

NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR THE 2026 SNU AGM

1. *Special Resolution requiring three-quarters majority*

That Bye-laws Section A, paragraph 27, as amended and issued on 20 August 2024, be amended by the deletion of sub-paragraph (3), 'All items of general business shall be notified to the Chairperson before the commencement of the meeting.'

Minister Trevor Rushforth, Individual Member

2. *Special Resolution requiring three-quarters majority*

That Bye-laws Section A, paragraph 28, as amended and issued on 20 August 2024, be amended by the deletion of sub-paragraphs (1), (a) to (f) inclusive:

(1) The Chairperson shall have the following powers in relation to the meeting:-

- (a) To permit non-members to attend and speak where the Chairperson considers that this will help the business of the meeting;*
- (b) (i) To exclude one or more members or non-members at any time from part or all of the meeting in the event of disorder or refusal to obey the orders or rulings of the Chairperson, with no right of appeal;*
(ii) To exclude one or more non-members at any time from part or all of the meeting if the Chairperson considers that publicity would be prejudicial to the Union's interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, with no right of appeal;
- (c) To adjourn the meeting for such period of time as the Chairperson decides;*
- (d) To restrain the use of irrelevant or offensive language;*
- (e) To stop prolonged discussion on any matter;*
- (f) To choose which notified items of general business to accept or reject as not being appropriate for raising at the meeting.*

Minister Trevor Rushforth, Individual Member

3. *Special Resolution requiring three-quarters majority*

That Article 39(1)(i) be amended to read as follows:-

- (1) The following conditions must be fulfilled to render a person eligible for the position of President, Vice-President or Financial Director:-*
 - (i) Any one of the following:-*
 - (1) Membership of the National Executive Committee or Council during a period or periods totalling not less than two years; or*
 - (2) Chairship of a sub-committee of the National Executive Committee during a period or periods totalling not less than two years within the seven years immediately prior to the date of nomination; or*
 - (3) Membership of a sub-committee of the National Executive Committee during a period or periods totalling not less than three years within the fifteen years immediately prior to the date of nomination; or*
 - (4) Membership of a District Council Executive Committee during a period or periods totalling not less than five years within the ten years immediately prior to the date of nomination; or*

- (5) *Officership of an affiliated body or Pioneer Centre totalling not less than five years within the ten years immediately prior to the date of nomination.*

Simon James, Individual Member

NOTE OF EXPLANATION: The current requirements for candidature currently have no Church representation. The Church Committee in many respects is the National Executive Committee in microcosm in respect of leadership, financial oversight, educational direction, etc. Individuals may be eligible for the National Executive Committee with little to no experience in governance of the SNU, while Church Committee membership and experience carry no weight. This motion seeks to address this lack of representation.

Amendment:

That paragraph (1)(i)(3) in the main motion be amended to read as follows:-

- (3) *Membership of a sub-committee of the National Executive Committee during a period or periods totalling not less than three years within the ten years immediately prior to the date of nomination; or*

Simon James, Individual Member

4. *Special Resolution requiring three-quarters majority*

That Bye-laws A19(8) be amended to read as follows:-

- (8) *A vacancy in the office of the Individual Members National Councillor shall be filled by the National Executive Committee by election of a qualified person or may remain unfilled if a period less than three months remains of the annual term of office.*

Simon James, Individual Member

NOTE OF EXPLANATION: The Individual Members National Councillor in recent years has been appointed rather than voted for. The membership of the SNU is both its lifeblood and its responsibility. This motion seeks to restore the democratic mandate of the members as well as creating direct input to the National Executive Committee.

5. That the National Executive Committee be requested to consider the language of the Seven Principles in the present day and explore ideas of updating and supplementing the Principles, which remain the guiding discipline and edicts of SNU Spiritualism.

Edinburgh Association of Spiritualists

6. That the National Executive Committee consider making email the standard SNU method of communication with all members and that this method will be used unless a member stipulates that communication must be only by post.

Minister Pat Seymour, Individual Member

NOTE OF EXPLANATION: Royal Mail postal charges are prohibitive and are likely to continue to increase in the future. Posting of information is therefore costing Churches, District Councils, etc. phenomenal amounts; attempts to request email addresses are proving extremely difficult, as members are choosing to ignore them. In some instances, this has generated the need for a costly repeat sending of information by post.

If the SNU makes it mandatory that individuals must provide email information, this will enable a cheaper method of communication and these prohibitive costs could virtually disappear. For those members who favour communication by post only they must formally request this.

SNU procedures would need to include assurances that information retention and processing would meet GDPR legislation.

7. That the National Executive Committee be requested to reinstate the Collegiate Committee and the Accreditation & Awards Committee in accordance with the Union's Bye-laws.

Lynn Edwards, Individual Member

8. That the National Executive Committee be requested to amend the Bye-laws to provide that a casual vacancy for an elected Officer of the Union be filled by election of a qualified person or, if a period of less than three months remains of the term of office, may be filled by the National Executive Committee by appointment from its own number or remain unfilled.

Lynn Edwards, Individual Member

9. That the Spiritualists' National Union provide the internet facility to churches, particularly smaller churches, in support of digital communication and services being the way forward within the Union and within our communities, thereby promoting Spiritualism to the wider audience.

Barry SC

10. That the National Executive Committee provide the support of an interpreter for formal training and final assessment boards associated with the Union's awards who is approved by the examining committee and paid for by the candidate.

Luca Garbin, Individual Member

NOTE OF EXPLANATION: Many barriers have been overcome in 2026 thanks to technology, and today it is possible to reach people everywhere in the world. I believe that Spiritualism, because of its beauty, uniqueness, seriousness and the quality of its teaching and training of mediums should not remain only within England.

One important obstacle that still needs to be overcome is the language barrier. Unfortunately, English is not an easy language for everyone, and it would be wonderful to allow the whole world access to this extraordinary philosophy and practice that can truly change the lives of many people. A language barrier may prevent a Spanish person from understanding and sharing Spiritualism, just as it may for an Italian person or a German person. The themed weeks at the College are not enough on their own.

I believe it would be appropriate especially during formal training and final assessments to provide the support of an interpreter – naturally paid for by the candidate but approved and selected by the examining committee in order to guarantee trust, fairness and transparency.

11. That, recognising the Arthur Findlay College as the principal educational establishment of the Spiritualists' National Union, the current policy restrictions on SNU churches be reviewed and amended and that where courses, philosophies and practices are approved for delivery at the Arthur Findlay College SNU churches should also be permitted to offer them, subject to the same standards, safeguards and governance requirements.

Jacky Ellis, Individual Member

11a. *(in the event of the previous motion failing)*

That, recognising the importance of maintaining consistent standards and practices throughout the SNU, any courses, philosophies or practices that are not permitted within SNU Churches shall likewise not be offered under the auspices of the Arthur Findlay College.

Jacky Ellis, Individual Member

12. That the Union establish and maintain a fund for the purpose of financially assisting Churches, Kindred Bodies and Pioneer Centres both within the United Kingdom and overseas.

Pat Redman, Individual Member

13. That the National Executive Committee be requested to adopt enhanced financial reporting practices and provide to members, as part of the Annual Report and accounts and accompanying AGM documentation, the following information for each financial year:-

1. Group and subsidiary financial performance

A separate summary of income and expenditure for:-

- the SNU;
- each subsidiary company;
- any trading entity;
- any separately managed group, department, college, academy, project or other controlled operation within the SNU group.

The summary should identify principal income sources, expenditure categories and annual surplus or deficit.

2. Legal and professional costs

A report detailing expenditure on:-

- legal advice;
- litigation and dispute resolution;
- employment-related legal matters;
- regulatory and governance matters;
- settlement agreements;
- professional consultancy services.

Where legal privilege or confidentiality applies, costs may be disclosed in aggregate categories without revealing privileged information.

3. Payroll and employment costs

A breakdown of employment costs for each subsidiary, department, and controlled entity, including:-

- salaries and wages;
- pension contributions;
- National Insurance contributions;
- benefits and allowances;
- redundancy or severance payments;
- other employment-related expenditure.

This disclosure shall not require publication of individual employee remuneration except where required by law.

4. Suspense accounts

A detailed reconciliation of all suspense accounts, including:

- opening balances;
- amounts received during the financial year;

- amounts paid or transferred during the financial year;
- closing balances;
- the purpose and disposition of all material transactions;
- identification of any transfers from suspense accounts to other funds, projects, churches or entities.

5. Grants and financial assistance to Churches

A schedule showing all grants, loans, donations, subsidies or other financial assistance provided to SNU Churches, Centres, districts or affiliated bodies, including:-

- name of recipient Church or organisation;
- amount awarded;
- purpose of the funding;
- date of payment;
- whether the funding originated from general funds, designated funds, restricted funds or suspense accounts.

6. Sale or disposal of Church property

A report identifying all Churches, Centres, halls or other property assets sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of during the reporting period, including:-

- name and location of the property;
- date of sale or disposal;
- gross proceeds received;
- costs associated with the transaction;
- net proceeds realised;
- current allocation or use of the proceeds.

7. Compliance

Nothing in this resolution shall require disclosure contrary to:-

- the Companies Act 2006;
- the Charities Act 2011;
- Data Protection legislation;
- legal professional privilege;
- contractual confidentiality obligations; or
- any other applicable legal requirement.

Jane Barton, Individual Member

NOTE OF EXPLANATION: Members have a legitimate interest in understanding how charitable resources and assets are managed, distributed and applied in pursuit of the aims and objectives of the Spiritualists' National Union. Enhanced transparency regarding subsidiary operations, legal expenditure, payroll costs, suspense account transactions, grants and property disposals will strengthen accountability, support informed participation by members and promote confidence in the stewardship of the Union's charitable assets.

This resolution seeks to improve reporting and transparency while fully respecting the legal responsibilities and obligations of the Board of Directors and trustees.

14. That, pursuant to Section 168 of the Companies Act 2006 and Article 41(d) of the Articles of Association of the Spiritualists' National Union, Jackie Wright be removed from office as a director of the Spiritualists' National Union with immediate effect.

Stewart Esler, Individual Member

NOTE OF EXPLANATION: This resolution is proposed because I believe confidence in the President has been fundamentally undermined by the handling of governance, safeguarding matters, transparency and accountability. In my view, it is in the best interests of the Union and its members that new leadership be appointed.

PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF FOR MINISTER JACKIE WRIGHT'S RESPONSE TO MOTION 14.

2026 SNU AGM - MOTION 14 - S. ESLER

Statement of Minister Jackie Wright in response to Motion 14

Dear Members,

Over recent weeks you will have seen a motion of no confidence brought against me.

I respect every member's democratic right to question the leadership of our Union. Equally, I believe every member deserves to make that decision based on facts rather than speculation, rumour or political disagreement.

The allegations which have been circulated have already been thoroughly examined. An independent investigation, commissioned through the Union's solicitors, concluded that there was no basis on which disciplinary action against me should be taken. The Information Commissioner's Office also determined that no further action was necessary.

That should give members confidence that these matters have already been independently considered and resolved.

This motion is therefore not about proven misconduct. It is about whether members believe I have led the Union in the right direction over the past four years.

When you elected me, you elected me to modernise our organisation, invest in our churches, strengthen governance and ensure the Union was once again looking forward rather than backwards. Together we have delivered significant investment into churches, improved support for members, expanded outreach, strengthened education and safeguarding, restored transparency, and worked to build a stronger future for Spiritualism.

Meaningful change is rarely without opposition. Decisions that modernise an organisation will not please everyone. I have never expected unanimous agreement, but I have always acted in what I believe to be the best interests of the Union, with honesty, integrity and complete commitment to the role you entrusted me with.

No President is perfect, and I have never claimed to be. Where I have made mistakes, I have acknowledged them openly. What I reject, however, is the suggestion that I have acted dishonestly or improperly. The independent evidence simply does not support that claim.

Ultimately, this vote is not about personalities or political disagreements. It is about whether the Union should continue the progress we have made together, or whether we turn away from that direction.

I therefore ask you to judge me not by accusation, but by evidence; not by rumour, but by results; and not by personal attacks, but by my record of service to our churches, our members and our religion.

Whatever your decision, I thank you for taking the time to consider the facts carefully and for participating in the democratic life of our Union.

Minister Jackie Wright
President of the Spiritualists' National Union



URGENT - NEW NOTICE OF MOTION

MOTION 15

The Union has received the following notice of motion for inclusion on the agenda of the 2026 SNU Annual General Meeting under section 168 of the Companies Act 2006:-

That, pursuant to Section 168 of the Companies Act 2006 and Article 41(d) of the Articles of Association of the Spiritualists' National Union, Les Henderson be removed from office as a director of the Spiritualists' National Union with immediate effect.

Stewart Esler, Individual Member

This motion has been tabled as Motion 15 under 'Notices of Motions' on the AGM agenda.

Statement of Vice-President 1 re Motion 15

I can only assume that this motion is a very personal and vindictive attack on me, both personally and in relation to my professional and spiritual standing within the organisation.

The only context I can reasonably relate this to is the situation involving Mr Esler's partner, Sean Taylor, when I was required, as the most senior officer at the time, to remove him from the position of VP2, because, following careful consideration, it was established that he was not eligible to hold that position under the relevant Bye-law.

I carried out that responsibility with due diligence, in accordance with the rules and with the integrity that I believe is required of anyone holding office. It was not a decision I took any personal gratification from; quite the opposite. Having worked alongside Sean on the NEC, during London Pride Weekend and on other occasions, as well as having spent time socially with him, I regarded him as a friend.

The decision was therefore not motivated by any personal animosity or ill-feeling. It was a difficult responsibility that I felt obliged to undertake because it was my duty to uphold the rules and ensure that the organisation operated within its Bye-laws.

I have worked extremely hard in my role as VP1, giving my time, energy and commitment to the organisation and to the people I represent. Those who know me, have worked alongside me and have seen my contribution will know that I have always sought to act with fairness, integrity and in the best interests of the organisation.

I therefore find it deeply disappointing that my actions and character could be portrayed in this way. I am more than willing to have legitimate decisions I have made scrutinised and questioned, but I believe any criticism should be based on facts, due process and the circumstances that existed at the time, rather than on personal assumptions or motivations that simply were not there.

"I appreciate the frustration and emotional reaction that inspired this motion, but it would be unreasonable to punish me for what was a legally and morally correct decision."

Les Henderson CSNU
VP1