



Elections for the Elected Directors Frequently Asked Questions

Along with the President, the Directors of the Board are Directors and Trustees of WES and as such are responsible for important areas of WES' remit. Information about the responsibilities of a Charity Trustee can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/topic/running-charity/trustee-role-board>.

Getting on the Board

How do I get nominated to be on the Board?

You need to be a WES Member and have paid all your subscriptions due on or before the 13 September 2024. A WES Member can be a Student, Member or Fellow or an Associate. You cannot nominate yourself. You must fill in the Nomination Form and sign it and you need to get three WES Members who have also paid all their subscriptions to sign the form. **Then you need to send the form by email to anna.pluck@wes.org.uk.**

How do I get three Members to nominate me?

If you have been active in WES in a cluster, a Directors' Committee, a Special Interest Group, on the Board or on one of the sub-Boards, you should know three Members you can ask. If you don't know three WES Members, we recommend that you join one of our groups or committees so you can get to know more Members.

Do I have to be a certain age to be on the Board?

All Board Directors must be over 18 years old, but apart from that there is no age requirement.

What happens if there are only three nominations?

All three candidates will be elected to the Board.

Board Commitment

How often does the Board meet?

The Board meets for three hours every three months. Meetings in 2024-2025 will take place as follows:

- Wednesday 6 November 2024, 1700-2000 (online)
- Saturday 25 January 2025, 1000-1300 (online)
- Sunday 27 April 2025, time TBC (in person in Birmingham ahead of the WES Annual Conference on 28-29 April)
- Saturday 26 July 2025, 1000-1300 (online)
- Wednesday 26 November 2025, 1700-2000 (online)

Papers are made available to the Directors a week before the meeting.



How long are Directors on the Board?

Directors serve three years on the Board when they must be re-elected and they can serve two full terms before having to step down for at least one year. If you are elected to the Board and you have to step down before the end of your three years, the Board will appoint (also known as co-opting) someone else until the next election and then an election will be held for someone to serve out the rest of the term.

What else do the Directors do for WES?

Board Directors are also asked to chair a Directors' Committee or a Special Interest Group and to contribute to other projects.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the executive staff spend WES' money appropriately, so they set a Budget every year and monitor the finances. They also ensure that the accounts are looked at by an independent company every year and decide whether to take on big projects or events.

What happens at a Board Meeting?

The Board look at the finances at every meeting. They can authorise the Chief Executive Officer to hire more staff and advise the CEO about staffing issues. They receive reports from the Membership, Partners, Events and Communications Directors' Committees and from the staff members responsible for these areas. They also agree on whether to grant Fellowships to applicants. The Board also discusses taking on bigger projects and developing WES' Strategy. Sometimes they have a deeper conversation about aspects of WES' work, and they agree to the annual report and accounts that get submitted to Companies House and the Charity Commission.

If you want more information about becoming an Elected Director, please contact Katherine Critchley, President, at president@wes.org.uk.