

Students internal workings

Key document

Centre

Rebuilding the centre ground

Date these procedures came into effect: 01/01/2026

Date these procedures must be updated by: 01/01/2027

This document sets out how Centre Students works, including our core aims and voting on policy within the organisation.

Preamble. Centre is a cross-party think tank and pressure group. We support what has become known as the 'Nordic model', 'Nordic capitalism' or 'Nordic Social Democracy'. We see the Nordic model as one that fits into the centrist approach to politics, namely combining strong public services with a free market economy.

Name and Slogan. The name of this group is "Centre Students," and the slogan for the group is "Working together."

Objectives:

- To publish new material and to inform political debate.
- To generate new policy ideas and spread awareness of them.
- To provide a forum for those who agree with centrist politics.
- To reach out to those on the left and right of politics with policies we agree on.

Part one

Voting procedures



Proposal

New policies can be proposed by any member of the team or 10 members of the Centre.

Debate

The Chair of Centre Students is the broker and tries to reach a unanimous decision on policies within the group.

Vote

Each member of the team has one vote. For policies to pass they need a simple majority (50% +1). If a vote is a 50/50 split, then the vote is not passed.

Adoption

Whilst the organisation holds positions, each member can express their personal opinions.

Additional voting procedures

Accepting new team members. Members wanting to join the team should first send a CV if they have one or a smaller description of their previous experience and why they would like the position if they don't have one. The applicant should also let the person who is passing on their application to the team know whether they have any large disagreements with Centre policy. Once this has been completed, the full application, including all of the questions the individual answers, will be passed to our team, who will have a majority vote on whether to accept the person. Accepting new branches or removing branches. Accepting new branches involves a 50% +1 vote, as does de-affiliating a branch.

Accepting new team members

Members wanting to join the team should complete the following tasks:

- Send over a short paragraph outlining the role they would like to apply for and why they would like to take on the role, including any experience they have in the area.
- Send over a short bio of fewer than 50 words, which should outline any previous positions they have held.
- Send over a photo for the website, which should be of them facing forward to the camera against a plain background with their arms down by their sides.
- Send over any social media links they would like to include.
- Sign up as a member of Centre Think Tank.

Once this has been completed, the full application, including all of the questions the individual answers, will be passed to our team, who will have a majority vote on whether to accept the person. The vote will include the option of “re-open nominations.”

Accepting new branches

New branches, including local, regional, and state branches, need to be approved by the national executive in order to use the Centre brand.

No confidence votes

No-confidence votes can be triggered if 10% of the team or 10% of the members ask for one.

They can be called for by any member of the team. The question for the vote will be “Do you have confidence in (name)?”, the answers would be “Yes”, “No” or “Unsure”. If a majority votes “No” then the person will be removed from their position. There may be no more than one confidence vote in a person per year.

The national student team can pass votes of no confidence in members of student regional teams. Members of student regional teams can also pass votes of no confidence in other members of their regional teams.

The votes themselves should be called if:

- The team member has not signed up to Centre despite being asked to after a period of two weeks.
- The team member has not been contactable for three weeks or more, and we have not been given a reason as to why.
- They have not completed any work, including papers, articles, policy proposals, podcasts or more general work within Centre for more than two months.

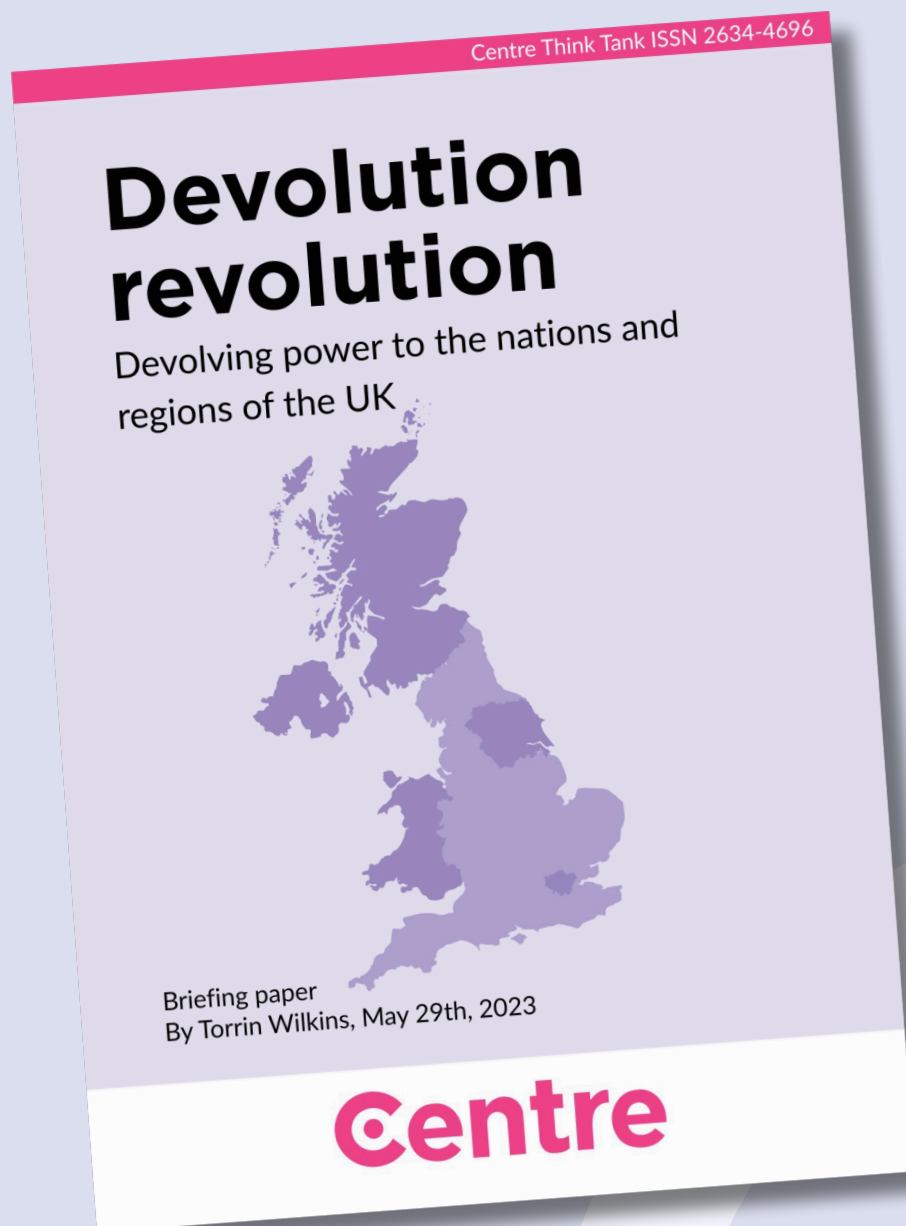
If we are unable to get in contact with a team member for more than five weeks and have not received any work from them within this time, then we will assume that they have left our team. They can then be removed from their position without a vote.

Meetings

- We will hold internal votes online and four brainstorming sessions open to members and non-members four times per year.
- Social meetings are allowed if any member of the team requests one.

Part two

Publications



Publications

Authorship and recognition within publications are decided as follows:

- To be an author, the individual must have written over 25% of the publication.
- To be an editor, the individual must have edited over 50% of the publication.
- To be a researcher, the individual must have written over 5% of the publication.

Data and copyright

Centre Think Tank owns the copyright of all data, publications, articles, interviews, events, training guides, key documents, safeguarding and complaints documents, network documents, training videos, videos, policies, research programmes and any other material produced by us unless stated otherwise.

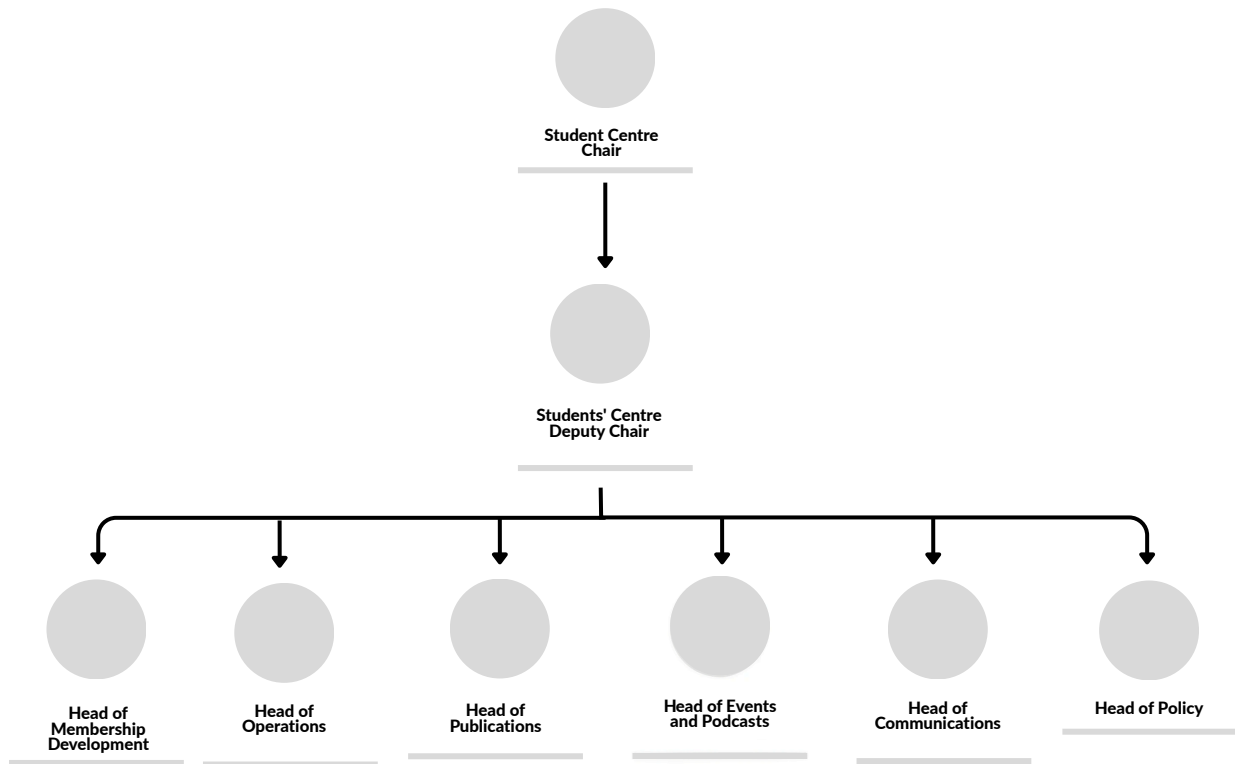
Part three

Powers



Powers

- To write papers, articles, and campaigns.
- Running social media campaigns which must not conflict with Centre policies.
- Running events.
- Individual branches can decide on membership within Student Union rules.
- To be affiliated with Centre, none of these can contradict Centre's national policies.



Part four

Our team



The Centre team is the decision-making body within Centre for new policies, papers, and campaigns. The team is sometimes also called the “Executive.” The requirements to be on the team are:

- They must be members of Centre.
- Members must not hold more than one role at a time.

Administration

Students Centre Chair

Our Chair of Centre students' wing represents student members of Centre, along with running their wing of the organisation. In their role, they help to:

- Run the social media pages for Centre students.
- Head up the students' wing for Centre.

On average, this role takes around two hours a week.

Students Centre Deputy Chair

Our Deputy Chair of Centre Students is the second most senior role in Centre Students. In their role, they help to:

- Support the Chair of Centre Students in their activities.

On average, this role takes around an hour a week.

Head of Policy

Our head of policy oversees our work in creating new policies and editing existing policies. In their role, they help to:

- Check new policies for grammar mistakes and for feasibility concerns. They also run votes on policy and then add policies which pass to the policy documents.

On average, this role takes around two hours a week.

Head of Publications

Our Head of Publications oversees the writing of new papers and articles. In their role, they help to:

- Oversee papers and articles, including being involved in the initial discussions and checking progress over time until the work is completed.
- Edit papers and articles for grammatical or policy-based mistakes.

On average, this role takes around two hours a week.

Head of Public Affairs

Our Public Affairs oversees our social media pages and websites. In their role, they help to:

- Run our social media accounts.
- Oversee day-to-day updates of our social media pages and our general messaging.

On average, this role takes around three hours a week.

Head of Operations

Our Head of Operations manages the running of our team. In their role, they help to:

- Maintain contact with our team. This is by messaging members of our team on a weekly basis to check on their progress and to answer their questions.
- Update our key documents.

On average, this role takes around three hours a week.

Head of Membership Development

Our Head of Membership Development helps to link up Centre with its members. In their role, they help to:

- Write up meeting minutes every two months.
- Arrange meetings including the agenda and meeting time, events for members of our team including social events and guest speakers at meetings.
- Reach out to members and supportive members of the public to better understand their views.
- Create a yearly report on our progress as an organisation. This report includes setting our yearly goals and proposing how we can increase our membership numbers.

On average, this role takes around three hours a week.

Head of Events and Podcasts

Our Head of Events and Podcasts runs our events and podcasts. In their role, they help to:

- Host our podcast or chair events run by Centre Students.
- Record, edit, and upload our podcasts once a month and events once every two months.

On average, this role takes around three hours per week.

Part six

Spokespeople



We have Spokespeople for Education, the Economy, Health Care, Environment, Democracy, Foreign Affairs, Social Security, Housing, Technology, Transport, Justice, Equality and Culture, Media and Sport.

In their role, they help to:

- Produce one new paper for the Centre every two years.
- Produce an article for our website at least once every four months, preferably once every two months.
- Release statements on large events within their area.

On average, this role takes around two hours per week.

Part seven

University, Local, Regional and State teams



We have positions for Regional Chairs in the South East, South West, London, the East Midlands, the West Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber, the North West, and the North East. We also have state Chairs in Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland and local chairs in areas across the UK. To be a local, regional, or state student chair, members must be members of Centre in that region.

Local, Regional, and State Chairs

We have positions for chairs in each region in England, along with State Chairs in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland and in local areas. The position should be titled (name of state/region/local area) Chair, for example, "Scotland Chair". In their role, they help to:

- Deal with the day-to-day running of the branch.
- Work to increase the number of members in that area.
- Recruit new team members and fill in vacant team roles.

They also:

- They sit on their regional, state, or local executive to run that branch and within the national Centre Students executive. Here, they can highlight policy proposals which are specific to the region, state, or local area they represent or the impacts of policies on these areas.
- Act as a communication branch between the area and the Chair of Centre Students.

On average, this role takes around two hours per week.

Local, Regional, and State Deputy Chairs

The position should be titled (name of state/region/local area) Deputy Chair. An example is "Scotland Deputy Chair". In their role, they:

- Take over from the Chair if they step down.
- Assist the Chair in their role.

On average, this role takes around an hour per week.

Local, Regional, and State Spokespeople

The title of this position should include the name of the region, state, or local area and the Spokesperson's area. This should read as: "Scotland Students Devolved Health Spokesperson". In their role, they help to:

- Improve focus on regional, state, or local issues such as devolution in Scotland. It also includes policies that are specific to certain areas, such as education policies.
- Come up with policies specific to that area that aren't already covered by our UK-wide aims.
- Support our UK-wide campaigns.

On average, this role takes around one hour per week.

Local, Regional, and State social media heads

In their role, they help to:

- Run the regional Facebook and Twitter branches. We require 3 posts on regional or state social media pages per week.

On average, this role takes around two hours per week.

Local, Regional, and State Head of Membership Development

In their role, they:

- Check on members joining in that area and engage them with local activities.

On average, this role takes around an hour per week.

Student societies

Student societies can be set up at universities and always have “University” at the end of their name, for instance, “Centre Students Aberystwyth University”. Within societies, the following roles are normally offered, although make sure to check the Student Union rules:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Social Secretary
- Education and Welfare Officer
- Publicity Officer
- Welsh Officer
- Events Secretary
- Equalities Secretary

Try to fill as many of these roles as possible at the start of the year, if necessary, calling by-elections for empty positions where it's allowed.

Part eight

Complaints team



Complaints will be dealt with by our complaints procedure, which can be used if a member breaks our code of conduct. We also have a minor issues procedure for smaller issues that don't break the code of conduct, alongside a whistleblowing procedure for internal issues with the functioning of the organisation or its members. Finally, we have a safeguarding procedure to ensure any safeguarding breaches are reported.

Ensuring these measures are kept up to date. These measures will be reviewed once a year.

Availability of these measures. To ensure these measures are accessible to those who may need to consult them, this document will be available on our website. A copy of this policy will also be sent to every member of the Centre when it is updated via email.

Have any ideas to make our Constitution better? Let us know by submitting any ideas on the “Contact” page of our website.

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