



Constitution of the BRITAIN FIRST PARTY (NI)

Version 1

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Britain First Party aims to provide a patriotic democratic alternative for the people of Northern Ireland.

The Britain First Party will stand candidates in democratic elections at all levels to ensure the people of Northern Ireland are put first in their own country.

CHAPTER 1: NAME AND POLICY

- (a) The name of this organisation is “**Britain First**” (the “Party”).
- (b) The Party’s policy, decisions and direction shall be determined by the elected Leader & Deputy Leader.
- (c) Policy decisions taken at the Conference shall be binding unless revoked or amended by subsequent Conferences.

CHAPTER 2: PARTY STRUCTURE

The party hierarchy will be structured as follows:

- (a) Members
- (b) Standing Committee
- (c) Leader & Deputy Leader

2.1 Membership Criteria

- (a) Membership shall be open to all those over the age of 18 and irrespective of sex, class, religion, ethnicity or creed.
- (b) The safe keeping of Party membership lists will be the responsibility of the elected Leader.

2.3 National Structures

- (a) The “Standing Committee” is tasked with assisting the elected Leader & Deputy Leader and provides a platform for Party officers to address grievances. Its members shall consist of:

- **Leader ***

- **Deputy Leader**
- **National Nominating Officer ***
- **Treasurer ***
- **Head of Administration**
- **Head of Security**
- **Head of Operations**
- **Head of Communications**

* As registered officially with the Electoral Commission.

The registration of Party officers with the Electoral Commission– with the exception of the democratically elected Leader – will be made by the party Treasurer.

The elected Leader & Deputy Leader will also be responsible for appointing all Party officers (listed above) that subsequently form the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee can meet as often as required, but at a minimum of once every 12 weeks. For ordinary meetings of the Standing Committee, a quorum of 60 percent is required.

Votes taken by the Standing Committee that are hung, are automatically defeated.

2.4 Party Officials

All Party officials and staff must be Party members. All such appointments must be ratified by the elected Leader & Deputy Leader.

2.5 Leader

The Leader of the Party is entrusted with deciding the political direction of the movement in its day-to-day interactions with the public.

The Leader will also sit on the Standing Committee.

The elected Leader shall enjoy full executive authority over the Party.

2.6 Deputy Leader

Prospective candidates for the position of Deputy Leader must announce their candidacy in writing to the incumbent Leader and Standing Committee at least two months before the annual Conference.

The Deputy Leader of the Party will be elected in a secret general postal ballot of all paid-up Party members with no less than one years' continuous membership.

Eligible candidates for the post of Deputy Leader will have to have occupied an official position within the Party and have stood as an election candidate at any level. Two years' continuous membership of the Party is required.

Once elected, the Deputy Leader will be incumbent for a period of two years.

Should only a single candidate put themselves forward for the position of Deputy Leader, they will take office only after a general vote at that year's annual Conference. In such a scenario, no ballot of Party members is required.

Should the incumbent Leader stand down for a temporary period of time, the Deputy Leader will assume the office of Acting Leader until their return.

Should the incumbent Leader resign, the Deputy Leader will assume the office of Acting Leader until a new leadership election can take place.

Until the election of a new Leader, the Deputy Leader will be registered as Leader with the Electoral Commission – this will take place within 14 days of the resignation of the previous Leader.

The Deputy Leader will also sit on the Standing Committee and cannot be removed.

If at the end of their term of office, no nominations are received, and the incumbent Deputy Leader indicates their desire to retain the post, he or she will duly be considered to be re-elected unopposed for a further two years.

2.7 Election of the Leader

The Leader is elected by a popular and secret general postal ballot amongst all Party Members who have been members for a period of not less than one year.

2.8 Eligibility

In order to qualify to be a candidate for the office of “Leader”, a member must have more than three years’ continuous membership, have stood as an election candidate at any level, be a member of the Standing Committee and have a proven record of activism.

In addition, a candidate must have obtained at least 400 signatures from Members with more than one year’s continuous membership.

All candidates will feature on a general postal mailing to all Members of the Party with more than one year’s membership.

Should a candidate receive the necessary 400 signatures from this general postal mailing, they will qualify as a candidate in the leadership election.

Should no prospective candidate receive the 400 signatures necessary to qualify, the leadership election will be cancelled and the previous Leader will resume their duties.

The Party will not provide membership lists to prospective candidates under any circumstances.

Candidates will be able to advertise their campaign through the official Party website and postal mailings.

The incumbent Leader, Deputy Leader and/or Acting Leader are not required to obtain any nomination signatures and are automatically eligible for candidacy to the Leadership.

2.9 Leadership Election Process

At the onset of a leadership election, the incumbent leader must stand down to ensure a balanced, transparent and fair contest.

The Deputy Leader and Standing Committee will be responsible for appointing a Returning Officer to administer the leadership election.

The Returning Officer must be a member of the Standing Committee.

The day-to-day running of the Party in-between the declaration of a vacancy and the election of a new Leader will be the responsibility of the Deputy Leader.

Until the election of a new Leader, the Deputy Leader will be registered as Leader with the Electoral Commission – this will take place within 14 days of the resignation of the previous Leader.

The Deputy Leader of the Party will temporarily assume the office of Acting Leader until a leadership election can determine a replacement.

After verification that a candidate has received the necessary 400 signatures from Members with at least one year's membership, the Returning Officer shall announce the candidates via all official Party organs.

All candidates shall have equal time and space allocated to them in all the Party organs. A guideline of 1,000 words each for written manifestoes and four minutes each for online appearances shall apply in all cases.

Once the candidates are declared, all Members with two year's continuous membership shall receive, by mail, a voting ballot with the names of all prospective candidates printed thereon.

This shall take place no less than three weeks from the date of the official declaration of candidates by the Returning Officer.

Party members will have two weeks from the date of posting of the ballot papers in which to return the ballot papers marked with their choice. The returned ballot papers will remain sealed until the two-week period is over, whereupon they will be opened and counted in the presence of the candidates and their representatives.

The candidate with the most popular votes (first past the post) will be declared duly elected and take up the role of Leader with immediate effect.

2.10 Election Timeframes and Extraordinary Circumstances

The position of Leader shall be valid for four years.

If at the end of this period, no nominations are received, and the incumbent indicates his or her desire to retain the post, he or she will duly be considered to be re-elected unopposed for a further four years.

CHAPTER 3: THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (“AGM”)

The Party must hold an Annual General Meeting each year.

Attendance at the Annual General Meeting is open to all Members.

All decisions made by the AGM will be recorded on the Party's official website.

CHAPTER 4: REVISIONS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

Changes to this Constitution may only be made by a 75 percent majority vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Party.

The elected Leader, Deputy Leader and Standing Committee can initiate proposals for amendments to this Constitution.

Only the Annual General Meeting can vote to initiate the dissolution of the party, again by a 75 percent majority.

CHAPTER 5: ACCOUNTS AND FINANCES

The Treasurer will employ a qualified accountant to produce full annual accounts to the Standing Committee every twelve months.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Party.

The Treasurer will be responsible for ensuring that the Party follows all legal requirements of the 'Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000' and fulfils our commitments as laid down in our Financial Scheme.

Party accounts will be submitted to the Electoral Commission on time and audited by external accountants if applicable.

These accounts will be made available to all Members of the Party at the end of the financial year and/or Electoral Commission deadlines.

The Britain First Party will be registered on the Electoral Commission Northern Ireland register of parties only.

The Britain First Party will operate an entirely separate financial structure to Britain First (GB) Party. This includes bank accounts, yearly accounts and bookkeeping records.

Further and more in-depth information regarding the running Party finances can be found in our official Financial Scheme.

CHAPTER 6: ELECTIONS

The Britain First Party will stand candidates in local, metropolitan, mayoral, assembly and Parliamentary elections.

Candidates will be chosen at local branch level and will be authorised by the National Nominating Officer.

Candidates must be fully paid up members of the Party and must abide by the terms of this Constitution.