



**British Society of
Gastrointestinal and
Abdominal Radiology**
*Imaging and Intervention in
the care of Abdominal Disease*

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26th April 2023

Dear BSGAR Members,

Re. BSGAR Organisational Status

For the past few months, the BSGAR committee have been investigating whether there would be any advantage to BSGAR becoming charity.

BSGAR is currently a mutual trader with all funds in our account being utilised for the purposes of education and the promotion of good standards in our subspecialty. The status of the organisation was previously considered in 2013 and looked at again in 2015, with decisions made both times to pursue our current mutual trading status. Over the years BSGAR has grown in both size and scope and is now involved in a number of national projects to improve GI and abdominal imaging within the UK. Furthermore, other similar societies (e.g., BSIR, BSNR) have recently moved to a charitable structure. Therefore, it was felt reasonable to re-look at the societies structure again, particularly since as BSGAR is an unincorporated entity, should it incur liabilities in excess of its assets, the members of the Management Committee could be jointly and severally liable to contribute from their personal assets to the shortfall in BSGAR's asset.

This is a complex matter and changing the BSGAR structure has a significant impact on the accounting and constitutional running of the society. We have taken professional advice on the pros and cons of changing our organisations status and on balance the committee now feel BSGAR would benefit from Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status.

The key advantages for BSGAR would be a limited liability structure, improved banking facilities, the opportunity to apply for grants, to employ its own staff in the future and that charitable status could raise the profile of the society. Potential disadvantages would be stricter regulation when amending the constitution and some increased administrative burden with accounting and accounting costs. Changing our status would require a significant change in the organisations structure with a new constitution, bank account and registration with the charity commission.

The professional advice summary, as well as a summary of the pros and cons of both organisational structures are attached for members to review.

Given the significance of this potential change the committee have proposed the following timeline to engage members and canvas opinion on the proposed changes:

Timeline to engage members and make proposed changes if agreed

Phase 1 April/May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circulate information to members• Encourage email submission of questions to the Committee by 26th May 2023
Phase 2 July 2023 - September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold online meeting(s) to canvas opinion and examine pros and cons through discussion and debate.
Phase 3 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the opinion of members is still favourable, then an extraordinary meeting will be held to vote on a resolution to alter the status from mutual trading status to charitable incorporated organisation
Completion By February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct and complete process to become a charitable incorporated organisation.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,



Dr Damian Tolan
BSGAR President



Dr Christopher Clarke
BSGAR Treasurer