[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 02 June 2021 11:15
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 044-21 - Response
Attachments: FOI 044-21 - 2021-03-03 Northern Independence Party - Constitution_Redacted.pdf; FOI 044-21 - 2021-01-29 Northern Independence Party - Constitution_Redacted.pdf

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI-044-21

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 1 April 2021.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and has done so within the statutory timeframe of 40 working days. This is 20 working days, plus a further 20 working days due to the consideration of the Public Interest test. The extension of this request was communicated to you by email on 30 April 2021.

Your request is shown below followed by our response.

I am the chair and leader of The North East Party and would be obliged if you could send me a copy of the constitution which has been submitted by The Northern Independence Party as part of their application for registration as a political party.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

As you are aware, the deadline for responding to this request was extended to allow for consideration of the Public Interest test. After considering the Public Interest Test, we have decided that application of exemptions under the test are not appropriate in this case.

Please find attached a copy of the constitution submitted by Northern Independence Party on 29 January 2021, as part of their application to register as a political party. The application that this constitution was submitted in support of was refused on 02 March 2021.

Please also find attached a copy of the constitution submitted by Northern Independence Party on 03 March 2021, as part of a further application to register. A decision is yet to be taken on this application.

We are not able to comply fully with your request for the following reason:

Exemption under section 40(2):

Information is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 where release of the information would breach one of the data protection principles in the GDPR. One of the principles states that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

Some of the information contained in the requested information falls within the description of personal data because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual. Disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which states the information must be processed fairly and lawfully. Any personal data that is not already in the public domain has been redacted.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority and I trust that this information satisfies your request.

If you are not satisfied with this response, please note that the Commission operates a review procedure, details of which can be found on the Commission website at: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/freedom-information/make-a-freedom-information-request.

Please also note that if you have exhausted all internal Commission review procedures and you are still not satisfied you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: https://ico.org.uk/.

Yours sincerely

Information Officer
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Constitution of The Northern Independence Party

Date Ratified: 24/01/2021
Version: 1.0
Authors: [redacted]

Part 1: Interpretation

For the purpose of clarity, the following terms and abbreviations may be used throughout:

1. “GM” refers to a General Meeting
2. “The Party”, “NIP” refers to The Northern Independence Party
3. “NIPY” refers to The Northern Independence Party Youth
4. “Northumbria”, “The North”, “The North of England” and “Northern England” refer to the yellow region designated in appendix 1 with the addition of any neighbouring constituencies wherein the result of a democratic referendum has determined the will of the constituents to be independence from the United Kingdom and England and to join Northumbria
5. “Branch” refers to a local branch office or constituency association
6. “NPC” refers to the National Party Conference
7. “NEC” refers to the National Executive Committee
8. PPERA refers to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

Part 2: Name, Purpose, Objectives and Values

Name

1. This is the Constitution of a political party known as “Northern Independence Party”
2. The Party will contest local government, mayoral and general elections within England
3. The Party will register with the Electoral Commission as soon as is practically possible
4. The registered name of the Party under the Electoral Commission will be “Northern Independence Party (NIP)”
5. The Party may also use such other names as may be registered from time to time with the Electoral Commission and may also use informally such other names as may from time to time be appropriate
6. The Party exists as a company limited by guarantee registered with Companies House (Registration Number: 13013254)
7. Elected members of the NEC shall serve as Directors of the Company from the date upon which they are declared elected in accordance with this Constitution until the date upon which their successor is elected

Purpose

8. The purpose of the Party is to sustain and promote within the United Kingdom the objectives and values of the NIP until such time as Independence for the North of England has been attained
    a. Independence is the attainment of full sovereign power for the North of England such that it may form a country independent of England ruled by its own Parliament with authority limited only by the sovereign power of its own people to bind it with a written constitution and by such agreements with other

nations or states which further the international interests of the people of Northumbria

9. Upon the acquisition of sovereign power for Northumbria and the acknowledgement of its status as a sovereign state the Party will continue to represent the interests of its people and sustain and promote within the Nation the objectives and values of the NIP

Objectives

10. To build a better, fairer and freer North/Northumbria for all
11. To campaign for a referendum on the independence of the North/Northumbria, to be decided by the people of the North/Northumbria
12. To uphold the principles of democratic socialism and uplift the voices of our members
13. To oppose all forms of ideology based on hatred and bigotry

Values

14. **Show solidarity** - unite, support each other, work together and fight for a common cause
15. **Be decent** - treat others well, be honest and act in good faith
16. **Help out** - help each other to create a society in which everyone is treated fairly
17. **Take part** - this land is our land, to care for and protect forever

Part 3: Membership

1. Any natural person age 14 years or older may apply for membership of the Party. The procedure for application and renewal of membership will be described in the Membership Rules
2. The following principles shall govern the Membership Rules:
    a. Members shall endorse the purpose, objectives and values of the Party
    b. Members shall abide by the Constitution and rules of the Party and agree to uphold the Code of Conduct
    c. Members shall abide by the policy and direction of the Party
    d. A member may not be a member of any other political party or any organisation with principles or practices which oppose the aims and ethics of the NIP
    e. A member may not contest or be a member of any organisation contesting elections in opposition to the Party
    f. A member shall have been accepted into the Party by the appropriate body as defined in the Membership Rules
    g. A member shall pay a subscription to the Party in accordance with the Membership Rules
3. Membership shall cease when the member:
    a. dies
    b. announces or intimates resignation from membership to the local Branch, to the NEC, or publicly
    c. ceases to pay the membership subscription

    d. is expelled
    e. meets other conditions as set out in the Membership Rules
4. Members are considered to be in good standing on condition that:
    a. their membership dues are up to date
    b. they are not subject to any restrictions or suspensions to their membership of the Party
    c. they are not excluded or suspended from holding elected office or from standing as a candidate in any election
5. Members in good standing shall receive a membership card and the Party's newsletter by email or post
6. Members in good standing are eligible to vote in all relevant Party elections and ballots

Part 4: National Party Conference

1. The National Party Conference shall be the supreme governing body of the Party and shall be responsible for:
    a. receiving reports from the Party's leaders and officers
    b. receiving and noting the Party's accounts which are required under company law
    c. determining Party policy
    d. electing the National Executive Committee (with the exception of the Leader and the Deputy Leader)
    e. holding the NEC to account
2. The NPC shall be open to all members
3. All members in good standing shall be entitled to vote
4. The quorum for the NPC shall be 10% of those entitled to vote
5. The NPC shall be called annually at such place and such date and time as the NEC may determine

Part 5: General Meetings

1. In the event that National Party Conference cannot be held in person in a given year, and until such time as NIP is able to hold a National Party Conference in person, NIP shall undertake to hold regular General Meetings online open to the full membership to consider such business as would be undertaken at Conference
2. Such General Meetings do not preclude the Party holding a virtual NPC in addition within that year
3. Subject to the conditions set out in 5.1 the party will hold no less than one such meeting per month
4. General Meetings shall be open to all members
5. All members in good standing shall be entitled to vote
6. The quorum for the GM will be 10% of those entitled to vote
7. A General Meeting shall be called in accordance with the General Meeting Standing Orders

Part 6: National Executive Committee

1. The responsibilities of the National Executive Committee shall include but are not limited to:
    a. the strategic management and political direction of the Party
    b. ensuring the decisions of National Conference are implemented
    c. coordinating and monitoring the work of all Officers elected by National Conference
    d. organisation and direction of national campaigns
    e. employment and direction of staff
    f. ownership of the Party's assets and management of the Party's financial affairs
    g. any other matters expressly delegated to it by National Party Conference
2. The NEC shall comprise:
    a. The National Officers
    b. Two members nominations for which shall be open only to Members of the Northumbrian or United Kingdom Parliaments
    c. Six members nominations for which shall not be open to Members of the Northumbrian or United Kingdom Parliaments
    d. Two members elected by the NIPY
3. The NEC may appoint additional members where roles remain unfilled e.g. there are no Members of Parliament or a post falls vacant before its term
4. The members of the NEC must be members of the Party
5. The NEC shall establish standing subcommittees for policy, finance, discipline, and any temporary additional subcommittees it identifies as necessary for the administration of the Party
    a. The composition of all subcommittees, the limits of their delegated powers and their operational details shall be in accordance with the party Rules on Subcommittees
6. The NEC may from time to time make rules concerning the organisation of such Party structures which are not provided for in this Constitution
7. Meetings of the NEC shall be called in accordance with the NEC Meeting Standing Orders
8. The NEC shall convene no less than 6 times annually
9. The quorum for the NEC shall be 9

Part 7: National Officers

1. Any member in good standing can be nominated to stand for National Office
2. The following shall be National Officers:
    a. The National Chair
    b. The National Vice Chair
    c. The Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders
    d. The National Treasurer
    e. The National Secretary
    f. The National Party Conference Chair

3. National Officers shall carry out duties in accordance with the job description for their roles
4. With the exception of the Leader and Deputy Leader The National Officers shall be elected at the National Party Conference
5. The Leader and Deputy Leader are elected by a different process laid out in Part 8: Party Leadership
6. The term of office for all other National Officers is three years
7. National Officers may be elected for successive terms

National Chair and National Vice-Chair

8. In accordance with the job description for this role, the National Chair is responsible for the internal management of the Party and is supported by the National Vice-Chair in the discharge of these duties
9. The National Chair is responsible for discipline within the Party and shall establish a Disciplinary Committee or Committees chaired by the Vice Chair in order to hear complaints and take disciplinary action where warranted against members of the Party
10. The National Chair shall establish and chair an Appeals Committee in order to consider appeals relating to disciplinary action taken by the Disciplinary Committee or Committees

Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders

11. In accordance with the job description for this role, the Leader (or Co-Leaders) is responsible for the management of the political direction of the Party and is supported by the Deputy Leader should one be elected in the discharge of these duties

National Treasurer

12. In accordance with the job description for this role and the requirements set out under PPERA, the National Treasurer is responsible for all financial matters within the Party
13. With the approval of the NEC the Treasurer may appoint Deputy Treasurers to assist with the discharge of duties ascribed to this role

National Secretary

14. In accordance with the job description for this role, the National Secretary is responsible for ensuring that the administrative and other arrangements of the Party comply with all legal requirements other than those relating to finance

National Party Conference Chair

15. In accordance with the job description for this role, the National Party Conference Chair is responsible for leading and chairing The Standing Orders and Agendas Committee

Nominating Officer

16. The Nominating Officer is not a member of the National Executive Committee but is a requirement of registering a political party under PPERA and the responsibility for this appointment lies with the NEC
17. In accordance with the job description for this role, the Nominating Officer is appointed by the NEC from the general membership and is responsible for selecting and approving suitable candidates to stand for election on behalf of the Party
18. No candidate can use the Party's name, descriptions or emblems on ballot papers without the Nominating Officer's approval
19. Any member in good standing can be appointed as Nominating Officer
20. The term of office for the Nominating Officer is 2 years
21. The Nominating Officer can be appointed for successive terms

Part 8: Party Leadership

1. The following roles shall be open to Northern Independence Party Members of the Northumbrian or United Kingdom Parliament
    a. The Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders
        i. Two members of different genders may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a job share
        ii. In the event of the election of two people job sharing the Leader post they shall be known as 'Co-Leaders' and the duties, responsibilities and votes of both the Leader and Deputy Leader posts will be together held by the Co-Leaders
        iii. Members standing to be Co-Leaders may not simultaneously be candidates as individuals for either Leader or Deputy Leader
        iv. The post of Deputy Leader may not be held as a job share and in the event of the election of two people job sharing the Leader post no election for Deputy Leader shall take place
2. In the event that there are no Members of the Northumbrian or United Kingdom Parliament within the Party the NEC may invite candidates for the Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders positions from among the general membership
    a. Members of the NEC are not excluded from standing for Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders however if successful in securing such an appointment must stand down from any other role held upon the NEC
3. The Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leader's term of office shall be four years
4. The Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leader's roles can be extended for no longer than one year by a 2/3rds majority vote from NEC if deemed necessary for the following reasons:
    a. General Elections

    b. National Crises
5. A leadership election shall be called in the event the Leader or Co-Leader:
    a. Completes a term of office
    b. Resigns following a 28 day letter of notice served to the National Chair
    c. Dies
    d. Becomes incapacitated
    e. Is subject to a successful vote of no confidence, called by the NEC and agreed by the membership as detailed below
6. A vote of no confidence can be called following these steps
    a. A 2/3rds vote from the NEC
    b. A 2/3rds vote from the party membership following a successful no confidence vote from the NEC
7. In the event of a vacant leadership position the following are to be observed
    a. A leadership election should be held within 90 days
    b. The Deputy Leader or remaining Co-Leader will serve as Interim Leader
    c. The NEC can appoint an Interim Deputy Leader if required with a 2/3rds vote
    d. Interim positions are only to be held until a leadership election has resulted in the appointment to the vacant role
8. Leadership elections are to be initiated by the Party Secretary where required

Part 9: Standing Orders and Agendas Committee

1. The agenda for National Conference and General Meetings shall be the responsibility of the Standing Orders and Agendas Committee
2. The Standing Orders and Agendas Committee shall in compiling the agenda for National Party Conference and General Meetings act in accordance with the National Conference Standing Orders or the General Meeting Standing Orders as appropriate
3. The Standing Orders and Agendas Committee shall comprise:
    a. the National Party Conference Chair
    b. four members elected annually by the National Executive Committee from among their own number
    c. six ordinary members, who shall not be members of the National Executive Committee, elected annually by National Conference

Part 10: Constituency Associations and Branches

1. The NEC may establish, suspend or disband branches or other means of organisation as the NEC may from time to time deem necessary.
2. Such constituency associations, branches or organisations may only be established with the written authority of the NEC which may delegate such authority to the Party Chair
3. The NEC may authorise the establishment of groups of members or groups of constituency associations or branches in furtherance of the aims of the Party
4. Such groups shall have responsibility for administering their own financial and other affairs in accordance with the procedures set down in the rules for the said groups

5. The NEC may from time to time permit the formation of groups within the Party known as Special Interest Groups and may as it deems appropriate make rules concerning such groups; subject always to the requirement that no such group may exist or operate within the Party save with the express written consent of the NEC

Part 11: Discipline

1. A Disciplinary Committee shall be established in order to hear complaints and take disciplinary action where necessary against members of the Party
2. The Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by the National Chair with approval from the NEC and chaired by the National Vice-Chair
3. The National Chair or Vice-Chair shall have the power to suspend a member who has contravened the requirements of 3.2 of the Constitution
    a. This suspension will be for a temporary or specified period, and the case will be referred immediately to the Disciplinary Committee for consideration
4. The Disciplinary Committee may, on the proposal of the National Chair or Vice-Chair, take disciplinary measures against a member of the Party on the grounds that:
    a. the member no longer complies with the requirements of 3.2 of this Constitution
    b. the member has contravened the Constitution or Rules
    c. the member has breached the Party's Code of Conduct
5. The Disciplinary Committee shall function in accordance with the Disciplinary Rules
6. The Disciplinary Rules shall set out the disciplinary measures which may be taken against members but these shall include the power to admonish, suspend for a specified period or expel a member from the Party
7. Any member disciplined shall have a right of appeal to the Appeals Committee, as described in the Disciplinary Rules

Part 12: Appeals

1. An Appeals Committee shall be established with responsibility for hearing Appeals referred to it as described in the Disciplinary Rules
2. The Appeals Committee shall be appointed by the National Chair with approval from the NEC though no member of the Disciplinary Committee may be a member of the Appeals Committee
3. The Appeals Committee shall function in accordance with the Disciplinary Rules

Part 13: Candidates

Nomination of candidates

1. In any election where the Party may enter several candidates for a single ward, constituency or region the National Executive Committee may decide the maximum number of candidates or may delegate this function to an appropriate body of the Party

Selection of Parliamentary Candidates

2. Except where 13.1 applies candidates for elections to the Parliament of the United Kingdom shall be chosen and where necessary ranked by election amongst all the members resident within the respective constituency or electoral area from the list of approved candidates and in accordance with the Vetting and Selection Rules
3. Any selection of a parliamentary candidate made within two calendar months of the actual or reasonably anticipated date of a general election to the Parliament of the United Kingdom shall be made by the Party Chair and Nominating Officer acting jointly and where selection entails placement on a party list the candidate will be placed below all candidates already placed on the list in accordance with the Vetting and Selection Rules
4. The National Executive Committee will specify arrangements for approving the selection of parliamentary candidates who are unopposed in constituencies
5. The Vetting and Selection Rules will specify processes for ensuring a balanced list of candidates
6. Special provision shall be made by the Vetting and Selection Rules in the event of a Parliamentary by-election
7. The National Executive Committee or other such body as may be specified by Vetting and Selection Rules shall have responsibility for conducting the election and ranking of candidates as set out in this clause
8. The decision of the National Executive Committee on contesting any election or by-election and on the selection of any candidate shall be final

Selection of Local Government Candidates

9. Local Government candidates shall be chosen by election amongst all the members resident within the respective ward from the list of approved candidates, subject to provisions in the Vetting and Selection Rules, which allow for specific arrangements to be made for:
    - uncontested selections
    - other exceptional circumstances
10. The deselection of any local government candidate shall be conducted in accordance with the Vetting and Selection Rules

Part 14: The Constitution

1. The National Secretary is responsible for ensuring the Constitution of the Party is compliant with all applicable laws
2. The Constitution can be amended through the National Party Conference or General Meeting called in accordance with the appropriate Standing Orders

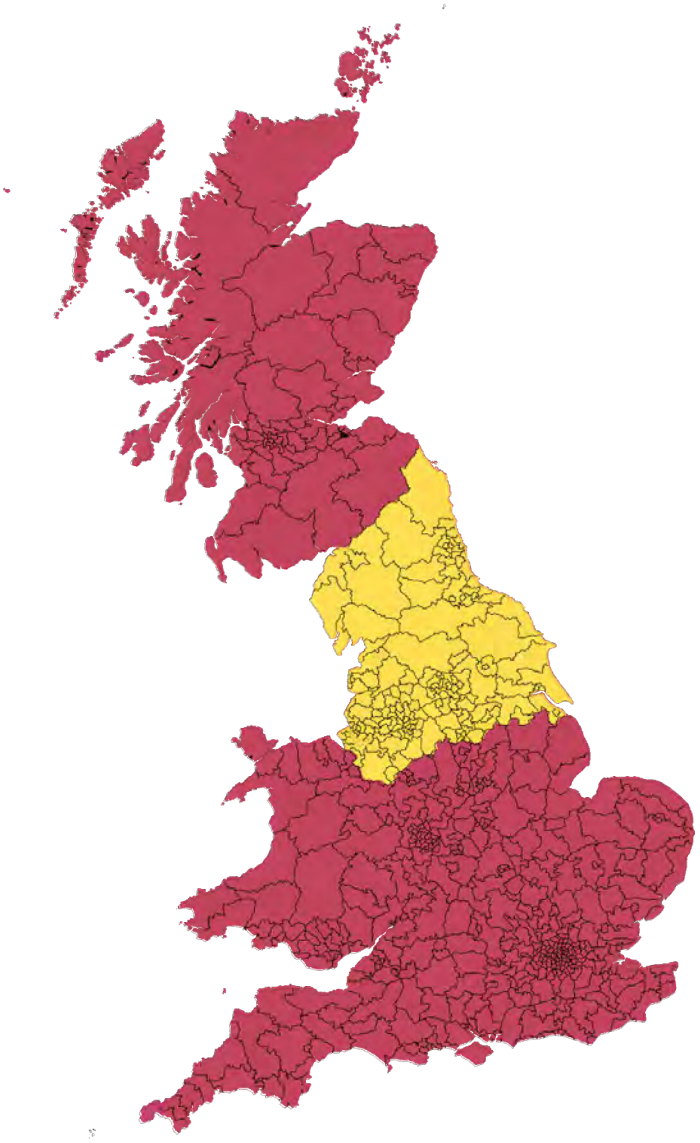
Part 15: Financial Provisions

1. The National Executive Committee shall have full control over all monies, funds, property, investments and securities of whatever kind and description belonging to the Party
2. The National Executive shall have the power to borrow money on behalf of the Party, and to continue existing borrowing, where it is necessary to do so in order to finance the Party's activities
3. The Financial Scheme as adopted by the membership on 17th January 2021 shall set out how the Party will regulate its financial affairs for the purpose of compliance with current legislation
4. The financial affairs of all bodies mentioned in this Constitution must comply with the Financial Scheme
5. No body within the Party shall enter into commercial borrowing unless prior agreement has been reached with the National Treasurer
6. If a body within the Party goes out of existence or is dissolved, all assets, at the option of the National Treasurer, shall become property of the Party
7. National Party Conference shall determine the standard rate or rates of membership subscriptions, and all rates so determined shall remain in force until National Party Conference shall determine otherwise

Part 16: Interpretation

1. Should any question arise regarding the interpretation of the Constitution, Rules or Standing Orders of the Party the Meeting Chair shall adjudicate on the question and such adjudication shall be final unless a motion is passed requiring the person to vacate the Chair
2. The National Secretary shall have the final say on the interpretation of the Constitution, Rules and Standing Orders where such a question arises between meetings
3. All such adjudications shall be reported to the National Executive, which may propose action to clarify the matter

Appendix 1



A map of England, Wales and Scotland showing the constituencies within the area claimed for Northumbria. These constituencies are all the constituencies in the North-West, North-East, Yorkshire and Humber, and the High Peak.

Constitution of The Northern Independence Party

Date Ratified: 03/03/2021
Version: 1.1
Authors: [redacted]

Part 1: Interpretation

For the purpose of clarity, the following terms and abbreviations may be used throughout:

1. “GM” refers to a General Meeting
2. “The Party”, “NIP” refers to The Northern Independence Party
3. “NIPY” refers to The Northern Independence Party Youth
4. “Northumbria”, “The North”, “The North of England” and “Northern England” refer to the yellow region designated in appendix 1 with the addition of any neighbouring constituencies wherein the result of a democratic referendum has determined the will of the constituents to be independence from the United Kingdom and England and to join Northumbria
5. “NPC” refers to the National Party Conference
6. “NEC” refers to the National Executive Committee
7. PPERA refers to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

Part 2: Name, Purpose, Objectives and Values

Name

1. This is the Constitution of a political party known as “Northern Independence Party”
2. The Party will contest local government, mayoral and general elections within England
3. The Party will register with the Electoral Commission as soon as is practically possible
4. The registered name of the Party under the Electoral Commission will be “Northern Independence Party (NIP)”
5. The Party may also use such other names as may be registered from time to time with the Electoral Commission and may also use informally such other names as may from time to time be appropriate
6. The Party exists as a company limited by guarantee registered with Companies House (Registration Number: 13013254)
7. The Leader or Co-Leaders shall serve as Director or Directors of the Company from the date upon which they are declared elected in accordance with this Constitution until the date upon which their successor is elected

Purpose

8. The purpose of the Party is to sustain and promote within the United Kingdom the objectives and values of the NIP until such time as Independence for the North of England has been attained
    a. Independence is the attainment of full sovereign power for the North of England such that it may form a country independent of England ruled by its own Parliament with authority limited only by the sovereign power of its own people to bind it with a written constitution and by such agreements with other

nations or states which further the international interests of the people of Northumbria

9. Upon the acquisition of sovereign power for Northumbria and the acknowledgement of its status as a sovereign state the Party will continue to represent the interests of its people and sustain and promote within the Nation the objectives and values of the NIP

Objectives

10. To build a better, fairer and freer North/Northumbria for all
11. To campaign for a referendum on the independence of the North/Northumbria, to be decided by the people of the North/Northumbria
12. To uphold the principles of democratic socialism and uplift the voices of our members
13. To oppose all forms of ideology based on hatred and bigotry

Values

14. **Show solidarity** - unite, support each other, work together and fight for a common cause
15. **Be decent** - treat others well, be honest and act in good faith
16. **Help out** - help each other to create a society in which everyone is treated fairly
17. **Take part** - this land is our land, to care for and protect forever

Part 3: Membership

1. Any natural person age 14 years or older may apply for membership of the Party. The procedure for application and renewal of membership will be described in the Membership Rules
2. The following principles shall govern the Membership Rules:
    a. Members shall endorse the purpose, objectives and values of the Party
    b. Members shall abide by the Constitution and rules of the Party and agree to uphold the Code of Conduct
    c. Members shall abide by the policy and direction of the Party
    d. A member may not be a member of any other political party or any organisation with principles or practices which oppose the aims and ethics of the NIP
    e. A member may not contest or be a member of any organisation contesting elections in opposition to the Party
    f. A member shall have been accepted into the Party by the appropriate body as defined in the Membership Rules
    g. A member shall pay a subscription to the Party in accordance with the Membership Rules
3. Membership shall cease when the member:
    a. dies
    b. announces or intimates resignation from membership to the local Branch, to the NEC, or publicly
    c. ceases to pay the membership subscription

    d. is expelled
    e. meets other conditions as set out in the Membership Rules
4. Members are considered to be in good standing on condition that:
    a. their membership dues are up to date
    b. they are not subject to any restrictions or suspensions to their membership of the Party
    c. they are not excluded or suspended from holding elected office or from standing as a candidate in any election
5. Members in good standing shall receive a membership card and the Party's newsletter by email or post
6. Members in good standing are eligible to vote in all relevant Party elections and ballots

Part 4: National Party Conference

1. The National Party Conference shall be the supreme governing body of the Party and shall be responsible for:
    a. receiving reports from the Party's leaders and officers
    b. receiving and noting the Party's accounts which are required under company law
    c. determining Party policy
    d. electing the National Executive Committee (with the exception of the Leader and the Deputy Leader)
    e. holding the NEC to account
2. The NPC shall be open to all members
3. All members in good standing shall be entitled to vote
4. The quorum for the NPC shall be 10% of those entitled to vote
5. The NPC shall be called annually at such place and such date and time as the NEC may determine

Part 5: General Meetings

1. In the event that National Party Conference cannot be held in person in a given year, and until such time as NIP is able to hold a National Party Conference in person, NIP shall undertake to hold regular General Meetings online open to the full membership to consider such business as would be undertaken at Conference
2. Such General Meetings do not preclude the Party holding a virtual NPC in addition within that year
3. Subject to the conditions set out in 5.1 the party will hold no less than one such meeting per month
4. General Meetings shall be open to all members
5. All members in good standing shall be entitled to vote
6. The quorum for the GM will be 10% of those entitled to vote
7. A General Meeting shall be called in accordance with the General Meeting Standing Orders

Part 6: National Executive Committee

1. The responsibilities of the National Executive Committee shall include but are not limited to:
    a. the strategic management and political direction of the Party
    b. ensuring the decisions of National Conference are implemented
    c. coordinating and monitoring the work of all Officers elected by National Conference
    d. organisation and direction of national campaigns
    e. employment and direction of staff
    f. ownership of the Party's assets and management of the Party's financial affairs
    g. any other matters expressly delegated to it by National Party Conference
2. The NEC shall comprise:
    a. The National Officers
    b. Two members nominations for which shall be open only to Members of the Northumbrian or United Kingdom Parliaments
    c. Six members nominations for which shall not be open to Members of the Northumbrian or United Kingdom Parliaments
    d. Two members elected by the NIPY
3. The NEC may appoint additional members where roles remain unfilled e.g. there are no Members of Parliament or a post falls vacant before its term
4. The members of the NEC must be members of the Party
5. The NEC shall establish standing subcommittees for policy, finance, discipline, and any temporary additional subcommittees it identifies as necessary for the administration of the Party
    a. The composition of all subcommittees, the limits of their delegated powers and their operational details shall be in accordance with the party Rules on Subcommittees
6. The NEC may from time to time make rules concerning the organisation of such Party structures which are not provided for in this Constitution
7. Meetings of the NEC shall be called in accordance with the NEC Meeting Standing Orders
8. The NEC shall convene no less than 6 times annually
9. The quorum for the NEC shall be 9

Part 7: National Officers

1. Any member in good standing can be nominated to stand for National Office
2. The following shall be National Officers:
    a. The National Chair
    b. The National Vice Chair
    c. The Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders
    d. The National Treasurer
    e. The National Secretary
    f. The National Party Conference Chair

3. National Officers shall carry out duties in accordance with the job description for their roles
4. With the exception of the Leader and Deputy Leader The National Officers shall be elected at the National Party Conference
5. The Leader and Deputy Leader are elected by a different process laid out in Part 8: Party Leadership
6. The term of office for all other National Officers is three years
7. National Officers may be elected for successive terms

National Chair and National Vice-Chair

8. In accordance with the job description for this role, the National Chair is responsible for the internal management of the Party and is supported by the National Vice-Chair in the discharge of these duties
9. The National Chair is responsible for discipline within the Party and shall establish a Disciplinary Committee or Committees chaired by the Vice Chair in order to hear complaints and take disciplinary action where warranted against members of the Party
10. The National Chair shall establish and chair an Appeals Committee in order to consider appeals relating to disciplinary action taken by the Disciplinary Committee or Committees

Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders

11. In accordance with the job description for this role, the Leader (or Co-Leaders) is responsible for the management of the political direction of the Party and is supported by the Deputy Leader should one be elected in the discharge of these duties
12. The Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders will be the primary public faces of the party responsible for presenting NIP policy and promoting its electoral activity and campaigns to the public on a daily basis

National Treasurer

13. In accordance with the job description for this role and the requirements set out under PPERA, the National Treasurer is responsible for all financial matters within the Party
14. With the approval of the NEC the Treasurer may appoint Deputy Treasurers to assist with the discharge of duties ascribed to this role

National Secretary

15. In accordance with the job description for this role, the National Secretary is responsible for ensuring that the administrative and other arrangements of the Party comply with all legal requirements other than those relating to finance

National Party Conference Chair

16. In accordance with the job description for this role, the National Party Conference Chair is responsible for leading and chairing The Standing Orders and Agendas Committee

Nominating Officer

17. The Nominating Officer is not a member of the National Executive Committee but is a requirement of registering a political party under PPERA and the responsibility for this appointment lies with the NEC
18. In accordance with the job description for this role, the Nominating Officer is appointed by the NEC from the general membership and is responsible for selecting and approving suitable candidates to stand for election on behalf of the Party
19. No candidate can use the Party's name, descriptions or emblems on ballot papers without the Nominating Officer's approval
20. Any member in good standing can be appointed as Nominating Officer
21. The term of office for the Nominating Officer is 2 years
22. The Nominating Officer can be appointed for successive terms

Part 8: Party Leadership

1. The following roles shall be open to Northern Independence Party Members of the Northumbrian or United Kingdom Parliament
    a. The Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders
        i. Two members of different genders may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a job share
        ii. In the event of the election of two people job sharing the Leader post they shall be known as 'Co-Leaders' and the duties, responsibilities and votes of both the Leader and Deputy Leader posts will be together shared and equally held by the Co-Leaders
        iii. In the event that two Co-Leaders are elected, the two Co-Leaders are are equally and severally responsible for all the duties, responsibilities and votes of that which would fall to the Leader and Deputy Leader
        iv. Members standing to be Co-Leaders may not simultaneously be candidates as individuals for either Leader or Deputy Leader
        v. The post of Deputy Leader may not be held as a job share and in the event of the election of two people job sharing the Leader post no election for Deputy Leader shall take place
2. In the event that there are no Members of the Northumbrian or United Kingdom Parliament within the Party the NEC may invite candidates for the Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders positions from among the general membership
    a. Members of the NEC are not excluded from standing for Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders however if successful in securing such an appointment must stand down from any other role held upon the NEC
3. The Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leader's term of office shall be four years

4. The Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leader's roles can be extended for no longer than one year by a 2/3rds majority vote from NEC if deemed necessary for the following reasons:
    a. General Elections
    b. National Crises
5. A leadership election shall be called in the event the Leader or Co-Leader:
    a. Completes a term of office
    b. Resigns following a 28 day letter of notice served to the National Chair
    c. Dies
    d. Becomes incapacitated
    e. Is subject to a successful vote of no confidence, called by the NEC and agreed by the membership as detailed below
6. A vote of no confidence can be called following these steps
    a. A 2/3rds vote from the NEC
    b. A 2/3rds vote from the party membership following a successful no confidence vote from the NEC
7. In the event of a vacant leadership position the following are to be observed
    a. A leadership election should be held within 90 days
    b. The Deputy Leader or remaining Co-Leader will serve as Interim Leader
    c. The NEC can appoint an Interim Deputy Leader if required with a 2/3rds vote
    d. Interim positions are only to be held until a leadership election has resulted in the appointment to the vacant role
8. Leadership elections are to be initiated by the Party Secretary where required

Part 9: Standing Orders and Agendas Committee

1. The agenda for National Conference and General Meetings shall be the responsibility of the Standing Orders and Agendas Committee
2. The Standing Orders and Agendas Committee shall in compiling the agenda for National Party Conference and General Meetings act in accordance with the National Conference Standing Orders or the General Meeting Standing Orders as appropriate
3. The Standing Orders and Agendas Committee shall comprise:
    a. the National Party Conference Chair
    b. four members elected annually by the National Executive Committee from among their own number
    c. six ordinary members, who shall not be members of the National Executive Committee, elected annually by National Conference

Part 10: Discipline

1. A Disciplinary Committee shall be established in order to hear complaints and take disciplinary action where necessary against members of the Party
2. The Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by the National Chair with approval from the NEC and chaired by the National Vice-Chair
3. The National Chair or Vice-Chair shall have the power to suspend a member who has contravened the requirements of 3.2 of the Constitution

    a. This suspension will be for a temporary or specified period, and the case will be referred immediately to the Disciplinary Committee for consideration
4. The Disciplinary Committee may, on the proposal of the National Chair or Vice-Chair, take disciplinary measures against a member of the Party on the grounds that:
    a. the member no longer complies with the requirements of 3.2 of this Constitution
    b. the member has contravened the Constitution or Rules
    c. the member has breached the Party's Code of Conduct
5. The Disciplinary Committee shall function in accordance with the Disciplinary Rules
6. The Disciplinary Rules shall set out the disciplinary measures which may be taken against members but these shall include the power to admonish, suspend for a specified period or expel a member from the Party
7. Any member disciplined shall have a right of appeal to the Appeals Committee, as described in the Disciplinary Rules

Part 11: Appeals

1. An Appeals Committee shall be established with responsibility for hearing Appeals referred to it as described in the Disciplinary Rules
2. The Appeals Committee shall be appointed by the National Chair with approval from the NEC though no member of the Disciplinary Committee may be a member of the Appeals Committee
3. The Appeals Committee shall function in accordance with the Disciplinary Rules

Part 12: Candidates

Nomination of candidates

1. In any election where the Party may enter several candidates for a single ward, constituency or region the National Executive Committee may decide the maximum number of candidates or may delegate this function to an appropriate body of the Party

Selection of Parliamentary Candidates

2. Except where 12.1 applies candidates for elections to the Parliament of the United Kingdom shall be chosen and where necessary ranked by election amongst all the members resident within the respective constituency or electoral area from the list of approved candidates and in accordance with the Vetting and Selection Rules
3. Any selection of a parliamentary candidate made within two calendar months of the actual or reasonably anticipated date of a general election to the Parliament of the United Kingdom shall be made by the Party Chair and Nominating Officer acting jointly and where selection entails placement on a party list the candidate will be placed below all candidates already placed on the list in accordance with the Vetting and Selection Rules

4. The National Executive Committee will specify arrangements for approving the selection of parliamentary candidates who are unopposed in constituencies
5. The Vetting and Selection Rules will specify processes for ensuring a balanced list of candidates
6. Special provision shall be made by the Vetting and Selection Rules in the event of a Parliamentary by-election
7. The National Executive Committee or other such body as may be specified by Vetting and Selection Rules shall have responsibility for conducting the election and ranking of candidates as set out in this clause
8. The decision of the National Executive Committee on contesting any election or by-election and on the selection of any candidate shall be final

Selection of Local Government Candidates

9. Local Government candidates shall be chosen by election amongst all the members resident within the respective ward from the list of approved candidates, subject to provisions in the Vetting and Selection Rules, which allow for specific arrangements to be made for:
    - uncontested selections
    - other exceptional circumstances
10. The deselection of any local government candidate shall be conducted in accordance with the Vetting and Selection Rules

Part 13: The Constitution

1. The National Secretary is responsible for ensuring the Constitution of the Party is compliant with all applicable laws
2. The Constitution can be amended through the National Party Conference or General Meeting called in accordance with the appropriate Standing Orders

Part 14: Financial Provisions

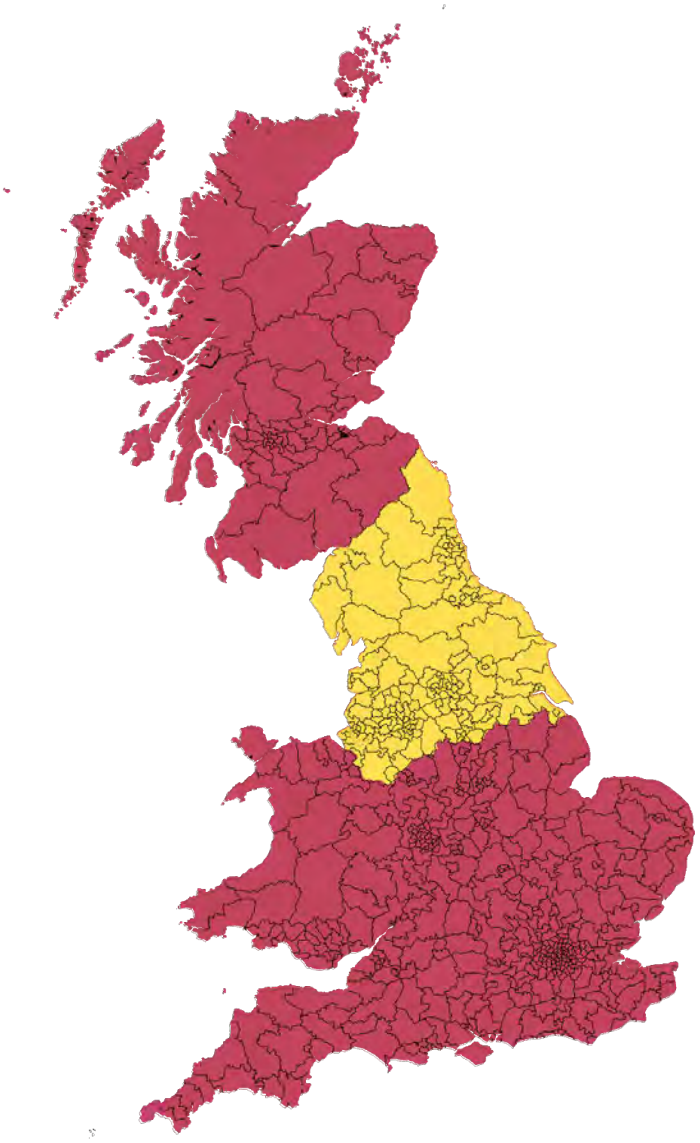
1. The National Executive Committee shall have full control over all monies, funds, property, investments and securities of whatever kind and description belonging to the Party
2. The National Executive shall have the power to borrow money on behalf of the Party, and to continue existing borrowing, where it is necessary to do so in order to finance the Party's activities
3. The Financial Scheme as adopted by the membership on 17th January 2021 shall set out how the Party will regulate its financial affairs for the purpose of compliance with current legislation
4. The financial affairs of all bodies mentioned in this Constitution must comply with the Financial Scheme
5. No body within the Party shall enter into commercial borrowing unless prior agreement has been reached with the National Treasurer

6. If a body within the Party goes out of existence or is dissolved, all assets, at the option of the National Treasurer, shall become property of the Party
7. National Party Conference shall determine the standard rate or rates of membership subscriptions, and all rates so determined shall remain in force until National Party Conference shall determine otherwise

Part 15: Interpretation

1. Should any question arise regarding the interpretation of the Constitution, Rules or Standing Orders of the Party the Meeting Chair shall adjudicate on the question and such adjudication shall be final unless a motion is passed requiring the person to vacate the Chair
2. The National Secretary shall have the final say on the interpretation of the Constitution, Rules and Standing Orders where such a question arises between meetings
3. All such adjudications shall be reported to the National Executive, which may propose action to clarify the matter

Appendix 1



A map of England, Wales and Scotland showing the constituencies within the area claimed for Northumbria. These constituencies are all the constituencies in the North-West, North-East, Yorkshire and Humber, and the High Peak.