

Circular 74/20 | 16 October 2021

circulation to: EC; all Branches; SOGs; SOC; Irish Committee; Divisional Councils

## TSSA CONFERENCE 2020 and 2021

At their October meeting the Executive Committee considered a number of items outstanding from this year's cancelled delegate Conference as well as looking forward to next year's Conference. This circular will update Branches and SOGs on the following :

- EC consideration of motions submitted to the 2020 Conference;
- Progress with the 2019 Accounts and Audit Report;
- Plans for the 2021 Annual Delegate Conference.

### EC consideration of motions submitted to the 2020 Conference

The cancellation of the 2020 Annual Delegate conference meant that all motions included in the Preliminary Agenda were remitted to the Executive Committee for their consideration. A copy of the Preliminary Agenda can be found on the website via <https://www.tssa.org.uk/en/Your-union/TSSA-democracy/annual-conference/index.cfm>

#### The EC supported the following items :

8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38, 41, 45, 47, 52, 53, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, and 67.

#### The EC noted the following items :

7, 18, 22, 32, 34, 43 , 44, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57,58 and 65.

All other items fell to be considered on the basis that they involved rules or EC reports designed for Conference.

The Executive Committee will consider how best to progress those items supported at their next meeting and any progress will be reported in a future circular.

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## **Progress with the 2019 Accounts and Audit Report**

Unfortunately, the audited accounts have not yet been completed. The auditors only have a few queries to resolve before finalising the draft accounts, some relating to the opening balances which have needed input from our previous auditors and some relating to information held in our main office at a time when all staff, ours and those of the auditors, are working from home. It is expected that the audit will be completed in November but there can be no definitive date until the accounts are at a stage to audit.

The auditors additionally have the problem that all of their work for the first half of the year, which includes that of TSSA, has now overlapped with work for companies with a July accounting year. This has significantly stretched staff resources, a situation made worse by the fact that so many people have been furloughed or continue to be working from home which is making much of the information gathering difficult. As if things weren't bad enough, the impact of post balance sheet events this year is likely to be significant given the extended post balance sheet period which may well produce a list of events as long as a piece of string.

On the positive side, however, initial feedback our auditors means that the EC remains optimistic that we will record a small surplus in 2019.

We continue to keep the Certification Officers for the UK and Northern Ireland informed of progress in terms of our legal requirement to submit our annual return.

## **Plans for the 2021 Annual Delegate Conference**

Conference was planned to take place in Cork between 05 and 07 June 2021. Given the ongoing restrictions being placed on people coming together the EC had serious doubts about the likelihood of the event being able to go ahead as planned.

The Executive Committee therefore agreed to take the difficult but necessary step of cancelling Annual Conference in Cork next year and instead commence work on organising an online Conference. This work includes setting up a working party, to include members of the Executive Committee, the Standing Orders Committee and members of the paid staff. Amongst other things, the working party will be tasked with :

- consulting with other trade unions who have held online events in order to establish best practice;
- minimising issues of digital exclusion; and
- as far as is reasonably possible ensuring that the structure of participants, motions, amendments and debates meet with the requirements of the rule book.

The EC also agreed to proposals for the TSSA website to be updated and work on this should be completed by the spring of 2021 which should allow it to support a digital conference in terms of communicate with branches, SOGs



and delegates throughout much of the preparation period and during the Conference itself.

The circular calling for motions and nominations will be issued in due course after which regular updates on the work of the working party will be circulated.

*Ends*

