

## **Representing the Young Academy of Scotland**

Members are reminded of the Guiding Principles of the Young Academy of Scotland, as set out in the Statutes:

- Equality between all members and of opportunity for all;
- Openness of operation, thinking and decision making;
- Respect for the views of others and the decisions of a majority;
- Service to society through the application of learning and joining all our talents;
- Excellence as the benchmark of acceptability for our work and actions.

It is the responsibility of all Members of the YAS to:

- a) pursue the objectives of the YAS through active participation in its work;
- b) uphold the Guiding Principles of the YAS;
- c) pay Membership fees in a timely manner;
- d) not hold themselves out to speak on behalf of, or represent the YAS or any of its groups unless expressly authorised to do so; and
- e) not bring the name of the YAS, or the RSE into disrepute.

Members are reminded that the political impartiality of YAS is an important foundation for the work and integrity of our membership. It is also a legal requirement under charity law, which stipulates that charities must only undertake ‘campaigning’ when this is connected to the particular charitable purpose of the organisation. YAS operates under the RSE Scotland SCIO, a charity connected to the RSE; thus anyone representing YAS is, by extension, representing the RSE Scotland SCIO. This point is noted in the Memorandum of Understanding regarding co-operation between YAS, RSE and the RSE SCIO: “The activities of the Young Academy will provide public benefit to support the charitable objects of the SCIO as set out in the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 section 7(2). The charitable purposes of the SCIO are: The advancement of education; The advancement of citizenship or community development; The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science.”

Members are particularly reminded that, in terms of item d (“not hold themselves out to speak on behalf of, or represent the YAS or any of its groups unless expressly authorised to do so”) it is each Member’s responsibility to ensure clarity on this (for procedures, see below). Where a Member is not authorised to represent the YAS, it must be made clear that they are speaking in their personal capacity.

In general, use of “Member of the Young Academy of Scotland”, “MYAS” or similar should only be used alongside other professional affiliations, should not be used primarily to add gravitas or weight to a position or argument, and should be used only where doing so does not go against the Guiding Principles of YAS, and will not bring the name of the YAS, or the RSE, into disrepute.

### **Procedures for authorising YAS representation**

- YAS members engaged on business that has been agreed by a group within YAS are de facto authorised to represent the YAS on that business, but in doing so must take responsibility to represent the views of the membership, in consultation with the other members of the group and with reference to the Guiding Principles of YAS. If the

view of the membership differs significantly from their own strongly held views, it may be that they should refrain from such a representative role.

- YAS members preparing Advice Papers/Policy Advice Submissions (or similar) that claim to represent the collective opinion of a part or the whole of the YAS must issue a call for comments within the relevant working group or ideally across the whole membership, and these documents must be signed off by the YAS Facilitating Group prior to submission. Such documents must carry the following sign-off statement: ‘Advice Papers are produced on behalf of the YAS by an appropriately diverse working group in whose expertise and judgement the YAS Facilitating Group has confidence. This Advice Paper has been signed off by [insert names], Co-Chairs of the YAS.’
- YAS members issuing public position statements that claim to represent the collective opinion of the YAS must first issue a call for comments (either within a dedicated working group, if one has been set up, or across the whole membership), before circulating the draft position statement to the whole membership for approval.
- Approval for the position statement should be sought via e-mail [from the FG. Where the issue is clearly non-contentious, the FG can agree the statement without recourse to the whole membership. Where the issue is potentially contentious, approval will be sought via email](#) ~~to~~[from](#) the whole membership, circulated through official YAS channels (either by a member of the FG or by the current YAS Officer). A deadline for responses must be specified (normally at least a full week from the point of circulation), with the following statement advising members how to respond: ‘Members are invited to respond by [insert date]. Failure to respond will be taken as approval. The number of dissenters will be calculated as a percentage of the total number of fully paid-up members of YAS. Members are asked to approve or dissent not according to their personally held views but on the basis that the statement does or does not correspond with YAS’s Guiding Principles and Strategic Goals.’
- [Normally if ~~Should~~ 10% or more of the membership dissent from the statement, it will ~~not~~ be issued as a YAS position statement. However the Membership has delegated authority to the FG to use its judgement regarding this figure, as it is recognised that there may be cases where a different threshold is appropriate.](#)
- Statements which are approved by the membership must be issued via official YAS channels (though the FG, with the help of the current YAS Officer), with the following sign-off: ‘This position statement represents the collective view of the RSE Young Academy of Scotland.’
- Statements not approved by the membership may not be issued with YAS logos or any other form of identification connecting them with YAS; if they go on to be issued independently by individual YAS members, the individual signatories must adhere to the rules outlined above regarding item d (“not hold themselves out to speak on behalf of, or represent the YAS or any of its groups unless authorised to do so”).

The Facilitating Group may choose to a suitably modified version of this process for making other collective decisions, e.g., when debating whether or not to accept funding from a controversial source, showing support for causes/events etc.

### YAS Spokespeople

[Some Members will be identified as Spokesperson for a key area. These members are trusted to speak on behalf of YAS, on their area of expertise, if approached for statements, comment etc. These spokespeople will bear in mind the Guiding Principles of YAS, and can make use of the approval processes above where necessary and appropriate.](#)

**Responsibilities of Former Post-Holders**

Former Facilitating Group members and/or Working Group leads should, at the point at which they stand down from their role, and in the interest of accuracy, no longer use this as a current designation. They are of course encouraged to include this role, with the relevant dates, in CVs, biographies etc.

**Responsibilities of Former Members**

Former members are encouraged to use the designation “Alumni/Emeritus Member of the Young Academy of Scotland” (as appropriate), but in doing so must comply with the Guiding Principles, responsibilities and procedures outlined above.