



## Independent Media Association Governance Overview

Welcome to the governance overview of the Media Resources Cooperative Limited, trading as the “Independent Media Association” (IMA). This lays out the governance structures of the IMA, and complement the Co-operative Rules, to be found [here](#).

### About the IMA

The Independent Media Association, formerly known as The Media Fund, operates as a cooperative, dedicated to promoting the work of independent media.

The IMA supports media organisations that are run in the public interest. We support financially independent and factually accurate sources of information.

### Membership

There are three types of IMA members:

**User Members:** Any regular user of the services of the Co-operative may be admitted into membership.

**Employee Members:** All Employees on taking up employment with the Co-operative may be admitted to membership, including independent contractors working for more than three months.

**Consumer Members:** Any individual, corporate body or nominee of an unincorporated body, firm or partnership that purchases goods from the Co-operative may be admitted to Membership.

While Consumer Members are in our Rules, we currently do not use Consumer Membership.

User Members must be independent media organisations regulated by Impress or have at least one journalist as a member of the NUJ, within six months of becoming an IMA member.

## Board of directors

In accordance with the Rules of the IMA, the directors will represent the members of the co-operative and will manage the business of the IMA, meeting every fortnight to set out the general direction and strategy of IMA. They will delegate tasks to employees.

Decisions on the board of directors will be taken by a supermajority of 75%.

## Annual General Meeting

The IMA must hold an annual general meeting, open to all Members. At each AGM, the board is elected/appointed and the officers give reports. The Board is elected every two years.

## Composition of the board of directors

The board of directors will contain representatives of each membership type of the IMA. There will be:

- Not more than 8 User Members (e.g. independent media organisations) may be represented on the Board
- Not more than 2 Employee Members may be represented on the Board.

There must be at all times at least three members of the board, with a representative from each member category.

Our Rules make provisions for Consumer Members to have not more than 2 places on the Board. As we currently do not use this membership type, we have excluded this here.

All elections will be conducted through online voting, organised by the Secretary, who shall be selected by the board from one of their number.

## Operational guidelines

The day to day management of the IMA will be mainly conducted by the employees, jointly managed under the direction of the General Secretary and the Treasurer. The main responsibilities will be:

- Recruiting new members
- Engaging existing members
- Running and marketing the Independent Media Awards

- Running campaigns in support independent media
- Fostering collaborations between members
- Producing resources for members
- Lobbying for further representation of independent media in the NUJ
- Networking with like minded organisations and creating partnerships, subject to board approval.

Last reviewed: 3 April 2023