



Joint Forum Voluntary and Community Sector Panel Representatives

Selection Criteria 2024- 2027

NICVA is responsible for overseeing the appointment of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Panel members to the Government and Voluntary Sector Joint Forum and will implement a suitable nomination and selection process regarding.

The NICVA Executive is responsible for the selection of VCS Panel members from nominations received. A selection panel made up of 3 members of the NICVA Executive Board will consider and agree appointments to the VCS Panel.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

In agreeing nominees for selection to the VCS Panel, the following criteria will be taken into consideration by the NICVA Selection panel:

1. **Geographical representation.** NICVA will endeavour to ensure membership of the panel reflects a reasonable geographic representation from across Northern Ireland. This includes considering representation from urban and rural areas and the border regions and a balanced representation of national, regional and locally based organisations.
2. **Size of organisation based on income.** NICVA will endeavour to ensure a balanced representation of organisations based on size and scale.
3. **Sectoral balance.** The voluntary and community sector is made up of many interest groups working on or across a diverse range of issues. As many of these interests as possible should be represented across the membership of the VCS panel. In selecting nominees NICVA will seek to establish a broad sectoral balance across the membership of the VCS panel, including addressing any gaps in current representation.
4. **Section 75 categories** will be taken into account, from a monitoring point of view, when considering sectoral representation across the VCS Panel.
5. **Organisational reach and capacity.** It is anticipated that nominees will be able to demonstrate a strong ability to represent and network within and across their particular sub sector or interest group. This includes demonstrable capacity to communicate and engage via established links and networks.
6. **Gender balance.** NICVA will seek to ensure the VCS panel has a balanced representation of both men and women. The representation of women on the panel should not fall below 40%.
7. **Senior level of authority within organisation.** It is anticipated that nominees will be a senior representative of their organisation, with the capacity to act and make decisions on behalf of their organisation.

In addition, to ensure continuity and to support the ongoing delivery of the Joint Forums work plan, NICVA will seek to retain up to 50% of existing VCS panel members.