

Edinburgh Geological Society

Code of Conduct for Council members as charity trustees



Updated 18 March 2025

EGS was founded in 1834 with the aim 'to encourage public interest in geology and the advancement of geological knowledge', an aim we still adhere to today. The Laws of the Society drawn up at that time, and modified since, set the framework for our activities.

1. Council members should be members of EGS, and familiar with the current *Laws of the Society*, which are available here: edinburghgeolsoc.org/home/the-laws-of-edinburgh-geological-society/.
2. Council members are 'charity trustees', with formal duties as set out in The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Members should be aware of the *Guidance and good practice for Charity Trustees* published by OSCR, the Scottish charity regulator, and available here: www.oscr.org.uk/guidance-and-forms/guidance-and-good-practice-for-charity-trustees/.
3. Council members must keep up with the responsibilities of their position, to ensure the smooth running of the Society. Members should attend all EGS Council meetings, or have a good reason for being unable to attend; they should send the Secretary apologies for their absence on each occasion. If at any time their attendance at Council meetings will become difficult, they should declare this.
4. Council Officers must keep good records of all actions taken by them while in office, and must hand over adequate records on leaving office.
5. Council members must declare any interests which might influence their decisions or interfere with their ability to act strictly in the Society's interests (for instance by being involved in geological, editorial or other activities elsewhere which could compete for membership, for funding or for public attention, thereby potentially damaging the interests of the Society).
6. Every charity trustee must ensure that they comply with the law whilst undertaking their role in a charity. The criteria that automatically disqualify an individual from acting as a charity trustee are:
 - Unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or an offence under the 2005 Act
 - Undischarged bankruptcy (sequestration)
 - Granting a Protected Trust Deed
 - Entering into an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (England and Wales) to pay off debts with creditors
 - Being removed by a court from being a charity trustee
 - Being disqualified from being a company director
 - [note that these criteria are due to be updated in summer 2025 and this code of conduct should be updated then]

Disqualification is automatic in these circumstances, and it is a criminal offence to become or continue to act as a charity trustee whilst the circumstances apply. It is the responsibility of the individual to make sure that they are not disqualified.