CONFERENCE OF SCOTTISH LOCAL DENTAL COMMITTEES

Virtual Voting Protocol

As per the *Conference of Scottish Local Dental Committees Standing Orders* only LDC delegates and members of the Conference Agenda Committee (CAC) are permitted to vote in the elections and motions sections of conference.

Historically, voting has been carried out manually using voting cards, however at the 2023 conference, virtual voting was conducted for the first time using an online platform.

It is the intention of CAC to proceed with virtual voting for the foreseeable future, and as an online system is a change, CAC decided to draft a Virtual Voting Protocol as guidance for them to refer to when planning conference each year. The document was also developed with the intention of being transparent with all conference attendees about the new process.

Time Limit
- A time limit of 20 seconds for votes to be submitted will be applied to each motion.
- A timer clock will be visible for conference attendees to refer to.
- The time limit will only start once the motion has been verbally explained and any debate has been concluded by the Chair.
- A time limit is set to ensure voting is conducted in a timely manner and ensure maximum audience participation.

Voting Results
- Once the time limit for votes to be submitted has closed, the result of the vote will be displayed for conference attendees to see (% of For, Against and Abstain votes).
- If 100% of the vote is 'For' the motion, this will be classed as the motion having 'passed unanimously'. This is regardless of the number of attendees who voted in comparison to the overall number of attendees who were eligible to vote.

Voting Transparency
- When conducting manual voting, using voting cards, the way in which an attendee has chosen to vote is visible to all other conference attendees.
- When voting virtually, the result of an individual vote is hidden from the rest of the audience (a limitation of the new system acknowledged by CAC).
- However, please note that voting is not anonymous and after the conference has closed, CAC have access to the data in relation to each vote, including details of how each individual attendee has chosen to vote on each motion.