



WE Party Conference

Kettering 7 – 9 September 2018

Title: Governance Review: Appeals Body

Proposed by: WE Executive Committee

Proposer: Chris Paouros

Type of motion: Emergency Business Motion

Motion text:

1 Conference directs the Appeals Body to act as follows:

2 The Appeals Body shall:

3 **A.** function independently of the Steering Committee and the Executive Committee.

4 *Insert new Article 10.1.3:*

5 'The Appeals Body shall function independently of the Steering Committee and the Executive
6 Committee, subject only to Articles 10.1.4 – 10.1.6 and 10.1.8 below.'

7 **B.** once an appeal has been made in writing to the Appeals Body, start the process of appeal as
8 soon as possible once any internal complaints procedure has been exhausted, and no later
9 than six weeks after the final decision of such a complaints procedure.

10 *At the beginning of Article 10.4.1, insert 'Prior to making an appeal to the Appeals Body, any
11 internal complaints procedure must be exhausted.'*

12 *After 'No later than', delete 'three months after the cause of the dispute' and insert 'six weeks 13
after the final decision of such internal complaints procedure'*

14 **C.** conduct all appeals hearing in private and decide appeals on the basis of written material
15 and without parties being present.

16 *Insert new Article 10.4.3:*

17 'Other than in exceptional circumstances, the Appeals Body will decide appeals on the basis
18 of written material only and without parties being present. All appeal hearings will take place
19 in private.'

20 **D.** have security of tenure.

21 *Proposed for insertion by item I. of the Steering Committee motion, re Article 7.5.19.*

22 **E.** can only be removed by a two-thirds majority of members voting at Conference.

23 *Proposed for insertion by item H. of the Steering Committee motion, re Article 10.1.8.*



Motion rationale:

It has been almost two years since the Party's structure was ratified by the 2016 Party Conference, and WE have learned a great deal about the roles, functions and effectiveness of our governance arrangements, as well as the political context, legal structure and regulatory environment.

In order to ensure that learning is properly embedded, the Steering Committee commissioned an independent consultant to conduct a governance review in 2018. The recommendations of that review were finalised in July 2018, following receipt of the audit findings report from the Party's appointed auditors (MacIntyre Hudson), and approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee on 1st August 2018. This motion is submitted as an emergency motion to conference because the independent review concluded after the deadline for motions.

The independent governance review found that, overall, the Party's governance arrangements are appropriate and effective and support the strategic aims of the Party. However, it also concluded that there needs to be greater clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the different committees, and the mechanisms for accountability between the staff team, officers, committees and Party members/registered supporters. These recommendations are set out across five motions and will enable the Party to better meet its aims and objectives over the coming years.