



Representation in BCT

Representation is a process that allows individuals and groups to have a voice in BCT, i.e. it's an opportunity for individuals and groups to let BCT staff and the Board of Trustees know what – in their opinion - the current key priorities in bat conservation are, thereby allowing BCT an opportunity to respond.

Mechanisms for representation

BCT membership

At least two BCT members can request in writing to the Secretary for any motion to be put on a General Meeting agenda at least six weeks prior to that meeting. All BCT members have an opportunity to vote on motions at a BCT General Meeting. Usual items at an Annual General Meeting include:

- Changes to the Memorandum and Articles
- Elections to the Board of Trustees

Details of how members can represent their views to the Board of Trustees can be found in the Memorandum and Articles document on this page: <https://www.bats.org.uk/the-trust/reports-financial-information/annual-general-meetings>.

Partner Bat Groups

Partner Bat Groups have a direct relationship with BCT. They therefore have the opportunity to let BCT know where they think priorities should lie by liaising with an agreed BCT contact, often the Bat Groups Officer. Relevant information from Partner Groups will be escalated collectively to the Board of Trustees and groups will be informed of outcomes directly.

Prior to the Board of Trustee meetings, Partner Groups will be invited to comment on specific issues or raise particular matters of concern via a dedicated trustee email address (trustee@bats.org.uk). This information will be taken to the Board by the three Partner Bat Group Nominated Trustees and, where appropriate, feedback given.

Network Groups and other bat volunteers

Network Groups also have a direct relationship with BCT. They therefore have the opportunity to let BCT know where, they think, priorities should lie by liaising with an agreed BCT contact. Anyone who volunteers for BCT initiatives, such as the National Bat Monitoring Programme and Count Bat, or who volunteers as a Natural England roost visitor or is registered on the BCT Bat Care Network, will have a direct relationship with relevant BCT members of staff.

Everyone with an interest in bats

Bat Workers Forum (BWF) meetings are open to anyone interested in bats. BWF meetings superseded the Bat Group Forum, reflecting the broadening of this event to a wider audience back in

2005. They take place annually, usually at the National Bat Conference, however since moving online due to COVID-19 they now take place virtually a few weeks after. Attendees can share and discuss concerns, views and opinions with BCT staff, Trustee representatives and representatives from Statutory Nature Conservation Organisations.

Regional and national bat conferences are also open to everyone with an interest in bats, including the annual Scottish Bat Conference and Wales Bat Workers Day. All attendees have the opportunity to submit priorities at the event, for example if following the BCT update they feel anything important was missing and requires further focus. The priorities are collated and a response document produced which is sent to all attendees. For in-person events, attendees have an opportunity to talk directly to members of staff and Trustees present at the conference.

Who has voting rights?

BCT members only.

(Note: Whilst voting rights are not granted through Partner and Network Group agreements, bat groups can join BCT and nominate a representative to exercise the right of membership on their behalf. The named representative would be registered as an individual member representing the group and would thus get one vote.)