

DGMEFM Network Notice of AGM 2020

We will hold our AGM on Thursday, 15th October at 2pm. We will not be able to hold it in person due to Covid-19 so this will be conducted online by Zoom. See the September Newsletter page 2 (paper version only), or our Facebook page, for the Zoom ID and passcode. Alternatively request by phone 07434 602610 or email admin@dgmefm.org.uk



- We would usually table copies of our Annual Reports. However, as we will be meeting virtually we can issue these prior to the AGM instead. Please email our admin address above if you would like copies sent to you beforehand.
- We will seek approval at the AGM to make the following changes to our constitution (additions are in red type, deletions with a grey background):

1. Amendment to the Membership section (para 3a)

Any person living in Dumfries & Galloway suffering with any of these illnesses, post viral fatigue or carer / family member of a sufferer; and
Any other individual or organisation regardless of geography who seeks to assist the Group in meeting its objectives. The number of such individuals who are members of the Group shall never exceed twenty-five per cent of the total membership.

2. Addition to the Membership section (para 3d) of the right of appeal to the Management Committee against exclusion or cancellation of membership.

In the event that membership is refused or cancelled reasons will be given and there will be a right of appeal, with a supportive representative present, to the Management Committee. A majority vote of the Management Committee will decide, with the Chairperson having the casting vote in the event of a tie, and a written response will be provided within 28 days.

3. Amendment to the Finance section (para 6e) to state 'Receipts and Payments Account' in place of 'Income and Expenditure Account'.

Please read the notes overleaf.

You can find a link to our existing Constitution on our website page <https://dgmefm.org.uk/about-us-membership/>

Members can send a postal vote before the AGM by voting overleaf and returning this page using the addressed envelope enclosed with the September 2020 Newsletter (paper copy only), or you can email your votes to admin as above.

Members may also vote at the AGM by joining us on Zoom



DGMEFM Network

AGM 2020 Proposed changes to our Constitution:

1. Post viral fatigue included in membership, open membership to partner organisations and remove the 25% limit on supporting members (para 3a) **For** *or* **Against**

2. Right of appeal for membership cessation/ Exclusion (para 3d) **For** *or* **Against**

3. The change to 'Receipts and Payments Account' (para 6e) **For** *or* **Against**

Name:

Date:

Notes:

1. To help people have the best outcome we may wish to offer our support in the early days of post viral fatigue before it might develop into ME/CFS, including for sufferers of 'long-covid' experiencing post viral fatigue. This is consistent with one of our objectives - to raise awareness of the issues surrounding ME/CFS and Fibromyalgia. By including post viral fatigue in this section of our Constitution we may strengthen our ability to attract funding to support our activities.

The services we provide to meet our objectives are the responsibility of the Management Committee of which at least two thirds must be sufferers of ME/CFS and Fibromyalgia, carer or family member of a sufferer. In this respect 'service user' members have control of the Group's activities, so there is no justification to limit the number of other members or organisations who wish to support our objectives.

2. We have been advised that Funding bodies would expect to see such a clause under our terms of Membership.
3. There would be no change to our current practice as we already keep Receipts and Payments Accounts compliant with the 2006 Regulations.

Recent guidance from the Charity Regulator (OSCR) states: 'Many older governing documents will include references to 'income and expenditure account and balance sheet' which would require fully accrued accounts to be prepared. If this is the case, charity trustees may wish to amend their governing document to allow for the preparation of Receipts and Payments accounts.'

Under the 2006 Regulations, 'receipts and payments accounts must consist of: a Trustees' Annual Report; a Statement of Receipts and Payments; a Statement of Balances as at the last day of the financial year; notes to the accounts; and a report from an independent examiner or auditor.' This is our standard practice.