

ARMs

Associate and retired members network

National Forum 2018

RECORD OF DECISIONS

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Foreword

Dear colleague

This booklet contains the Record of Decisions of the Associate & Retired Members National Forum 2018.

The ARMs Forum is held annually between one representative from each Region and the National Committee, where matters relevant to ARMs and PCS are discussed.

The Forum decisions are now being discussed and taken forward by the National Committee and we will issue progress reports during the course of the year.

Tracy Edwards
ARMs National Officer

Phil Green
ARMs National Chair

June 2018

Finance

Composite A1 – Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

This ARMs Forum instructs the ARMs NC to enter into urgent discussions with the National Union to achieve the following:

1. Autonomy of our own finances where we have sole responsibility for managing our Group Account
2. An increased budget which reflects the increase in membership and activity of the ARMs Group

(Covers E2)

Organisation and Structure

A3 – Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

This ARMs Forum recognises the work done by the ARMs NC in seeking to take forward a campaigning agenda through both the NPC and PCS nationally.

This ARMs Forum instructs the ARMs NC to continue to strive to achieve recognition by the PCS nationally that we have a key role to play, working with the national union to take forward a common agenda on the many attacks we all face now or in the future.

This ARMs Forum recognises the excellent initiative by the ARMs NC to ask to put to PCS Conference a motion on Care

This ARMs Forum instructs the ARMs NC to continue to work towards a closer working arrangement with the PCS nationally and to that end to seek agreement for a joint closer working practice document to be produced and circulated at the latest to allow discussion at the ARMs Forum 2019

Composite A4 – Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

This Forum accepts it is not appropriate for ARMs members to serve on BECs because decisions concerning pay and conditions of service and industrial action, for example, should lie with the members affected by and expected to take that action - not by those retired members who cannot take official industrial action. The Forum also accepts ARMs members can already attend their Branch AGMs and speak with permission of the Branch (but not propose or second or amend a motion) or vote [PCS National Supplementary Rule 3.8. refers].

However, there must be a number of areas/tasks ARMs members can support Branches/Groups and the NEC/PCS national organisation with that do not conflict with PCS National Supplementary Rule 3.8.

This Forum therefore instructs the National Committee to approach the NEC to commission a review, in liaison with ARMs, of services ARMs members might be able to undertake, the review to be published in time for Branch AGMs to allow for discussion and the submission of motions and any necessary rule changes to ADC 2019.

Such a review to also cover the question of what travel and subsistence or other remuneration they may be able to claim without incurring tax liabilities or affecting their pension.

(Covers E5 and E6)

A7 – Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

This ARMs Forum notes with disappointment that there is no mention in the PCS Annual Report to ADC 2018 of ARMs.

This ARMs Forum instructs the ARMs NC to approach the National Union and to seek an apology and the following assurances:

1. There will be a designated section in the Annual Report for 2019 and all future Annual Reports
2. PCS nationally to issue a statement in the next PCS people apologising for the oversight and to encourage PCS branches to support ARMs and invite them to address branch group and national meetings and forums with the relevant contact details
3. PCS nationally to agree to allocate space in the next PCS People to outline the work of ARMs over the next twelve months

The ARMs NC is instructed to report back to members as soon as practicable on progress made.

Rules and Constitution

A10 - Carried

National Committee Attitude: Mover

This forum notes the contents of the National Committee paper circulated to Regional/Nation ARMs Committees entitled "Elections to the ARMs National Committee 2019 and beyond" and endorses the recommendations contained therein i.e.

1. That the 2018 National Committee elections be postponed and run in tandem with the NEC/Group elections for 2019 and annually thereafter.
2. That the timetable and procedures for producing the ARMs National Report, requesting reports and nominations/motions from Regions/Nations, etc. be tailored to meet the annual PCS NEC/Group Elections and ADC timetable currently in existence
3. That the National Committee investigate the possibility of using a dual system of balloting members i.e. electronic and hard copy, but reject any suggestion that the ARMs elections be carried out purely by electronic means.
4. That appropriate changes be made to the existing ARMs Constitution, the draft Model Regional ARMs Constitution and the Forum Standing Orders to give effect to the said recommendations.

A11 - Carried

National Committee Attitude: Mover

As a consequence of this Forum endorsing the recommendations as set out in the paper entitled "Elections to the ARMs National Committee 2019 and beyond", it agrees that the following constitutional amendments should be made:

Associate and Retired Members Constitution

Rule 4.4

Add the following: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall (in the case of the year concerned) be held normally in February allowing for the timely submission of motions to the Annual ARMs Forum and nominations for the ARMs National Committee.

Rule 5.1

In the 3rd sentence, delete "date" and insert in its place "timetable"

Rule 6.1.1

Delete in the second line "every two years" and insert in its place "annually".

Delete existing Rule 6.1.2 and insert in its place:

6.1.2 Official nomination papers shall be issued to Regions/Nations not later than 14 weeks before the Annual ARMs Forum. They shall be received by the National Secretary duly completed not later than 8 weeks before the Annual ARMs Forum, by a date determined by the National Committee.

Amend existing Rule 6.2 by insert the following before the current wording:

Nominees may submit a written election address (including biographical information) not exceeding 400 words. Election addresses shall be received by the National Secretary not later than 7 weeks before the Annual ARMs Forum, on a date determined by the National Committee. All candidates must be nominated by a Region/Nation AGM by no less than 50% of the members in attendance at the meeting. The timetable for elections will follow that issued by the NEC in January

with ARMs elections following that of PCS Groups.

Rule 6.11

Delete all after "report" in the first sentence and insert in its place "not less than 14 weeks prior to the Annual ARMs Forum and which will be made available to members via the ARMs national webpage and circulated to Region/Nation ARMs Secretaries."

Model Region/Nation Constitution

Delete Rule 5.1 in its entirety and insert in its place

5.1 An Annual General Meeting ("AGM") shall (in the case of the year concerned) be held normally in February allowing for the timely submission of motions for the Annual ARMs Forum and nominations for the ARMs National Committee.

Forum Standing Orders

Standing Order No 1.

Delete the second sentence in its entirety and insert in its place

"Motions other than those appearing in the booklet of motions shall not be accepted except:

- (a) Emergency motions, where the decision of a Region/Nation Special, Extraordinary or General Meeting or of the National Committee (as the case may be) to submit an emergency motion is notified to the National Secretary by 3pm on the Friday immediately preceding the start of the Annual ARMs Forum together with the actual wording of the motion
- (b) Motions to refer back an SOC report or suspend Standing Orders, or

motions of order"

A12 - Lost

National Committee Attitude: Remit/ Oppose

This Forum agrees to make the following amendment to the ARMs National Constitution:

Rule 6.1.3 - Delete all after votes cast.

The New Rule to read:

6.1.3 Candidates shall be declared elected in order of votes cast.

A13 - Lost

National Committee Attitude: Oppose

This A.G.M. instructs that the ARMs constitution is amended to read that at least one representative from each region/country has a seat on the ARMs national committee. In the absence of an elected representative from a given region/country a person from there is to be co-opted

A14 - Fell

National Committee Attitude: Support

This Forum agrees to amend the ARMs National Constitution as follows:

Rule 6.1.1 Delete every 2 years and replace with annually

A15 - Carried

National Committee Attitude: Remit/ Oppose

That this ARMs Forum instructs the ARMs National Committee to investigate and negotiate the re-designation of the Associate and Retired Members Association to Associate and Retired Members Group bringing the title of the organisation into line with nearly all the PCS groupings.

This ARMs Forum further instructs the ARMs National Committee to investigate and

negotiate the re-designation of the –

1. ARMs National Committee to become the ARMs Group Executive Committee.
2. ARMs Regions to become ARMs Branches.
3. ARMs Regional Committees to become ARMs Branch Executive Committees.

Following the investigation and negotiation the ARMs National Committee is instructed to consult further with the PCS National Executive Committee regarding what rules may need to change to establish the correct democratic process.

Progress on these investigations and negotiations to be reported to the ARMs membership by 31 December 2018.

Communications with Members

A16 was Remitted

National Committee Attitude: Remit/ Oppose

This ARMs Branch notes that the ARMs National Committee submits several ARMs Circulars and ARMs related documents to Branch Secretaries throughout the year to inform and aid them in their work. Branch Secretaries then copy these out to committee members for information and/or discussion. To ease the flow of work the National ARMs Committee is instructed to publish these circulars on the National ARMs web pages and to consider adding other papers that the National Committee see fit to aid Branches. The information can then be disseminated by emailing a link. The National Committee should also consider using the PCS Document Library to hold an archive of these documents. These documents can then be accessed via iMembership.

A17 – Carried

National Committee Attitude: Oppose

This ARMs Branch notes that the Y&H constitution (based on the model constitution) states in rule 2 Aims and Objectives, 2.7 To “Maintain links with all PCS Branches in the Region and assist in local and national campaigns.” It also notes that PCS rules allow for ARMs members to attend the AGM of their previous workplace Branch as an observer as long as they inform the Branch Secretary in advance.

A request at the last Y&H Regional AGM was made to Branch Secretaries to inform the Y&H ARMs Region Secretary of the dates of their AGMs so these can be relayed to ARMs members. As of 12/3/2018 no Branch has given details of any AGM details. The Y&H ARMs Region Secretary has had request from

members for such details but has been unable to give them.

The PCS National Committee is instructed to investigate how the details of Branch AGMs can be made available to ARMs members or to Regional Secretaries.

A18 – Fell (no seconder)

National Committee Attitude: Remit/ Oppose

This ARMs Forum instructs the ARMs NC to enter into discussions with the National Union to seek agreement to enable ARMs documents to be issued to all members or sections of members where relevant.

NHS, Care and Public Services

A19 – Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

This Forum recognises the importance of potential ARMs members completing membership details showing home address, mobile phone and home phone and e-mail details.

This Forum recognises that without this information it is more difficult to make regular contact with members due to postal costs and keep them updated on ARMs activity

This Forum therefore instructs the ARMs National Committee to enter into discussions with the PCS centrally to investigate how we can highlight to members the importance of completing this information. This could involve having a rethink over the design of the membership application form.

This Forum is also mindful of the strident work that PCS reps are undertaking in discussing with their working members and encouraging them to advise the PCS of such information. Work done at this stage will reap dividends when members decide to transfer over to ARMs membership

The ARMs NC is instructed to talk through with the PCS centrally whether there any cross- over issues between the designs of both Arms and working member's application forms which would assist both parties to build our membership at every stage.

The ARMs NC is instructed to report back in time for motions to the next ARMs Forum

forward, what are the best approaches, what are the pitfalls and what are the best practices of other unions.

This ARMs Forum instructs the ARMs NC to seek urgent discussions with the National Union to achieve the following:

- 1 An acceptance by the National Union of this matters' urgency
- 2 Clarity on ways forward
- 3 Identify any legal pitfalls and what is allowable
- 4 A Thorough review of all possible options with nothing ruled out
- 5 Agree a joint document to put to members as soon as practical

This ARMs Forum instructs the ARMs NC to update members on progress made on a regular basis.

A20 – Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

This ARMs Forum recognises the positive work being done by the ARMs NC to progress the lifelong membership issue.

This ARMs Forum however recognises that a lot more work needs to be done to clarify how we can concretely take this issue

Equalities

A21 – Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

That this ARMs Forum is concerned about the new ID checks for voting that are going to be trialled at Mays Local Elections in 5 Towns. Voters will be required to produce either a passport or driving licence. The 2011 census showed that only 46% of people over 85 held a passport and 50% of women over 70 did not have a driving licence. Although there are a small number of proven cases of fraud this Annual General Meeting believes (to quote Labours Minister For Voter Engagement-Cat Smith) the Government is taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut. The Forum requests the National Committee to do the following:-

- A) Inform PCS NEC of ARMS concerns
- B) Support any campaigns on this issue by other organisations e.g. NPC & Electoral Reform Society
- C) Consider Equality aspects i.e. unfairly discriminating against older voters

within PCS, the wider trade union movement and the NPC for improvements.

A22 - Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

This Forum notes that while the gender pay gap for women in the UK is around 14%, the OECD reports the pension gap for women pensioners is nearer to 40%. Factors leading to this include low paid work, part time work, zero hours contracts and periods out of the workforce. Many women in part-time work do not earn enough to pay NI contributions nor qualify for auto enrolment pensions and face poverty in their retirement. We commend the WASPI campaign for raising the situation of women born in the 1950s but feel this does not address the wider issues. We believe the current state pension system disadvantages women and resolves to campaign vigorously

Campaigns

Composite Emergency Motion EM1 - Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

This Forum notes the period of the Pay Ballot. This Forum accepts that all activists, Full Timers and ARMs members will need to concentrate all their efforts on winning this ballot.

This Forum recognises the positive role ARMs members can play in assisting PCS in contacting and encouraging members to win this vote.

To that end the ARMs National Committee will

1. Liaise with PCS Nationally to issue a circular to all branches, ARMs Regions and PCS Regional Offices encouraging them to utilise ARMs members to help as they can during this Pay Ballot
2. Request PCS Regional Secretaries issue a circular to all ARMs members emphasising the importance of this ballot and to help out and offer their services with activities i.e. attend Town Committees, Telephone Rotas and leafleting events etc.

(Covers EM2)

Composite Emergency Motion EM3 - Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

ARMs Forum welcomes the carriage of NEC Motion A63, opposing the attacks on civil service and public sector pensions.

The motion further agreed that PCS must work with the TUC, other trade unions, and campaigning organisations such as the National Pensioners Convention (NPC) and Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) to:

- secure substantial improvements to the state pension
- cancel any increase to the state pension age above 65
- compensate women who were affected by the speeding up of the move to a single pension age
- put back in place a state backed scheme which can guarantee an underpinning pension of 70% of the living wage, an option for an affordable earnings-related pension
- extend the means by which our members can exercise the option to buy additional state pension to compensate for contracted out pension equivalent (COPE) deductions.

The motion, also called for civil service pension administrator My CSP to be brought back into the civil service.

This ARMs Forum notes in addition the work of ARMs within the NPC and our support for the following policies:

- The basic state pension should be set at 70% of the living wage (outside London rate) and above the official poverty level. This is currently around £200 a week in 2018. This should be paid to all men and women, regardless of their National Insurance contributions.

- Every year the state pension (basic and second such as State Earnings Related Pension Scheme SERPS) should rise in line with the best of earnings, the Consumer Price Index, the Retail Price Index or 2.5%.

- End Frozen Pensions to ensure that all UK pensioners, wherever they live,

receive an annual increase in their state pension.

- **Uniting the Generations**
pensioners must stand alongside today's workers in defence of their jobs, pensions and the right to a decent period of retirement.

This ARMs Forum instructs the ARMs National Committee to seek an urgent meeting with the national union to ensure a mechanism is in place so that the ARMs Group has the maximum involvement in helping to formulate PCS National policies and approaches which impact on all our members in these common areas.

(Covers EM4)

Composite Emergency Motion EM5 - Carried

National Committee Attitude: Qualified Support

The Resolution Foundation think tank has published the final report from its Intergenerational Commission entitled a New Generational Contract. The NPC on 8/5/18 produced a Briefing on this highlighting some of their suggestions do nothing to promote understanding between the Generations. The Commission members include the TUC, and although the TUC may not agree with all of the report their commissioning and support of the Bristol University report which exposes Conflict has drawn them in to an untenable position.

We would also be critical of the TUC associating with some of the members of the Commission.

This Forum supports holding the TUC to account for joining the Commission and requests the National Committee to raise it at the TUC National Pensioners Committee and

with our General Secretary to ask for an explanation from the TUC General Council.

Social and Economic

A23 - Carried

National Committee Attitude: Mover

The crisis in social care is now at the very top of the political agenda with the government's announcement of a Green Paper consultation in the summer.

In the meantime there are cuts of 40% in government funding to local authorities; care workers are suffering a wage freeze; care homes are closing and many are criticised by the Care Quality Commission for poor standards; at least 30,000 family homes are sold to pay for care every year; self-funders are unfairly subsidising those residents receiving local authority support; over 1.2 million people are not getting the care they need and the crisis in social care is fuelling the crisis in the NHS.

Increasing numbers of politicians, local government figures, academics and think-tanks agree that social care requires additional funding and that the fairest way of raising this is through some form of taxation, i.e. the population as a whole should pay for social care rather than simply leaving it to the individual and their family.

Currently 80% of all social care is delivered by the private sector, yet the funding model of many private care providers is both precarious and unsustainable. Conference agrees that it is therefore not acceptable that these private companies can structure themselves in such a way as to lay the risk at the door of staff, residents and councils.

Conference therefore agrees to work in conjunction with the National Pensioners Convention (NPC) and others to support:

1. The introduction of a National Care Service, funded like the NHS, through general taxation, free at the point of use and without means-testing.
2. An Ethical Care Charter for care staff, as promoted by UNISON

3. A Dignity Code which covers the way in which older people in care should be treated, as developed by the NPC

A24 - Carried

National Committee Attitude: Qualified Support

This Forum welcomes the action taken by the NPC on our motion 15 accepted by the NPC BDC in 2017.

Taking the issue up with the Royal College of Medical Practitioners and the Care Quality Commission highlights the pressure on Unpaid Carers and the action promised in the Care Act 2014. Whatever the replies the NPC should include the issue in any reaction to the all Party enquiry into Care promised in 2018.

A25 – Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

This Forum supports the National NHS and CARE Campaign Groups and recommends members support their local Groups and where feasible attend local meetings.

A26 – Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

This Forum instructs the ARMs NC to work with the PCS nationally to agree and pursue through the Labour and Trade Union Movement and the NPC the following:

- Scrap PFI, 'accountable care organisations' and all privatisation schemes, with compensation only on the basis of proven need
- No cuts, closures or job losses in the NHS. Decent pay for all staff.
- No attacks on NHS pensions or working conditions
- Reverse council cuts to social care to relieve the beds crisis
- Nationalise the profiteering drugs companies
- For a comprehensive, high-quality NHS, under democratic control, with care free at the point of use.

The ARMs NC should report back to members on a regular basis on progress made.

A27 - Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

This Forum instructs the ARMs NC to work with the PCS nationally to agree and pursue through the Labour and Trade Union Movement and the NPC the following:

- Democratic rent councils to decide fair levels in each area
- A mass programme of council house building and renovation to meet demand
- End the privatisation of social housing. Stop 'social cleansing' redevelopment schemes
- Housing benefits that reflect the real cost of renting
- Councils should compulsory purchase long-term empty properties and use them as council housing
- Nationalise the banks and biggest corporations. For a democratic socialist society that puts the needs of the majority, including decent, genuinely affordable housing, before the profits of the super-rich

The ARMs NC should report back to members on a regular basis on progress made.

proposed publicity 'bus tour' by the Midlands TUC Pensioners Committee to raise awareness of the benefits/campaign for its retention. This AGM agrees to publicise widely and agrees to urge ARMs members to support.

A28 - Carried

National Committee Attitude: Support

This Midlands ARMs AGM notes that 2018 will see the tenth anniversary of the National Concessionary Bus Pass. It is widely accepted that the bus pass improves access to essential services, friends and family, leisure activities; and facilitates independent living for longer. It is estimated that every £1 spent on the bus pass generates £2.87 in income to the wider economy. This AGM welcomes the