

# Election guide

## Public health medicine conference 2025

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## Introduction to online elections

The online elections system was introduced to ensure our elections process is open, transparent and accessible to our members.

This guide will provide you with the necessary information for this particular election and will guide you through the online election process. For specific help as to how to nominate, vote and view results, please refer to the demonstration and quick guides found at [bma.org.uk/elections](https://bma.org.uk/elections)

## Elections at the public health medicine conference

The Public Health Medicine Conference is the BMA's annual conference doctors engaged exclusively or predominantly in public health medicine. In addition, non-voting observers from the other branches of practice and from the specialists and registrars from other healthcare backgrounds may be invited at the discretion of the Agenda Committee.

Agenda Committee recommends an agenda to each meeting of the Conference. This Committee shall consist of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Conference, together with the Chair and Deputy Chairs of the Public Health Medicine Committee of the BMA and 3 members of the Conference elected by the Conference.

Further information on the Public Health Medicine Committee and the Conference can be found on the Committee's page on the BMA website: [BMA public health medicine committee overview](#)

Every year, a certain number of positions are available for attendees to the conference to nominate themselves for elections. These positions are:

1. **Chair of conference for 2026**
2. **Deputy chair of conference for 2026**
3. **Three members of the conference agenda committee 2026**
4. **Three representatives to attend the (ARM) annual representative meeting of the BMA in Liverpool (23-25 June 2025, ICC Liverpool). \***

\* Following recent recommendations by the BMA's CIIG (Culture Inclusion Implementation Group) to implement the decisions of organisation committee and BMA Council to improve the diversity of ARM and BMA conference, the following constraint is to be applied to the Public Health Medicine Conference's ARM representative positions:

*No more than two thirds of the representatives should be from the same gender unless this meant that places would be unfilled.*

### **Election Principles**

- Candidates submit their nominations online at the BMA elections website.
- Voting is by single transferable vote and is online.
- Detailed instructions on how to vote are provided.

### **Eligibility—to stand for election**

All conference representatives who are BMA members may run for seats.

### **Eligibility—to vote in BMA elections**

All conference representatives who are BMA members may vote for seats.

### **Election schedule**

Nominations open for all positions 12pm Monday 10 March 2025

#### Chair

Nominations close – 3pm Monday 17 March 2025

Voting open – 4pm Monday 17 March 2025

Voting close – 4pm Tuesday 18 March 2025

#### Deputy chair

Nominations close – 4pm Monday 17 March 2025

Voting open – 4:30pm Monday 17 March 2025

Voting close – 4:30pm Tuesday 18 March 2025

#### Members of the PHM Conference Agenda Committee

Nominations close – 4:30 Monday 17 March 2025

Voting open – 5pm Monday 17 March 2025

Voting close – 5pm Tuesday 18 March 2025

#### Public Health representatives to the BMA ARM

Nominations close – 4:30 Tuesday 18 March 2025

Voting open – 5pm Tuesday 18 March 2025

Voting close – 5pm Thursday 20 March 2025

Results will be published shortly after voting closes.

## Candidate statement guidelines

**Role profile and skills:** First, read the [role profile](#) to make sure your statement is relevant. You could use real-life examples to demonstrate that you have the skills needed.

**Don't write in CAPITALS:** Writing in all-capital letters can come across as shouting, as do exclamation marks. Consider other ways to convey the importance of your message.

**Abbreviations:** Recognised BMA and other abbreviations can help you keep within the word limit, but make sure they are easily understood. Try to avoid jargon and write what you mean.

**Be concise:** Don't make your statement longer than it needs to be. A long statement can be discouraging and lose readers before they get to your final point. 100 words maximum.

**Tone:** Avoid irony and humour that can be misunderstood. It's always best to keep the tone professional and business-like. Discriminatory, unpleasant or negative comments could constitute harassment and are not acceptable. If these are found in your statement, you will be asked to remove them.

**External links:** No hyperlinks are permitted within your statement, including links to websites, YouTube or other media. Depending on the election you may be able to upload a photo or video.

**Review your statement:** Allow plenty of time to complete your statement and revisit it before the nominations close. When you return to it, read it through from the voter's perspective.

**Check before you save:** Once nominations close, you cannot edit your statement. Treat it like any other official document. Read it before you save it – errors are just as unfortunate in candidate statements as in any corporate correspondence. Look out for potential misunderstandings and check for tone. You're responsible for your content – the elections team will not amend grammar and spelling.

If there is a problem with your statement, such as inappropriate content, the elections team will contact you. If you do not respond within the time limit given, they will amend as necessary. Any civil or criminal liability in respect of publishing or copying an election address rests solely with the candidate.

## What is STV

STV (Single Transferable Vote) is a form of proportional representation where you rank the candidates.

Candidates don't need a majority of votes to be elected, just a known 'quota', or share of the votes, determined by the size of the electorate and the number of positions to be filled.

Each voter gets one vote, which can transfer from their first-preference to their second-preference, so if your preferred candidate has no chance of being elected, or has enough votes already, your vote is transferred to another candidate in accordance with your instructions. STV thus ensures that very few votes are wasted, unlike other systems, especially First Past the Post, where only a small number of votes actually contribute to the result.

### **Why do we use STV?**

STV gives voters more choice than any other system. This in turn puts most power in the hands of the voters.

Fewer votes are 'wasted' (ie cast for losing candidates or unnecessarily cast for the winner) under STV. This means that most voters can identify a representative that they personally helped to elect. Such a link in turn increases a representative's accountability.

## Contacts

For any questions on eligibility to nominate or vote or about the election process please contact the elections team at [elections@bma.org.uk](mailto:elections@bma.org.uk).

To check or update your membership details please go to <https://www.bma.org.uk/my-bma>

## Canvassing guidelines

### When canvassing:

- Role model BMA behaviours at all times in the election process.
- Highlight your strengths and experience.
- Don't make negative comments about rival candidates.
- Don't put pressure on people to vote for you or ask others to do so.
- Don't make promises you can't keep – you will be held to account in the next round of elections.

Candidates must not use BMA resources to canvass voters, including:

- BMA Listservers
- BMA social media accounts
- BMA email addresses
- BMA staff resource

While canvassing through personal social media accounts and emails is allowed, you must ensure that any communication does not contravene any policies of any organisation, forum or group and is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

If you're not sure what is acceptable, ask for advice from the committee secretary or elections team: [elections@bma.org.uk](mailto:elections@bma.org.uk)

### **Oversight and sanctions**

The BMA's Chief Executive (or their nominated deputy) is the returning officer for all BMA elections.

These election rules are referenced in the BMA code of conduct (referred to as the BMA canvassing guide) and not adhering to these rules can lead to an investigation under the code of conduct and sanctions applied through the BMA's resolution process.



## Election Memorandum of Understanding

The elections memorandum of understanding applies to all committee members and posts in the BMA. Candidates for election to posts will be asked to declare that they have read the memorandum of understanding when submitting their nominations.

The BMA can only function with the contributions of those members who seek election as representatives. Thank you for making the commitment to help represent your colleagues. In order that elected BMA representatives can work together effectively the following principles are important.

- When you are speaking to or communicating in the broadcast, print or social media as an elected BMA representative, or are identified as such, you must honestly represent the views of the BMA.
- When speaking in a personal capacity you must explicitly ask not to be identified as an elected BMA representative.
- Committee officers must coordinate media engagements with the press office.
- You must declare and update as required conflicts of interest as outlined in the [BMA conflicts of interest policy](#).
- You must uphold the confidentiality of your committee when requested. If in doubt, ask the chair of the committee or committee secretariat.
- As a member of the medical profession and as an elected representative, you must behave in a professional manner at all times and abide by the [BMA's code of conduct](#). Robust debate is sometimes essential in forming policy, but you must always treat patients, colleagues and staff with respect.
- As an elected, appointed member, or representative of the BMA, you are expected to follow the [guidelines and policies](#) in place to protect you and the organisation, including, but not limited to: expenses and honoraria; technology and privacy; communication including social media policy; and anti-corruption and bribery.
- All individuals engaged in BMA business eligible for BMA membership must be and continue to be BMA members.
- In standing for election you agree to uphold these principles.