



Quick Member Info

Want of Confidence Motions

What is a want of confidence motion?

A want of confidence motion (often called a no confidence motion) can be moved against individuals who have been elected to positions of responsibility within the association, such as office bearers and executive committee members. The purpose of the motion is to seek the removal of anyone elected to such a position of responsibility on justified grounds.

Justified grounds for a want of confidence motion must relate to the fitness of the person to hold office and will generally only be made out if the person is consistently failing to perform his or her obligations or consistently making decisions which are not in the association's best interests. In some cases isolated incidents, which for example could include offensive behaviour or misappropriation of association funds, could justify a motion of want of confidence but it is expected (and hoped) those occasions will be rare.

Want of confidence motions are, by necessity, proposed, discussed, lost or carried in public and they inevitably involve considerable stress and trauma for all parties. They are the very last resort and all P&C Associations with concerns about an individual's or a committee's consistent failure to meet their responsibilities or make decisions in the association's interest should explore their concerns directly with the office bearer concerned or committee convenor, ideally through informal conversation in the first instance.

Are there any important procedural steps to bear in mind when moving a want of confidence motion?

At least seven days' clear notice of a proposal to move a want of confidence motion must be given to all financial members and those affected by the motion should be given adequate time, during debate, to put their position and arguments and to produce any relevant evidence. Those affected are also permitted to vote on the want of confidence motion.

Is there a format to propose a want of confidence motion?

Want of confidence motions are generally moved in the following form:

- That [*name of individual*] holding the position of [*name of office*] does not possess the confidence of the [*name of school*] School P&C Association [*if directed at an individual*], or
- That the committee does not enjoy the confidence of the [*name of school*] School P&C Association [*if directed at an entire executive committee*].

What happens if the motion is successful?

If a want of confidence motion is supported by a majority vote, the individual or individuals to whom it is directed should immediately tender their resignations from the position/s in question. If the resignations are not tendered the association can declare the position/s in question vacant and

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subsequently call for new elections. Elections to fill vacant positions can only occur at the same meeting if noted on the agenda or at an annual general meeting.

Can a want of confidence motion be moved against ordinary members?

A want of confidence motion cannot be moved against an ordinary member in that capacity. The right to be a member of a P&C Association is prescribed in its Constitution. Basic membership cannot be denied through the passage of a want of confidence motion.

What should we consider when proposing a want of confidence motion?

A want of confidence motion must generally be justified in terms of a demonstrated track-record of failing to fulfil the specific responsibilities of a particular position. The motion must not defame an individual, must avoid denigrating or belittling an individual and must not be based on irrelevant, personally malicious or insubstantial grounds. As a rule, a want of confidence motion can only be justified by clearly identifying a consistent failure on the part of the individual or committee to meet the responsibilities of the position in question.

Remember – the repeated use of want of confidence motions targeted at a particular individual or group and without regard to the association's best interests may itself justify a want of confidence motion against the person engaging in any such behaviour.

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