* + - 1. **Register a community benefit society**

Section 1 – About this form

* + 1. Use this form to register a community benefit society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 (‘the Act’).
    2. Use this form for either a new registration of a community benefit society, or for a conversion to a community benefit society from either a company.
    3. To register a society we need:
* this completed form
* one signed copy of the society’s rules (or two copies where not submitting electronically)
  + - 1. This form, including any details provided on the form, will be made available to the public through the Mutuals Public Register.

Before you start completing this form you may find it helpful to refer to our [current guidance](https://www.fca.org.uk/static/documents/fg15-12.pdf) on the FCA’s registration function under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 for mutual societies in Great Britain.

We set out our approach to the ‘conducting business for the benefit of the community’ condition for registration at Chapter 5 of that guidance:

* + - 1. [https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/finalised-guidance/fg15-12.pdf](https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/finalised-guidance/fg15-12.pdf%20)

Section 2 – About this application

* + - 1. **2.1 What are you applying to do?**

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| * + - 1. Register a new community benefit society |  |
| * + - 1. Convert a company to a community benefit society |  |
| * + - 1. Convert a friendly society into a community benefit society |  |

* + - 1. **2.2 Who should we contact about this application?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Position |  |
| Postal address |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Email address |  |

Section 3 – About the society

* + - 1. **3.1 What will be the registered name of the society?** (This must be exactly as it appears on the society’s proposed rules). Please see page 24 of our guidance for further guidance on society names.

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| Society name |  |

* + - 1. All societies must be carrying out an industry, business or trade. Here we are looking to gain a practical understanding of what that is for your society.
      2. **3.2 What is the business of the society?** For example, will you be providing social housing, running an amateur sports club, etc.

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* 1. 3.3 What Standard Industrial Classification code best describes the society’s main business? Where more than one code applies, please select the code that you feel best describes the society’s main business activity. You will find a full list of codes here: http://resources.companieshouse.gov.uk/sic/

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* + - 1. We need to be satisfied that a community benefit society is conducting its business for the benefit of the community. The conduct of a community benefit society’s business must be entirely for the benefit of the community.
      2. **3.4 Please describe the benefits to the community the society aims to deliver?** Here we are looking to see *what* the intended benefits to the community are. Community can be said to be the community at large. For example, are you relieving poverty or homelessness through the provision of social housing.

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* 1. 3.5 Please describe how the society’s business will deliver these benefits? The business of the society must be conducted for the benefit of the community. Please describe *how* the society’s business (as described in answer to question 3.2) benefits the community.

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* + - 1. **3.6 Does the society intend to work with a specific community, and if so, please define it here?** For instance, will the society’s activities be confined to a specific location; or to a specific group of people? Please note that in serving the needs of any defined community, the society should not inhibit the benefit to the community at large.

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**3.7 In what ways does the society intend to raise funds to set up and run its business?** For instance, are you intending to apply for grants, seek capital from members, take out a loan.

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* + - 1. **3.8 What will the society do with any surplus or profit?** For instance, will money be reinvested in the business; put into reserves; used for some other purpose?

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In order to satisfy ourselves that the society is conducting its business for the benefit of the community, we need to understand the society’s relationships with other key stakeholders.

**3.9** **Please state any significant commercial arrangements that the society has, or intends to have, with any other organisation that could create, or be perceived as creating, a conflict of interest.** Please tell us how you will ensure that any such conflicts of interest do not prevent the society from acting for the benefit of the community.

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* + - 1. **3.10 Please state any close links which any of the founding members or directors has, or intends to have, with any society, company or authority.** ‘Close links’ includes any directorships or senior positions held by directors or founding members of the society in other organisations.

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* + - 1. **3.11 On what date do you want the society’s financial year to end?** This is the date the society’s financial year will end, every year after the society is registered. If you have a preference (e.g. 31 March) please specify that here. If you do not select a date the society will be given the anniversary of the last day of the month it was registered in.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | / |  |  |

1. Asset lock
2. 3.12 Has the society included the community benefit society statutory asset lock in its rules? Please note that a society with a statutory asset lock in its rules cannot remove it. The asset lock is only available to community benefit societies other than regulated housing associations or charities. As recently confirmed there is no prescriptive statutory asset lock in NI charity legislation.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |

**Charitable objects**

1. 3.13 Are the society’s objects intended to be charitable? Whilst we are not responsible for regulating charities, we need to know this because societies whose objects are wholly charitable are subject to a number of requirements in the Act.

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| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |

1. 3.14 If charitable, what is your charitable purpose? Charity law in England and Wales differs to that in Scotland and Northern Ireland. If in doubt please refer to the charity legislation relevant for the area you are in. Please note that we will not assess whether your stated purpose meets the legal criteria for a charity.

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Section 4 – The society’s rules

* + - 1. **4.1 If you have used a sponsoring body to submit this application please include their details here.**

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| --- | --- |
| Name of sponsoring body |  |
| Name of model rules |  |
| Signature on behalf of sponsoring body (unless submitted by email by the sponsor) |  |
| Date |  |

* + - 1. The Act requires rules of societies to make provision for all of the matters listed below. If you have not made provision for all of the matters listed below we will not be able to register your society.
      2. **4.2 Please complete this table**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Provision required by the Act | Number of the rule(s) covering this E.g. ‘2.3-2.7’ | |
| The society’s name | |  |
| The objects of the society | |  |
| Place of the society’s registered office, to which all communications and notices may be addressed | |  |
| The terms of admission of the members, including any society or company investing funds in the society under the provisions of the Act | |  |
| The method of holding meetings, the scale and right of voting, and the method of making, altering or rescinding rules | |  |
| The appointment and removal of a committee (by whatever name) and of managers or other officers and their respective powers and remuneration | |  |
| The maximum amount of the interest in the shares of the society which may be held by any member otherwise than by virtue of section 6 (1) (a) or (b)\_of the Act | |  |
| whether the society may contract loans or receive moneys on deposit subject to the provisions of this Act from members or others, and if so under what conditions, under what security, and to what limits of amount | |  |
| Whether any or all shares are transferable, and provision for the form of transfer and registration of shares, and for the consent of the committee to transfer or registration  Whether any or all shares are withdrawable, and provision for the method of withdrawal and for payment of the balance due on them on withdrawing from the society | |  |
| Provision for the audit of accounts in accordance with sections 35-51 of the Act | |  |
| Whether members may withdraw from the society and if so how, and provision for the claims of the representatives of deceased members and of the trustees of the property of bankrupt members (or, in Scotland, members whose estates have been sequestrated), and for the payment of nominees | |  |
| The way in which the society's profits are to be applied | |  |
| If the society is to have a common seal, provision for its custody and use | |  |
| Whether any part of the society's funds may be invested, and if so by what authority and in what way | |  |

Section 5 – Converting to a society

You only need to complete this section if you are converting from a company or friendly society to a community benefit society. If this does not apply to you please move on to section 6.

1. Requirements

If you are converting a company into a society, three copies of a special resolution to convert the company, with the following information included in the resolution:

* Company name & number
* Date the resolution was passed
* Names of three members appointed to sign the society’s rules and to either: accept alterations to the rules made by the FCA without further consulting the company; or lay any such alterations before a general meeting of the company for acceptance

1. Details
   1. 5.1 Please provide details of the friendly society or company you are converting from.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Registration number |  |
| Registered office address |  |
| Postcode |  |

Section 6 – Member details

* + - 1. **6.1 Please provide the details of the secretary below.** All societies must have someone fulfilling the role of secretary.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Month of birth |  |
| Year of birth |  |
| Signature |  |
| Date |  |

* + - 1. **6.2 Please provide the details of 3 members below.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Month of birth |  |
| Year of birth |  |
| Signature |  |
| Date |  |

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| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Month of birth |  |
| Year of birth |  |
| Signature |  |
| Date |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Month of birth |  |
| Year of birth |  |
| Signature |  |
| Date |  |

**6.3 Societies are within the scope of the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. Please confirm that no proposed director is disqualified under that Act:**

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| --- |
| No proposed director is disqualified |

Section 7 – Submission details

* + - 1. **7.1 Please complete the submission checklist below.**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Items |  | Options |
| The society’s rules signed by three members and the secretary |  | Two copies attached - submitting by post |
|  | One copy attached - submitting by email |
| Marked-up copy of rules showing what changes the society is making to the model rules |  | One copy attached |
|  | Not attached - not using model rules |
|  | Not attached – using model rules with no changes |
| Special resolution to convert the company to a society, including the following information:   * Company name & number * Date the resolution was passed * Names of three members appointed to sign the society’s rules and to either: accept alterations to the rules made by the FCA without further consulting the company; or consult the company about any such alterations |  | Three copies attached - submitting by post |
|  | One copy attached - submitting by email |
|  | Not attached - not a company converting to a society |
| Cheque for registration fee made payable to the Financial Conduct Authority  Please indicate below which fee is applicable to you, then select a box on the right to show how you are paying it:  £40 - using model rules with no changes  £120 - using model rules with 1-6 changes  £250 - using model rules with 7-10 changes  £950 - using model rules with 11 or more changes  £950 - not using model rules  No fee - Friendly society converting to a society |  | Cheque attached – submitting this form by post |
|  | Cheque posted separately – submitting this form by email |
|  | No fee - Friendly society converting to a society |

Section 8 – Submitting this form

* + - 1. Please submit a signed, scanned version of your application by email to: mutual.societies@fca.org.uk
      2. Or please submit by post to:
      3. Mutual Societies
      4. Financial Conduct Authority
      5. 25 The North Colonnade
      6. Canary Wharf
      7. London
      8. E14 5HS