

The Association of Guernsey Charities LBG ("AGC")

Membership Policy

1. Purpose of this Policy

The AGC's mission is to encourage, strengthen and champion the value of charitable, voluntary and community work in the Bailiwick of Guernsey by establishing strong partnerships, enhancing financial sustainability and promoting volunteering to maximise impact across the Bailiwick. The AGC helps further the work of charitable and non-profit member organisations by providing practical training, tools, metrics and support free of charge to Association Members. The AGC supports fair, reasonable and proportionate regulation of the sector and encourages cooperation among and collaboration with Association Members.

This policy explains who can become an Association Member, along with how membership decisions are made by the AGC Board and what is expected of Association Members.

2. Membership Eligibility

Association Membership is open to any organisation, service club or other group of persons within the Bailiwick engaged in providing service to the community or in fundraising activity for charitable purposes and registered with the Guernsey Registry as Charity or Non-Profit Organisation. An organisation for whom registration with the Guernsey Registry would not be reasonable and proportionate given the scale of its operations but whose constitutional arrangements, objects and purposes nevertheless align with the broader work and mission of the AGC and demonstrate good governance, financial accountability and safeguarding may also apply.

Examples of organisations that may be accepted under this exception include:

- Small groups below the local statutory registration financial thresholds of £100,000 in gross assets or gross annual income of £20,000.
- Local affiliates of a UK umbrella charity whose activities and fundraising in Guernsey are minimal.

Association Membership will not normally be granted to organisations that:

- Are part of, or affiliated with, a UK-registered charity and carry out substantial charitable activities or fundraising in Guernsey, unless they are also registered locally.
- Operate in a manner inconsistent with charitable purposes recognised under Guernsey law.

The Board will request payment of a nominal initial membership fee, along with supporting copy documents, including but not limited to:

- Guernsey Registry certificate of registration.
- Constitution or governing document evidencing charitable objectives.
- Annual accounts or financial statements.
- Evidence of a functioning governing body (e.g., meeting minutes, officeholder details).
- Copies of safeguarding, data protection, or health & safety policies.

3. Ongoing Registration Status

The AGC does not currently require Association Members to pay annual fees to maintain membership but reserves the right to do so. If an Association Member registered with the Guernsey Registry is struck off or ceases registration, the AGC Board will review the circumstances in order to decide whether membership should be terminated or otherwise might nevertheless meet the exception criteria above, in which case membership may at the Board's discretion be continued.

2.4 Board Discretion

- The Board's decision on membership matters is final.
- The Board may set additional conditions for continuation of membership, including annual subscription fees, the provision of periodic updates or other information.
- Association Membership may be terminated if an organisation no longer meets the eligibility criteria or fails to comply with conditions set by the Board.
- The Board may ask for clarification or additional information to assist its decision making.

3. Member Expectations

All members of the AGC are expected to:

- Conduct their activities in line with their charitable objectives and comply with all relevant laws and regulations in Guernsey.
- Maintain integrity, honesty, and transparency in all dealings.
- Operate a functioning governing body (e.g., Board of Directors or Committee of Managing Officials).
- Keep accurate records of meetings, decisions, and financial accounts.
- Ensure policies are in place for key risk areas of the organisation's activities.
- Provide requested information to the AGC in a timely manner, including contact details.
- Keep any charity page on the AGC's website updated to reflect any changes.
- Understand and acknowledge that failure to meet these expectations, or breach of AGC membership policy, may result in review or withdrawal of Association Membership.

4. Support to members

The AGC is committed to supporting Association Members and strengthening the charitable sector in Guernsey. We provide:

- Advice and guidance
- Training and development opportunities
- Resources addressing common issues facing the sector
- Forums and events that bring the sector together and give it a collective voice

Association Members are encouraged to play an active role in the AGC's work by sharing feedback, participating in initiatives that strengthen the sector, and helping to shape these activities.

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