

Constitution of The Doric Board (North-East Tradition and Language)

1 Name

The name of the organisation shall be “The Doric Board (North-East Tradition and Language)”, (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”).

2 Aims and Objects

The North-East of Scotland is home to an exceptional heritage of language, music, ballad and song, story, history, and lore, alongside the dynamic creativity of those who live and work there. A key element in this heritage is North-East Scots (generally known as “Doric”), the expressive tongue in which many North-Easterners speak, think, and feel.

The aims of the Board shall be:

Through advocacy, campaigning, education, public programming, funding and sustained research, to enhance linguistic and cultural confidence in the North-East, being a powerful voice for social, and economic regeneration, and a driver towards a national Scots Language Board. The Board aims to create and support a sustainable, dynamic future for Doric as a vibrant language, increasingly respected across the region in the context of a diverse and open society.

The Board will reflect and support these aims by promoting and developing Doric as an integral part of the region’s heritage, identity, and cultural life.

Without prejudice to the foregoing generality, the Board will:

- Encourage confidence in the use, understanding, and learning of the language of the North-East of Scotland;
- Promote and facilitate access to the region’s cultural treasures through the language;
- Increase the acceptance of Doric in education, the workplace, and in the media;
- Offer advice to government, the media, public bodies, and others on matters relating to Doric;
- Monitor and report on Scots language policies and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages as they relate to Doric.

To further its aims the Board will:

Work with the Scottish Government, local authorities, universities, schools, and colleges to improve provision and accessibility across the sector, both for native speakers and learners;

Support the use of Doric in educational settings and the home, creating a Pathway for Doric for early years, primary and secondary schools, and tertiary education;

Support communities, groups and individuals, including those new to the language, in using the language with confidence in any setting;

Enhance the place of Doric in promoting, developing, and sustaining the strong regional cultural heritage and identity of North-east Scotland;

Promote the use of Doric in the workplace and commercial life;

Campaign for a greater presence of the Doric language and North-East culture in Scottish media output, from the press to radio and television, as well as media training for young people

Encourage the use of Doric in the heritage and tourism industries, enhancing the visitor experience of the distinctiveness of the language of North-East Scotland;

Promote, develop, and encourage the creation of language resources for families, learners, civic leaders, visitors, teachers, and others.

3 Powers

In order to achieve its aims the Board may:

1. Raise money;
2. Open and operate bank accounts but not borrow money;
3. Take out insurance;
4. Organise events;
5. Support similar groups and exchange appropriate information and advice with them, subject to Data Protection legislation and respect for privacy and confidentiality;
6. Do anything that is lawful which is intended to help it to fulfil its aims, subject to the limitations of what is agreed to be appropriate by the Board.

4 Membership

1. Membership of the Board shall be by invitation of the existing Board. Appointment to the Board shall be for a period of 2 years, at the end of each of which period the member may be appointed for a further period of 2 years.
2. Every member shall have one vote at General Meetings.
3. The membership of any member may be terminated for 'good reason' by the Board. If the conduct of a member is contrary to the aims of the Board, as determined by the Board, this will be grounds ('good reason') for termination of membership. A right of appeal will exist to a tribunal of office bearers together with a member of the Board nominated by the member under threat of termination.

5 Management

1. The Board shall be administered by the officers of the Board.
2. The Board shall, if possible, include representatives of the University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen City Council and

Aberdeenshire Council or the successors of the latter two organisations as Local Authorities for the North-East region of Scotland.

3. Membership of the Board shall consist of the Chairperson, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and no less than 5 ordinary members. In addition, the Board shall have the power to co-opt members onto the Board.
4. The Board shall meet at least four times a year.
5. At least five Board Members must be present for a meeting of the Board to take place including the Chairperson.
6. Voting at Board meetings shall be by show of hands. If there is a tied vote, then the Chairperson shall have a second vote.
7. The Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board. Their tenure of office shall be for a period of two years. Existing holders of an office may be re-appointed.
8. The Board shall appoint an Advisory Group of persons interested in furthering the aims of the Board. The function of the members of the Advisory group shall be to advise and assist the Board in the promotion and furtherance of the Board's aims. The members of the Advisory group shall have no voting rights. The Board shall have the right to remove any person from the Advisory Group.

6 Duties of the Officers

1. The duties of the Chairperson shall be:
 - a. to Chair meetings of the Board and the Advisory Group;
 - b. to represent the Board at functions and meetings to which he or she has been invited.
 - c. to act as the spokesperson for the Board.
2. The duties of the Secretary shall be:
 - a. to prepare in consultation with the Chairperson the agenda for meetings of the Board and the Advisory Group Membership;
 - b. to give Board members notice of any Meetings of the Board or Advisory Group. Notice sent to the last known email address of a Board member shall be deemed sufficient notice.
 - c. to give Board and Advisory Group members notice of any meetings of the Advisory Group. Notice sent to the last known email address of an Advisory Group member shall be deemed sufficient notice.
 - d. to ensure that all meetings are minuted
 - e. to collect and circulate any relevant information within the Board.
 - f. to keep a note of minutes of all meetings of the Board and the Advisory group.
3. The duties of the Treasurer shall be:
 - a. to supervise the financial affairs of the Board
 - b. to keep proper accounts that show all monies received and paid out by the Board.

c. to prepare annual accounts for the year to 31st March or such other date as the Board may from time to time decide. The annual accounts shall be subject to an independent examination by a person deemed suitably qualified by the Board. In the event of the Board being registered as a Charity in Scotland, the Board and its accounts shall comply in all respects with the requirements of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator or its successor. A statement of account shall be submitted to the membership by the Board at an Annual General Meeting. The Statagic Board shall invest any monies not required for the immediate purpose of the Board. All monies raised shall be immediately deposited in a bank account in the name of the Board with authority for any one of the following to sign cheques or effect electronic transfers of funds: Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer. The Board may operate an on-line banking account. All funds raised by the Board shall be devoted solely to the promoting of the aims of the Board. No member of the Board will receive any remuneration from the Board for work undertaken for the Board nor for any other purpose. Reasonable expenses may be reimbursed on production of receipts.

8 Annual General Meeting

1. The Board shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the month of August.
2. All members shall be given at least fourteen days notice of the AGM and shall be entitled to attend and vote.
3. The business of the AGM shall include:
 - a. receiving a report from the Chairperson on the Board's activities over the year.
 - b. receiving a report from the Treasurer on the finances of the Board for the year ending 31 March.
 - c. appointing or re-appointing the Officers.
 - d. appointing an independent auditor.
 - e. and considering any other matter as may be decided.
4. At least five members must be present for the Annual General Meeting and any other General Meeting to take place.

9 Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting may be called by the Board or five members to discuss an urgent matter. The Secretary shall give all members at least seven days' notice of any validly called Special General Meeting together with notice of the business to be discussed.

10 Alterations to the Constitution

Any proposal of an alteration to the Constitution should be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting and be signed by four members of the Board.

Any changes to this Constitution must be agreed by at least two-thirds of those members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting.

11 Dissolution

The Board may be wound up at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those members present and voting at any General Meeting. In the event of winding up, any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to such other organisation with charitable status and with similar charitable objects operating in the North-East of Scotland. In the event that no such organisation exists, the Board will distribute the assets in its discretion, and with any required approval from its Charity Regulator for the time being, having regard to the aims of the Board. None of the Board's assets may be distributed or otherwise applied (on being wound up or at any other time) except to further its charitable purposes.

12 Definitions

The expression 'charitable object' shall mean a charitable purpose under section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 which is also regarded as a charitable purpose in relation to the application of the Taxes Act

'Charity' shall mean a body on the Scottish Charity Register which is also regarded as a charity in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts

13 Adoption of the Constitution

This Constitution was adopted at Aberdeen on the twenty third day of July Two Thousand and Nineteen.