



Dear Member

25th May 2021

The Covid pandemic has affected all our Regions but they have continued to work for their members through this difficult time. Unfortunately, this is not the case in the Northern Region. There was a Chairman and Treasurer but no Secretary as required by the Regional constitution until August 2019. Sadly, the Chairman, Mr Storey passed away in July 2020. The Secretary resigned in March 2020. Without leadership the members of the Management Panel fell to disputing amongst themselves and split into two factions each unwilling to fully work with the other.

Despite the best efforts of the National Chairman and the Legal and Operations Manager no resolution could be found and the National management had to take action because the interests of the members were not being served and the objectives of the National Allotment Society could not be pursued. The constitution of the National Allotment Society of which the Regional organisations are subsidiaries provides few options for the National Management to address the kind of problems that befell the Northern Region. Effectively the only option currently is to suspend the individuals who make up the panel. This was done in November 2020. Efforts continued to try and rebuild by the National Management but the suspended panel members declined to co-operate unless reinstated which would not have resolved the issues.

Accordingly, the National Management Committee have offered to assist the Region to reconstitute a Northern Management Panel and have asked a member of the Governance Committee, Alastair Watson to facilitate this, his email contact is awatson.nas@gmail.com

An effective, properly constituted Management Panel needs your involvement and participation if your needs are to be served and the objectives of the National Allotment Society are to be achieved. **WE NEED NEW VOLUNTEERS.** The roles are Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Regional Representative, Deputy Representative. In addition, at least three lay members. The Northern regions includes Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, County Durham, Cleveland and Cumbria, ideally it would be good to have two representatives from each county, to ensure you are all well represented. Now we have all become accustomed to using virtual communication methods the distances are less important.

Alastair will be contacting you shortly to provide more details and how we plan to proceed.

It is your Region we need some of you to step up to the challenge for the sake of all your members. We will be here to support you in the development of your new regional panel.