**Amendment to the Second Schedule – Electronic Communication**

The Trustees of the National Rifle Association propose amending the Second Schedule to allow electronic communications with the membership.

The cost to the Association of communicating with Members in paper form increases each year. This is particularly the case with elections – the 2017 General Council election cost approximately £18,000, ignoring the staff costs involved in the process. By communicating with Members electronically, the Association can reduce costs and increase the effectiveness of its communications particularly to younger Members.

At the same time, the Association recognises that some Members may be less comfortable with electronic communication and so the Association must retain an option for Members to receive information by post if they wish.

Members will be asked to provide their email address or to update their email address with each renewal of membership. Members will also wish to update their email address if it changes in the same way they would update a change of residential address.

Applications for membership and renewal forms will contain appropriate wording to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act. The Association is registered under the Data Protection Act.

The attached paper contains the proposed new section 16 for inclusion in the Second Schedule.

1. Electronic Communication
	1. Email – Any communication that the Association is required to make with any Member under these Rules may be sent by electronic means to the electronic address of that Member shown in the Register. Any electronic communication to the Association shall be effective only when actually received in readable form to the electronic address specified by the Secretary General for that purpose.
	2. Websites – The Association may establish and maintain websites.
	3. Communication - The Secretary General may satisfy any obligation to send information to Members generally by taking all of the following steps:
		1. displaying the information on the Website;
		2. sending an email to each Member who has provided an address for electronic communication to the Association stating that the information is available for viewing on the Website;
		3. sending the information by pre-paid bulk post to any other Member at his postal address shown in the Register; and
		4. making a copy of the information available for inspection at the offices of the Association by any Member.
	4. Journal – The Association may publish a Journal in printed or electronic form. Notices published in an issue of the Journal shall be deemed received by each Member 14 days after the date of publication of that issue. If the Journal is published in electronic form only, the Secretary General shall notify Members promptly when each issue becomes available on the website.
	5. Polls – Any vote to be taken by a poll may be taken by using a website or other electronic means provided by an external service provider (the "Provider") selected by Council and who fulfils the requirements of this Rule. The Provider must collate and count all votes and report the result to Council. The Provider must not report how each Member voted. The Provider must send at least one email to each Member who has provided an address for electronic communication to the Association and a notice by pre-paid bulk post to each other Member, in each case with the information necessary to enable that Member to cast a vote. The Association must send to each Member who has not provided an address for electronic communication upon request by that Member a voting paper in accordance with Rule 9(e)(iii).
	6. Post – Any communication to be given to any Member may be sent by pre-paid post to the postal address of the Member shown in the Register.

Updating – Each Member is responsible for notifying the Association of any changes to the postal address or electronic address of that Member.