

1. Regional Groups of the British Society of Soil Science

- 1.1 The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) is a membership organization whose mission is 'to advance the study of soil and to promote a better understanding of soil, nationally and internationally. BSSS is a company limited by guarantee under The Companies Act 2006. It is also a Registered Charity (No. 1134456) under the Charity Act 2006. The Governing Documents for the Society are the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association (the Articles) incorporated on 21 December 2009 and Bye-Laws adopted by the Trustee Board on 1st November 2017.
- 1.2 Regional Groups support BSSS to deliver its aims set out in the documents at 1.1. BSSS members are entitled to join and participate in the activities of the Regional Groups. Details of membership and a Code of Conduct for Members of the Society are set out in the Society's Governing Documents above.

2. Functions of the Regional Groups

- 2.1 The functions of the Regional Groups are to:
 - a) Support members of BSSS in the regions by providing educational and social events which aid personal development and knowledge transfer
 - b) Engage with the general public within the region to promote soil science and raise awareness of its importance
 - c) Work with local stakeholders to inspire future generations of soil scientists
 - d) Promote membership of BSSS to non-members
 - e) Represent the views of the Board and Council and the interests of members at a regional level
 - f) Provide regional knowledge and information to Board and Council, which may support the delivery of the society's strategic priorities.

3. Regional Group Committee Members

- 3.1 The Regional Group shall comprise a committee of six to eight BSSS members including a Chair and Past Chair. Other roles may include Treasurer and Secretary and will be for each Regional Group to agree.
- 3.2 The committee will choose one existing member to act as Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) champion and consider this alongside the committee's activities.

4. Method of Working

- 4.1 As far as possible, Regional Group Committees shall be representative of society members, and have a range of membership types represented on the committee.
- 4.2 A minimum of 50% of committee members is required to make the meeting quorate.
- 4.3 The Chair of the Regional Group shall not hold the office of Chair for more than three years in succession but shall then be eligible for re-election to a different committee post.
- 4.4 Committee members shall not hold their post for more than three years, but after three years shall be eligible for re-election to a different committee post.

- 4.5 Committee members may take parental leave of up to one year on the birth or adoption of their child. Committee members will be able to rejoin the committee with the same membership tenure as the day they left for leave.
- 4.6 A diverse representation of members on the committee is encouraged, in line with the Society's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.
- 4.7 Elections of Regional Group committee members shall be carried out by the Regional Group committee. Nominations shall be submitted to a Regional Group committee meeting, where the Group should consider and agree the outcome for each nominee.
- 4.8 Nominations for the Regional Group Chair should be submitted to a Regional Group committee meeting, where the Group should consider and agree their preferred Chair. The nomination for the preferred Chair should be submitted to the next BSSS Council meeting for ratification and an election should take place at the next AGM.
- 4.9 The committee must be quorate to elect new members, and with a minimum of three committee members supporting the election.
- 4.10 If a committee member, including the Chair, does not attend 50% of meetings in a given year, the Chair may remove the committee member from their post. This decision should be made by the Chair in conjunction with the committee. In the case of the Chair, this decision will be made by the Society President.
- 4.11 The Regional Group Chair will be a member of the BSSS Council.
- 4.12 The Regional Group committee will meet at least twice annually.
- 4.13 The Regional Groups shall report to the Council and Trustee Board at least once in every financial year of the Society.

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