

CONSTITUTION OF THE IRISH COMMITTEE OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES
(September 2015)

1. The committee will be called the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences (hereinafter ICHS).
2. The ICHS will act as the representative body for the historical discipline and for historians in Ireland, promoting historical scholarship and public engagement with History; advocating for the discipline as appropriate; providing a forum for historians to discuss matters of common concern; promoting and disseminating research, and encouraging students of history and early career historians.
3. It will be responsible for the discharge of the obligations arising out of Irish representation on the *Comité Internationale des Sciences Historiques*.
4. In order to fulfil its remit outlined in article 2, the ICHS will comprise no fewer than fifteen members who will represent the following bodies: the Irish Historical Society (2), the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies (2), the Irish Economic and Social History Society of Ireland (1), the Irish History Students Association (1) and one each from those bodies listed in the Schedule.
5. Members will normally be nominated by the committee of each of these bodies before 1 May in the year in which the ICHS is re-constituted. While ICHS members will usually serve a three-year term, the committee recognizes the right of each body to determine the term of service of its representative(s).
6. The ICHS will have power to co-opt additional members. One will be the organizer of the biennial Conference of Irish Historians. A second will be a nominee of the body originally represented by the chairperson prior to his/her election. Co-opted members will normally serve a maximum term of three years.
7. Every three years, the ICHS will elect a chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and treasurer. No officer will hold office for a period exceeding six consecutive years.
8. All members of the ICHS will be eligible for re-nomination and re-election as officers.
9. The election of the new committee will be overseen by the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary, and treasurer of the outgoing committee. These officers will make reasonable efforts to ensure that there is adequate regional

representation in nominations (through co-option if required) and that membership reflects all areas and periods of History from medieval to modern.

10. The ICHS will meet at least twice annually, one of which meetings will include the AGM. Attendance at the AGM is open to members of the ICHS and members of current affiliated bodies.
11. The secretary and treasurer will each be responsible for submitting an annual report in advance of the AGM. The secretary will distribute copies to all ICHS members who will be responsible for circulating the reports to the committees of those bodies represented on the ICHS.
12. Any committee member who fails to attend three consecutive ICHS meetings without providing appropriate explanation will be deemed to have resigned. It is open to the nominating body to propose a replacement.
13. The committee will be responsible for organizing the biennial Irish Conference of Historians in conjunction with higher education institutions, usually on the island of Ireland and on a rotational basis.
14. The Annual General Meeting of the committee will normally coincide with the biennial conference. On alternate years, the AGM will take place within 12 months of the biennial conference.
15. The committee will be responsible for overseeing the publication of the proceedings of the biennial Irish Conference of Historians and will endeavor to support a monograph series (Studies in Irish History).
16. The committee will provide ongoing support to an online bibliography of writings on Irish history (Irish History Online).
17. The ICHS will be funded by an annual grant paid by the Higher Education Authority to the committee for its exclusive use.
18. Amendments to this constitution will usually be made at the AGM of the committee or at an EGM (to be constituted of the same membership as the AGM, and convened with one month's notice). A notice of any proposed amendment, proposed and seconded by any two committee members, should be lodged with the secretary of the ICHS at least one month before the AGM or EGM to allow for its circulation in a timely manner. A two-thirds majority of those present will be necessary to carry any such amendment.
19. Should the ICHS by a simple majority decide at any time on grounds of expense or otherwise that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the committee, a meeting of all members will be called. Notice of the meeting,

including the terms of the proposed resolution, will be circulated at least one month in advance. If a decision to dissolve the committee is confirmed by a simple majority at this meeting, the members will have the power to dispose of any assets held by or in the committee's name. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities will be given or transferred in the first instance and in equal measure to the Irish Historical Society and the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies and thereafter to such other charitable institution or institutions having objectives similar to those of the ICHS as the committee may decide. In no circumstances shall the net assets of the ICHS be paid to or distributed among members of the committee.

(This constitution supersedes all previous constitutions and constitutional amendments, specifically those dated December 1938, March 1939, March 1944, July 1955 and November 1968).

Schedule

The following representative groups/societies were invited to join ICHS and accepted:

Archives and Records Association (Ireland)
Catholic Historical Society
Church of Ireland Historical Society
Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society
Group for Historic Irish Settlement
Irish Association of Professional Historians
Irish Genealogical Research Society
Irish History Students' Association
Irish Legal History Society
Irish Network for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine
Irish Society for Archives
Labour History Society
Methodist Historical Society of Ireland
Military History Society of Ireland
Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland
Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland
Society for the Study of Nineteenth-Century Ireland
Sports History Ireland
Transnational Ireland Network
Women's History Society of Ireland

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