

POLITICAL FUND BRIEFING NUMBER 1: INTRODUCTORY EMAIL

In the coming months members of the Society of Radiographers will be asked to vote by secret ballot on whether or not the Union should create a political fund. This is a separate decision to the one taken at the Society's Extraordinary General Meeting on 6th October.

It is essential if the Union is to be able to fully represent members that it can continue to challenge the decisions of politicians on issues affecting employment and also on professional issues. This is why we need members to vote yes for a political fund. We are fiercely independent of any political party and have challenged all political parties throughout the UK during our 2014/15 pay campaign. We need to ensure that politicians and others cannot silence us when they do not like what we are saying whether that is about pay and pensions or about reporting, prescribing, training, career development and when we speak out in the interests of patients. By establishing a political fund we will be able to continue to campaign while maintaining our political independence, standing up for members as individuals, as part of teams at work and as part of the wider radiography community.

The decision at the EGM was necessary before we could move to holding a ballot of all members to determine whether or not to set up a political fund. The EGM decision means we can now move to that ballot which will take place early next year. The decision at the EGM was not itself the decision to create the fund, but to allow for a ballot of all members to now take place.

Members will receive detailed information in the lead up to this ballot explaining why the ballot is necessary and why members should vote to establish a fund. This will be in the form of five briefings beginning with this one. The others will be

No2 Will be a detailed Question and Answer briefing covering the important questions. This will be sent to members within the next week.

No 3 Will look at why we need a political fund

No 4 Will cover the rules of the fund and how these will work in practice including the new rule that the SCoR will not affiliate to any political party

No 5 Will explain the relationship between voluntary contributions to a political fund by participating members and future membership subscriptions set by UK Council plus the arrangements for voluntarily contributing to the fund if members vote yes in this ballot.

These five briefings, including this first introduction to the subject, therefore cover separate aspects of the need for a fund. As stated above this short briefing will be followed by a Q&A document for members and reps that will be emailed to all members. This will answer many of the questions we know members will have. If it becomes clear that additional briefings are needed on other aspects of the ballot these will be issued and emailed to all members.

A final document will be issued just before the ballot begins covering any additional questions members have raised during this period.

In addition to this, wherever possible regional reps meetings will discuss the need for the ballot at which reps will be provided with detailed information to help them answer members' questions.

We expect the ballot to begin soon after Christmas. This is briefing number one with the other four briefings being distributed between October and December. Look out for briefing number two, the Q&A document which will be distributed soon. All of the information will be sent to all members using the email address provided by members so if your details are not up to date now is the time to ensure they are. You can do this by simply logging onto the Society's website at www.sor.org and clicking on 'My Profile' in the top right hand corner of the homepage. Alternatively, you can e-mail us at membership@sor.org, or telephone during office hours on 0207 740 7200.