

Dear Paul

Thank you for taking the time to meet up on Friday, and providing more detailed information regarding the current nomination process.

Following the email and our conversation Gill and I send the following response.

It is correct that the Code of Good Branch Practice must be enshrined in the rules and constitution of the branch. UNISON has an absolute commitment to not only the promotion of, but indeed the achievement of, fair representation and proportionality in all its structures.

The Joint Branch Assessment process must outline how the branch will put actions in place to ensure this requirement is met. All delegations have enshrined in them the requirement to meet proportionality and fair representation in delegations.

As such it is correct for the branch to meet at least 50% gender proportionality within the senior branch officer group. Indeed Newcastle City branch membership has more than 50% women, and therefore the joint branch assessment should identify how the branch intends to increase beyond 50% in the future.

In the context of the current elections as three men have been elected unopposed it is a correct interpretation that the remaining posts should not be open to male candidates.

All branch rules have to be approved by regional committee, or a delegated group, and therefore any proposed changes to meeting requirements as set out in the Code of Good Branch Practice would need to go through this process.

I hope this clarifies the position, however if it would be helpful for me to attend the April branch committee, or to discuss further with you please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Clare

Gill

Clare Williams
Regional Convenor

Gill Hale
Regional Secretary