GENERAL SECRETARY ELECTION

The post of General Secretary is the most senior in Accord; it is effectively the union’s Chief Executive Officer.

The responsibilities of the role include:

• Having overall accountability for the efficient and economic running of the union
• Having overall accountability for the union’s membership and finance
• Having overall accountability for the union’s staffing
• Having overall responsibility for the union’s communications
• Working with the Principal Executive Council (PEC) to carry out the instructions of members as voted on by delegates to biennial delegate conferences
• Advising the PEC on industrial relations and other strategies
• Leading the union’s negotiations with employers
• Meeting regularly with the union’s workplace representatives, advisory committees and other representative bodies
• Liaising with TUC, other trade unions and Government representatives on issues such as employment law, equality and health & safety
• Acting as the union’s spokesperson to the media and other external bodies

The law requires all union general secretaries to submit themselves for re-election at least every five years. To comply with this requirement, there must be an election for the position of General Secretary of Accord before 18th March 2018.

The PEC has authorised an election to take place and determined the process to be adopted.

In accordance with the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, the PEC has appointed Popularis Ltd of Nutsey Lane, Totton, Southampton SO40 3RL as the independent scrutineer for this election.

Under rule 17 of Accord’s rules only candidates approved by the PEC may stand in the election.

The PEC has nominated the current General Secretary, Ged Nichols.

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The PEC is calling for any suitably qualified members who also wish to stand in the election to nominate themselves and provide a CV before 30th September 2017 using the on-line process available on the union’s website:

www.accord-myunion.org

The PEC will approve any member to stand as a candidate, provided that member:

a. has been a member in good standing for a period of no less than five years; and
b. has been nominated by a minimum of 100 members of the union before 30th September 2017 through the on-line process available on the union’s website

If a ballot is required, the PEC will determine, after consulting the independent scrutineer, Regulations to govern the conduct of the ballot and a timetable within which a full postal ballot of eligible members will take place.

A formal notice of when any ballot will take place will be provided by Union Headquarters and published in the union’s magazine and on its website.

In such a ballot, each member entitled to vote shall be allowed to do so without interference, constraint or undue pressure, in secret and, so far as is reasonably practicable, without incurring any direct cost.

If no other nominations are received by 30th September 2017, Ged Nichols will be returned as General Secretary for a further five year term.

Any queries should be referred to the Independent Scrutineer, Anne Hock: annehock@popularis.org