



Democratising Momentum: A Proposal for Consultation

This proposal was discussed at the last National Coordinating Group (NCG) meeting in order to democratise Momentum and improve accountability. Following a discussion, the NCG decided to consult members before proceeding. The proposal contains three key parts: 1. Increasing the number of regions represented on the NCG; 2. Increasing the number of elected members' representatives; and 3. Holding elections on a biennial basis (every two years). This paper sets out the rationale.

This proposal has been sent to the most engaged Momentum members, including group role holders and those who have signed up for regular updates. Any change to Momentum's constitution can only happen following a unanimous decision by the NCG or an OMOV ballot of all members.

1. Increasing the Number of Regions

Increase the number of regions from 3 to 5, creating the following regions: 1. North West and Wales 2. London 3. South East and South West. 4. Midlands and Eastern. 5. Yorkshire and the Humber, Northern, Scotland and International (see map).



Members have often pointed out the problems caused by the excessive size and inconsistencies of the existing 3 regions. The consequence of this is that it is hard for NCG representatives to communicate with members, a problem identified by respondents to our recent groups audit. In addition, this structure creates the danger that some regions end up without having any representation on the NCG at all. Having the 5 smaller regions, which have been chosen to ensure balanced representation of members, could therefore improve representation and accountability between members and elected representatives.



2. Increasing the Minimum Number of Members' Representatives

Expand the minimum number of members' representatives from 12 to 20

Currently at least 12 NCG representatives are directly elected to the NCG by members, along with 4 elected by Momentum members who are Labour public office holders (like councillors), and up to a further 12 who are representatives of affiliated trade unions and other left organisations.

Alongside increasing the number of regions, this proposal would increase the number of representatives directly elected by the membership at large to at least 20 members. This would guarantee a clear majority of representatives on the NCG would be elected by members under all circumstances and thus make Momentum more democratic.

3. Holding elections on a Biennial Basis

Holding elections every two years rather than annually.

Unusually for a committee of its size and responsibility, the NCG currently has annual elections. This means a relatively high level of resources are diverted into running elections rather than other activities. Annual elections also undermine the NCG members' effectiveness and ability to build relationships with grassroots activists, because it takes time for new representatives to develop the capacity to serve effectively on the NCG. Comparable bodies in the Labour Party like the NEC, CAC, and NPF, as well as the governing bodies of a number of trade unions, all have biennial elections. Therefore the suggestion of biennial elections is based on the desire to increase the effectiveness of the NCG and ensure a better allocation of staff resources.

If approved, this part of the proposal would only come into effect after this year's NCG elections.

What Happens Next?

This consultation has been sent to the most engaged members in Momentum, including role holders in local groups and members who have signed up for regular updates. Consulted members have until **midday on Tuesday, June 11th** to respond to the consultation. Following this, a report will be delivered to the NCG, who will decide how to proceed at their next meeting. Any constitutional changes can only occur following a unanimous decision by the NCG or an OMOV ballot of all members.