British Cardiovascular Society

BCS Position on Canvassing for BCS Elections

BCS is committed to ensuring that all elections are conducted fairly, transparently and in accordance with the Society's values. The guiding principle is that election communications should focus on informing members about candidates and the election process, enabling members to make their own informed decision. All participants are expected to uphold the professionalism, integrity and ethical standards associated with BCS membership.

BCS welcomes and encourages candidates, and those supporting them, to raise awareness of the election process and direct members to the BCS elections website.

Candidates may, through their own communication channels, refer to:

- Their Election Statement;
- Their CV (where applicable);
- The role for which they are standing; and
- Information published on the official BCS elections website.

Supporters may similarly share or refer to a candidate's published Election Statement, CV (where applicable), and the role for which the candidate is standing.

Prohibited Canvassing Activities

Candidates and their supporters must not engage in direct solicitation of votes, including "vote-for-me" style campaigning or any activity intended to pressure, influence or induce members to vote for a particular candidate.

A candidate found to have breached this requirement may be subject to sanctions, including disqualification from the election.

The Election Panel:

- Will determine whether any activity constitutes prohibited canvassing or is inconsistent with BCS values, standards of conduct, or the election rules;
- May take any action it considers appropriate in response to a breach; and
- Has the final authority on all matters relating to election canvassing and conduct.

The decisions of the Election Panel are final and binding.

Restrictions on Signposting and Campaigning Activities

Candidates and their supporters must not:

- Announce their candidacy before BCS has confirmed and announced all candidates.

- Use BCS committees, board or other official BCS meetings or communication channels (including BCS newsletters or BCS social media) to promote a candidacy or signpost election materials;
- Use BCS premises, facilities or resources to organise or host campaign-related events or meetings;
- Incur additional campaign expenditure or provide financial incentives in support of a candidacy;
- Use, or seek access to, BCS social media accounts, email accounts, mailing lists, membership data or other BCS communication channels for election purposes;
- Pay, reward or otherwise incentivise any individual to campaign on their behalf;
- Make derogatory, misleading, defamatory or adverse personal remarks about other candidates;
- Request or seek election support, endorsement or campaigning assistance from BCS staff in their official capacity

July 2026