

What goes into a constitution

A constitution reflects how the organisation should operate., and works on the basis that:

- It is generally not practical for all members of an organisation to run that organisation
- That member's powers are delegated to a committee of some members, and that the committee acts in the name of and on behalf of all the members
- Some powers, eg altering the constitution, moving to dissolution, are not delegated to the committee but are held by the whole membership
- That the committee is answerable to the members at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

Constitutions cover the following headings:

- The aim and purpose of the organisation – also called *objects*
- Who is eligible to become a members of the organisation
- The rights of the Members of the organisation
- How the committee is constituted
- How and when General Meetings of the whole membership are called,
- What business is to be conducted at Annual General Meetings
- How the finances are to be controlled
- How the constitution can be altered
- How the organisation may be dissolved

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