



CONSTITUTION 1994 (Amended 2007)

DEFINITIONS

In these articles the following words shall have the following meanings unless the context otherwise requires:

The Association

Means the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians.

Regulations

Means the Regulations of the Association for the time being in force.

Standing Orders

Means the Standing Orders made by the Council under Article V and for the time being in force.

Words importing the singular number can include the plural and vice versa.

Words importing persons can include bodies corporate.

NAME

The name of this organisation is the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians. This may be abbreviated to BIALl.

OBJECTS

The Association exists to promote the better administration and exploitation of law libraries and legal information units, principally in Britain and Ireland. The Association shall represent all jurisdictions in Britain and Ireland.

The Association is formed for the benefit of members and to enhance the status of the profession by the further education and training of law librarians, legal information

officers, documentalists and others, through the organisation of meetings and conferences, the publication of information of interest to members, the encouragement of bibliographical study and research in law and librarianship, the promotion of co-operation with other organisations or societies, and all other such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment or furtherance of these objects.

Article 1: **MEMBERSHIP**

Any person or institution may apply for membership of the Association subject to the provisions of this Constitution and its Regulations. All applications must be approved by the Council which will decide any questions or disputes regarding eligibility to any category of membership.

Membership consists of the following categories:

Ordinary Membership

1. *Personal Membership:* Any librarian, information officer, documentalist or other person engaged in the provision or exploitation of legal or related materials may apply for personal membership. Each personal member has one vote. Only personal members have the right to be elected as officers or Council members.

2. *Institutional Membership:* Any library or information unit engaged in the provision or exploitation of legal information may apply for institutional membership; each institutional member is required to designate one person as its representative. Each institutional member has one vote exercised by its designated representative.

Life Membership

Any member may be elected a Life Member by the Council for outstanding and distinguished service to the Association.

Honorary Membership

Any non-member may be elected an Honorary Member by the Council for outstanding and distinguished service to the Association.

Regulations and Standing Orders may be made concerning membership for students, retired persons and others not in employment.

Article II: **MEETINGS**

The Association shall in each year hold an Annual General Meeting in addition to any other meetings in that year. Not more than 15 months shall elapse between the date of one Annual General Meeting of the Association and the next.

Article III: **VICE-PRESIDENT(S)**

The Council may invite any person to be a Vice-President, whose appointment would be advantageous to the Association, subject to any provisions in the Regulations.

Article IV: **OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Association are the President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The President, President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer shall be proposed, seconded and elected by the Ordinary Membership, subject to the Regulations and Standing Orders, to perform such duties as are set out in the Constitution and Regulations and as otherwise decided by the Council.

The Immediate Past President shall not have voting membership of the Council.

Casual vacancies will be filled by a majority vote of the Council.

Article V: **COUNCIL**

The Council is responsible for carrying out the work of the Association. It may make such Standing Orders as are deemed necessary for the running of the Association and appoint such committees as required.

The Council exercises all the powers of the Association between Annual General Meetings except any reserved specifically to the members by this Constitution or the Regulations.

Voting membership of the Council comprises the President, the President Elect, the Secretary and the Treasurer together with five Personal Members who are elected in the manner provided by the Regulations and Standing Orders.

A quorum is constituted of five voting Council Members of whom at least two must be Officers and two elected Members.

Casual vacancies will be filled by a majority vote of the Council. The Council may invite any person to serve as a non-voting co-opted member of the Council.

Meetings of the Council shall be held and conducted as provided in the Regulations. Committees appointed by the Council shall be subject to this Constitution and its Regulations and Standing Orders.

Article VI: **FINANCE**

The funds of the Association are vested in the Council. The Treasurer is at all times responsible for the administration of the funds of the Association and is so accountable to the Council and the Annual General Meeting.

Qualified accountants are to be appointed as the Association's accountants or auditors at each Annual General Meeting and are required to report to the next following Annual General Meeting on the state of the

Association's funds.

Membership subscriptions are payable annually on the first day of the Association's financial year and are decided as laid down in the Regulations and Standing Orders.

Article VII: **AMENDMENTS**

Constitution

The Constitution may be amended only by a vote of the Ordinary Members of the Association. An amendment may be proposed by the Council or 10% of the whole Ordinary Membership at an Annual General Meeting.

Should the Ordinary Members present at that Annual General Meeting vote in favour of the amendment, the Secretary shall within the next four weeks put the proposed change to a postal ballot of all the Ordinary Members of the Association. The amendment will be adopted if two thirds of the votes cast are in favour of it.

Regulations

An amendment to the Regulations may be moved and seconded by Ordinary Members at an Annual General Meeting and will be carried if two thirds of all votes cast are in favour of it.

An amendment gaining a simple majority but not two thirds will be referred to the Council for consideration and report at the next following Annual General Meeting.

Article VIII: **DISSOLUTION**

A Resolution to dissolve the Association may be moved only at an Annual General Meeting. It must be supported by three quarters or more of the Ordinary Members there present to be accepted as a Resolution.

Thereafter the Secretary shall within the next four weeks put the Resolution to a postal ballot of all the Ordinary Members of the Association. The Resolution is carried if two thirds of all the votes cast in this ballot are in favour of it.

If carried, it shall be the responsibility of the Council to implement this Resolution.

Any property remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Association shall be given to a charity or charities nominated by the last Council.

Article IX: **INTERPRETATION**

All questions of doubt and dispute in the interpretation of this Constitution and the Regulations (except as otherwise provided therein) shall be decided by the President whose decision shall be final and binding on the membership.

Article X: **COMMENCEMENT**

This Constitution and the Regulations made under it come into force on 13th October 1994 and the schedule to the Constitution relating to transitional arrangements shall have effect. Without prejudice to anything done under the schedule it may be repealed when it ceases to have effect.
