



New Constitution

**Approved at the AGM on 11 May 1996
and ratified by the membership**

1. Name

The Association shall be known as the National Association for Tertiary Education for Deaf People, hereinafter referred to as 'The Association'.

2. Objectives of the Association

The object of the Association shall be to advance and promote further and higher education for deaf/hard of hearing people.

In furtherance of the above object but not further or otherwise the Association shall have the following powers.

- (a) To promote the exchange of views and experiences of those concerned in further education and higher education for deaf/hard of hearing people.
- (b) To liaise with Schools and Careers Services on the prospects in further education and higher education and employment for deaf/hard of hearing people.
- (c) To promote co-operation between further education and higher education and Industry, Commerce and Training Boards on the education and employment of deaf/hard of hearing people.
- (d) To monitor attitudes and considerations for public examinations entered by deaf/hard of hearing people.
- (e) To encourage research into further education and higher education for deaf/hard of hearing people.
- (f) To improve the facilities and opportunities in further education and higher education for deaf/hard of hearing people.
- (g) To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by means of subscription, donation and otherwise provided that the Association shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its charitable object.
- (h) To do all such other lawful things as shall further the object of the Association.

3. Membership

The Association is a membership organisation.

- (a) All those interested or involved in the further education or higher education of deaf/hard of hearing people are eligible for membership of the Association.
- (b) Membership of the Association shall be conferred under terms and conditions to be determined by the Committee. The subscription year will run from 1st September to 31st August.
- (c) An application form for Membership shall be completed by each person or organisation wishing to join the Association.
- (d) Each year a renewal form will be sent to all registered members, after which the onus of renewing membership shall be on the member. Only members currently on the membership list shall be allowed to vote on Association business.
- (e) Membership will lapse if the subscription is not paid by 1st January following the start of the subscription year.

4. Committee

A Committee of not more than 10 persons shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting to manage the affairs of the Association. Members of the Committee shall serve for two years and will be the Trustees of the Association. The arrangements and form of elections will be determined by the Trustees and be reported to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

5. Annual General Meeting

There shall be an Annual General Meeting, notice of which will be circulated to all members at least one month in advance, at which the Trustees will present a report of the year's activities, and an audited account of the financial transactions of the Association in accordance with current Charity Law.

6. Officers and attendance at meetings of Trustees

Officers shall be appointed from among the Trustees to include a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Treasurer and a Secretary.

The Secretary shall be the Officer who reports the affairs of the Association to the Charity Commissioners.

The Trustees may invite any person to meetings of the Trustees on terms which they shall set, provided only that such persons shall not have power to vote on any matter affecting the policy of the Association.

The Trustees may appoint such other persons to office within the Association as it sees fit, provided only that such persons shall not be Trustees of the Association, nor be entitled to vote on any matter at meetings of the Trustees.

The Trustees shall have power to invite representative and/or additional persons to meetings of the Trustees.

The Trustees shall have power to delegate such matters as they think fit to sub-committees or Officers of the Association. Where matters affecting Professional competence are involved, the Trustees shall ensure that they are dealt with only by those who possess the relevant professional competence. The decision of the Trustees in such matters is final. The persons invited to act need not themselves be Trustees.

7. Meetings

- (a) The Trustees shall be responsible for the conduct of any meeting held under the auspices of the Association, but may delegate the organisation to its officers or such other persons as may be requested to participate in the holding of such a meeting.
- (b) The Trustees may not delegate the conduct of the Annual General Meeting or any meeting at which the Policy or Constitution of the Association is to be discussed.
- (c) The Trustees may allow the name of the Association to be used and may participate in meetings held under the auspices of any other organisation whose objectives are, in the opinion of the Trustees, consonant in whole or in part with those of the Association.
- (d) The Trustees shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting if asked to do so by not less than twenty-five members, or at their discretion. All members will be advised of the time and place of meeting on the same terms as for the Annual General Meeting.

The purpose of such a meeting shall be stated in the notice of meeting.

- (e) The quorum at any Annual General meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting shall be ten persons of whom at least five shall be Trustees.

8. Trustees

- (a) If any Trustee resigns, dies or becomes incapable for any reason of attending meetings of the Trustees, the remaining Trustees may appoint a member of the Association to the vacancy until the next following Annual General Meeting.
- (b) If a Trustee is unable to act for a period exceeding three months because of absence abroad or long-term sickness, the Trustees may at their discretion appoint a member of the Association to fill the temporary vacancy for the period of that vacancy.
- (c) The Trustees have the power to designate members of the committee as additional officers of the association and to appoint other members as officers. The Trustees may make provision for elections to these other offices by the members of the Association in a manner to be notified to the members.

9. Amendments to the Constitution

- (a) The Committee, or any group of at least 20 members or 25% of membership, whichever is the least, may propose amendments to the Constitution.
- (b) All such proposals must be submitted to the Secretary of the Association in time for circulation to members at least 28 days before the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Such proposals will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting where a vote will be taken by a show of hands.
- (d) 75% of the members present shall be in favour for the motion to be carried.
- (e) No amendment shall be made to clause 2, clause 11, or this clause without prior approval in writing of the Charity Commission and no amendment shall be made which would cause the Association to cease to be a charity in law.

10. Finance

The Trustees shall appoint a Treasurer, or cause a Treasurer to be elected by the Membership. The Treasurer shall be a Trustee of the Association.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Association and shall keep the books and ensure that they are properly examined each year in accordance with current Charity law.

The Treasurer shall ensure that one other Trustee shall have power to sign cheques and conduct financial business on behalf of the Association, in the absence of the Treasurer.

11. Winding Up

- (a) The Association shall be wound up if at a General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting duly convened by the Secretary a resolution for winding up is carried by a three-quarters majority of those present and voting.
- (b) In the event of winding up, all funds of the Association shall be used for paying any outstanding debts, then the balance shall be transferred to another charitable organisation with aims similar to those of the Association, as approved by the members at the General Meeting.