2. After ratification of Exceptional Measures, the Executive Committee and
570 the Democracy and Accountability Committee shall explore solutions of all nature
571 and produce official planning documents, all solutions must be permitted under
572 the conditions listed in F2.3. After a maximum of two weeks or after mutual
573 agreement, F2.3 shall be implemented.

574 F.2.3. Following thorough exploration, investigation, and planning, the
575 Executive Committee shall inform the Democracy and Accountability Committee of
576 any decision taken immediately after a vote to:

577 F.2.3.1. Postpone a General Meeting by up to 6 weeks after the normal period.

578 F.2.3.2. Hold a General Meeting and all associated functions either solely
579 online or solely in-person in accordance with regular timescales.

580 F.2.3.3. Postpone a General Meeting by up to 6 weeks after the normal period and
581 hold the event and all associated functions either solely online or solely in

582 person.

583 F.2.3.4. Waive Exceptional Measures and carry out a General Meeting in the
584 normal fashion.

585 F.2.4. Once the Democracy and Accountability Committee has been informed, it
586 shall vote to ratify or reject the decision that has been made.

587 F.2.4.1. Should the decision be ratified by a majority, the agreed actions come
588 into effect immediately.

589 F.2.4.2. Should the decision be rejected by a majority, the process shall return
590 to either F2.2 or F2.3, at the discretion of the Democracy and Accountability
591 Committee.

592 F.2.5. The membership of the Young Greens of England and Wales must be informed
593 regularly of progress at the end of each set of processes outlined in F2.1,
594 F2.2, F2.3, and F2.4.

595 F.2.6. Once the date and format of a General Meeting have been announced,
596 Exceptional Measures and the adjustments thereof may only be invoked (for the
597 first time for said General Meeting) or amended (if already invoked for said
598 General Meeting) in a true case of force majeure or if an election has been
599 called for the UK Parliament or Senedd Cymru with less than ninety days notice
600 and this is deemed to have a significant and clear effect on either: the
601 democratic functioning of the Young Greens (in the view of the Democracy and
602 Accountability Committee) or on the Young Greens' ability to campaign
603 effectively in said election (in the view of the Executive Committee).
604 Invocations and amendments to Exceptional Measures under this clause shall
605 otherwise follow the process and rules in Article F, albeit with all time
606 extensions in F2 clauses extended from "up to 6 weeks" to "up to 12 weeks". If
607 an election is already underway, the Electoral Returning Officer shall be
608 empowered to act in a proportionate manner to ensure the continuity of the
609 election.

610 **G. Openness and Confidentiality**

611 **G.1. Official Business**

612 G.1.1. Official Business shall be defined as the discussion or transaction of
613 any actions in-line with the purpose of any Particular Body within the Young

614 Greens, and actions taken by any Particular Body or its Officers. 'Particular
615 Bodies' and 'Particular Body' shall mean, for the purpose of this Section, the
616 Executive Committee, the Democracy and Accountability Committee, and the Green
617 Students Committee only.

618 G.2. Confidentiality of Particular Bodies

619 G.2.1. Official Meetings shall regularly be Open to Young Greens Members as
620 Observers, and to any other individual invited by the Executive Committee for
621 any specific portion of a Meeting.

622 G.2.2. From time to time, Official Business may be sensitive or require
623 confidentiality, in these cases a Particular Body may invoke and enter Executive
624 Session:

625 G.2.2.1. The Executive Committee may enter Executive Session by a simple
626 majority vote of a quorate Official Meeting - the Chair or Co-Chairs of the
627 Democracy and Accountability Committee must be informed when this occurs and
628 neither their the Right to Attend and Speak nor their Right to Access to
629 Relevant Documentation is impacted.

630 G.2.2.2. The Democracy and Accountability Committee may enter Executive Session
631 by a simple majority vote of a quorate Official Meeting - the Executive
632 Committee Co-Chairs must be informed when this occurs and they have the Right to
633 Attend and Speak and the Right to Access Relevant Documentation when this
634 business is conducted.

635 G.2.2.3. The Green Students Committee may enter Executive Session by a simple
636 majority vote of a quorate Official Meeting - the Executive Committee Co-Chairs
637 and Democracy and Accountability Committee Chair or Co-Chairs must be informed
638 when this occurs and they all have the Right to Attend and Speak and the Right
639 to Access Relevant Documentation.

640 G.2.3. Executive Session shall apply to Official Meetings or parts of Official
641 Meetings only - documents created for or in Executive Session, and documentation
642 pertinent to the subject matter of the Executive Session shall be designated
643 Executive Business and shall be classified as: "Committee Confidential:
644 Executive Committee" or "CCEC" for the Executive Committee, "Committee
645 Confidential: Democracy and Accountability Committee" or "CCDAC" for the
646 Democracy and Accountability Committee, and "Committee Confidential: Green
647 Students Committee" or "CCGSC" for the Green Students Committee - each Committee
648 Confidential document or material shall be accessible to all Voting Members of

649 said Committee, plus others who are explicitly given access to documentation for
650 a justifiable reason.

651 G.2.4. Documentation or materials with any Committee Confidential classification
652 for any Particular Body shall in every case be accessible to the Executive
653 Committee Co-Chairs, the Chair or Co-Chairs of the Democracy and Accountability
654 Committee, and the DAC Representative to the Complaints and Disputes
655 Subcommittee.

656 G.2.5. The Co-Chairs of the Executive Committee may, together and unanimously,
657 with the Chair or Co-Chairs of the Democracy and Accountability Committee
658 classify documentation or materials as "Strictly Confidential" or "SC" for
659 matters of the absolute highest need of confidentiality - this documentation may
660 only be shared within this group and others who are given explicit access by
661 unanimous agreement of these individuals. The DAC Representative of the
662 Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee shall also be given access to all Strictly
663 Confidential documentation but shall not be required for votes of unanimity.

664 G.2.6. Confidentiality shall be used only when necessary and shall not be
665 exploited.

666 G.2.7. A notice shall be published to Members whenever a Particular Body enters
667 Executive Session or classifies documentation as Committee Confidential
668 alongside a general reason such as "Hiring Process", or "Outcome of Complaints
669 and Disputes Process".

670 G.2.8. A notice shall be published to Members whenever the Executive Committee
671 Co-Chairs and Democracy and Accountability Committee Chair or Co-Chairs classify
672 documentation or communications as Strictly Confidential.

673 G.3. Confidentiality of Complaints and Disputes

674 G.3.1. Article 5 of the Constitution and guidance in the Record of
675 Organisational Statements shall dictate confidentiality of Complaints and
676 Disputes procedures.

677 G.3.2. Matters of the Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee shall be handled with
678 the utmost confidentiality.

679 G.3.3. The Chair or Co-Chairs of the Democracy and Accountability Committee
680 shall have the Right to Attend meetings and the Right to Access Relevant

681 Documentation for all Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee Business unless Part
682 7 of this Section offers an exemption.

683 G.4. Legal Requirements and Duties of Role Holders

684 G.4.1. Laws on Data Protection and other laws such as on privacy shall be
685 complied with; a valid legal case to access documentation classified in any way
686 as Confidential shall result in access to specific documentation being granted
687 expeditiously and within legally specified timescales to relevant individuals.

688 G.4.2. A person who obtains information because they are, or have been, a member
689 of a Particular Body or the Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee must not
690 improperly use the information to gain an advantage for themselves or someone
691 else, or cause detriment to the organisation or Members therein.

692 G.4.3. The obligation to maintain confidentiality continues to apply even after
693 a person has left a Particular Body.

694 G.5. Whistleblowing and Appeals of Confidentiality

695 G.5.1. Whistleblowing is an important part of maintaining transparency and
696 fairness; whistleblowers shall be protected against detrimental treatment as a
697 result of whistleblowing.

698 G.5.2. Policies of the Green Party of England and Wales on the topic of
699 Whistleblowing shall be used in conjunction with these rules, alongside Young
700 Greens policies in the Record of Organisational Statements, as and when these
701 are developed and implemented.

702 G.5.3. If any Member believes documentation classified as Committee Confidential
703 or Strictly Confidential to be an overreach of this power, inappropriate, or
704 unreasonably detrimental to the openness of the organisation then they may
705 inform the Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee of a potential breach. The
706 Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee shall be granted full access to relevant
707 documentation and shall conduct an investigation in a timely fashion, however
708 without the explicit timings in Article 5 of the Constitution. The Complaints
709 and Disputes Subcommittee shall have the power to reclassify documentation and
710 its confidentiality status and publish or redact it accordingly. The Complaints
711 and Disputes Subcommittee may only alter classification by one tier at a time
712 (eg from Strictly Confidential to Committee Confidential but not Strictly
713 Confidential to Open) until another request is received. The decision of the
714 Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee shall be final.

715 G.5.4. Nothing in this Section prevents any individual or Particular Body or the
716 Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee from seeking advice from Staff or a duly
717 appointed legal representative in a personal or collective capacity to ensure
718 that duties are maintained and rules are followed, and the seeking of such
719 advice (including sharing necessary documentation) is firmly within the rules -
720 however, the DAC Representative of the Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee
721 shall be informed when this occurs.

722 G.5.5. Sharing documentation with the Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee to
723 query a Confidentiality Classification (whether it be Committee Confidential or
724 Strictly Confidential) is firmly within the rules.

725 G.6. Sanctions for Breaches of Confidentiality

726 G.6.1. An individual who shares a Committee Confidential document beyond the
727 scope expressly permitted shall be referred to the Complaints and Disputes
728 Committee which may issue an appropriate sanction.

729 G.6.2. An individual who shares a Strictly Confidential document beyond the
730 scope expressly permitted shall be referred to the Complaints and Disputes
731 Committee which shall formally remove the individual from their Office, and
732 suspend their Membership for no less than 6 months and for up to 36 months.

733 G.6.3. As stated in Part 4, whistleblowing is protected and Members who blow the
734 whistle on inappropriate conduct or conduct against any rules shall be immune
735 from sanctions so long as claims are not made maliciously or in bad faith.

736 G.7. Exclusions

737 G.7.1. When information, documentation, materials, or a part of a Meeting on
738 Official Business concerns any individual who is a Voting Member of a Particular
739 Body, said individual shall not be required for votes, nor unanimity; the
740 Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee shall opine and rule on these cases and
741 may, from time to time, issue further directives within the scope of the rules
742 to ensure smooth, fair, unbiased, or unswayed proceedings; when it is a Member
743 of the Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee with a direct connection to the
744 case, the relevant Member shall themselves not be required for votes, nor
745 unanimity and shall be recused for that case.