

The Rule Book – Section H - Rules of the Parliamentary Panel

Nominations

Self-Nomination

1. Candidates will be self-nominating by way of written application to the Co-operative Party Head Office.
2. Applicants in Scotland or with an interest primarily in constituencies in Scotland will be considered by the Scottish Co-operative Party in line with criteria agreed between the NEC and the Scottish Co-operative Party.
3. Applicants in Wales or with an interest primarily in constituencies in Wales will be considered by the Wales Co-operative Party in line with criteria agreed between the NEC and the Wales Co-operative Party.

Eligibility

4. A nominee must be an individual member of the Co-operative Party and a Co-operative Society at the time of application.
5. Nominees must be on the Labour Party's list of approved candidates for nomination as a Prospective Parliamentary Candidate.
6. Prospective Parliamentary Candidates are ineligible.

Applications

7. Applicants must complete the prescribed form in full and sign the declaration on the application form.

Empanelment

8. Nominees will be empanelled only after interview by the NEC or an NEC Sub-Committee or the Scottish or Wales Party.
9. The NEC, Scottish or Wales Party may turn down applications with or without interview.
10. Nominees whose applications are turned down may not reapply for membership of the Panel for at least one year.

Appeal

11. Nominees whose applications are turned down may appeal in writing to the NEC setting out the grounds on which the NEC should consider the decision. Any appeal must be lodged within two months of the date on which the nominees receives notification of the rejection of their application.

Membership of the Panel

12. Membership of the Co-operative Party's Parliamentary Panel conveys considerable advantages but also involves panellists accepting a number of obligations. Panel membership is official recognition by the Co-operative Party that you have the required calibre to be an excellent MP. Full time Co-operative Party Officials will promote you as a possible prospective Parliamentary Candidate. You will enjoy speaking rights at the Co-operative Party Annual Conference. In the case of an official nomination only members of the Parliamentary Panel will be considered for short listing by the local Co-operative Party. If you are selected as the Official Labour and Co-operative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, the Co-operative Party will enter into a Constituency Plan Agreement with the adopting Constituency Labour Party.
13. You must accept the following obligations:
 - You must agree to abide by the Co-operative Party's rules and codes of conduct

- You will no longer be a free agent to pursue Parliamentary Selections. You must keep in touch with the relevant Party staff, advising them at the outset of the Parliamentary seat (s) you wish to pursue.
 - No member of the Parliamentary Panel of the Co-operative Party may seek nomination from Labour Party Branches or other affiliated organisations against the official nominee of the Co-operative Party.
 - If the Co-operative Party is not making official nominations it is likely that permission will be granted for you to seek nomination as a non-official candidate.
 - Panel members are expected to support the official nominee of the Co-operative Party.
 - You must seek the permission of the Co-operative Party before allowing your name to go forward for any seat. Permission will always be refused when the selection involves the re-selection of a seat. Permission will always be refused when the selection involves the re-selection of a sitting MP, unless a trigger ballot has taken place under Labour Party rules. Local Co-operative Parties may not initiate the trigger ballot. In the case of Co-operative Party official nominations you may not, under any circumstances, oppose the Co-operative Party nominee. If you are not the Co-operative Party nominee, you must withdraw all interest in the seat during the two days following the Co-operative Party nomination meeting. That includes rescinding any nominations already received.
14. You may resign from the Panel at any time, but you may not resign simply to have a free hand to oppose the official nominees of the Co-operative Party.
15. Failure to observe these Rules may cause your exclusion from this Panel and future Panels. If you breach these Rules you will be asked for a written explanation of your actions by the NEC. If you are or have been so excluded, the NEC may not consider you for membership of this or future Parliamentary Panels.

Alteration to Rules

16. The NEC may, subject to endorsement of Annual Conference, alter the Rules of the Parliamentary Panel. Any Rule change becomes effective immediately upon the decision of the NEC subject to the endorsement of Annual Conference.