



# Rules governing elections to NPA Producer Group

## TIMING OF ELECTIONS

- October 2, 2017 Nominations open
- January 8, 2018 Nominations close at noon
- January 22, 2018 On-line voting available (NPA website)
- February, 2018 Candidates published (Pig World, NPA website)
- February 5, 2018 Postal ballot papers issued
- February 26, 2018 Poll closes at noon
- March 2018 Results published (Pig World, NPA website)

## CANDIDACY

- The entire NPA Producer Group committee is subject to renewal by election every three years (at which time co-opted members and regular invitees are subject to renewal of their co-option or invitation).
- Only current Producer members of NPA may offer themselves as candidates for election to the Producer Group.
- Unless he or she holds office in the third term, a Producer Group member may serve no more than three consecutive terms (nine years) but may stand for election again after a break of one term.

## NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

- The nomination form must be completed correctly for a nomination to be accepted.
- Candidates are required to provide information for personal profiles to be published, as part of the election process.
- The nomination paper must clearly name the candidate, the NPA region in which he or she farms and lives, and his/her NPA Producer membership number.
- The nomination must be supported by two current Producer members of NPA.
- The nomination papers must be received by the NPA office on or before the closing date for nominations.
- The decision of the appointed NPA election scrutineers will be final and only written correspondence will be entered into.

## LIST OF CANDIDATES

- A list of qualifying candidates will be published on the NPA website and in Pig World. The list will also be available from the NPA office.

## CAMPAIGNING

- Each candidate will be required to contribute up to 150 words in support of his/her candidacy, to be published on the NPA website.
- Each candidate will be required to provide NPA with a suitable head and shoulders photograph.
- If NPA Producer Group elections coincide with NPA regional meetings, candidates for that regional will be invited to address the meeting.
- Employees of NPA may not express support for or resistance to any candidate.
- Board members and regional chairmen may express support for any candidate, other than at one of the meetings hosted by NPA, in any NPA publication, or in Pig World.

## BALLOT PAPERS

- Ballot papers will list all candidates in alphabetical order, showing surname, forename and the NPA region they are seeking to be elected for.
- Each current Producer member of NPA is eligible to vote.

## VOTING

- Voting is online at [www.npa-uk.org.uk](http://www.npa-uk.org.uk).
- Postal voting forms will also be available.
- A current Producer member of NPA may vote for up to twelve candidates, by placing a cross against each of twelve names.
- A voter is not obliged to use all twelve votes.
- A candidate may vote for himself/herself.
- More than twelve crosses will mean a spoiled paper.
- Any other mark on the paper other than twelve crosses will mean a spoiled paper.
- Only ballot papers returned by the published closing date for voting will be eligible.

## COUNTING AND VERIFICATION

- Counting and verification of votes will be by NPA staff or their appointed agents.
- All votes will be tallied into a national total for each candidate.
- Candidates will be ranked in descending order of total number of votes.
- Candidates receiving zero votes will be struck from the list.

## IDENTIFICATION OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

- A total of twelve candidates will be elected to the Producer Group.
- Each region will have one guaranteed place on Producer Group and will be allowed a maximum of four places, to ensure that each region is represented but no region is over-represented.
- In the event of there being fewer than twelve candidates in total, all candidates receiving a vote will be elected, and any deficit in the number of elected places may be made up by co-option, at the discretion of the newly-elected Producer Group.
- All successful candidates shall accept that, once elected, he/she should stand down if his/her circumstances change such as he or she is no longer eligible as a Producer Group member.

## PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

- The results of the election will be announced on the NPA website and in Pig World.

## FORMATION OF THE NEWLY-ELECTED PRODUCER GROUP

- A meeting of the successful candidates will be called within four weeks of the publication of the election results.
- At that meeting, the NPA chairman will accept the resignation of the outgoing chairman of Producer Group, and will conduct the election for a new Producer Group chairman.