



Associate Membership Terms & Conditions

1. Introduction

These Terms & Conditions govern Associate Membership of the National Rural Crime Network (“NRCN”). By applying for and maintaining membership, organisations agree to comply with this document and any associated policies.

2. Membership Structure and Tiers 2026

To reflect varying levels of engagement and contribution, NRCN offers the following membership tiers:

2.1 Associate Member



Details of 2026 Associate Membership Tiers can be viewed at:

<https://nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/join-us-packages/#membership>

3. Eligibility

3.1 Membership is open to organisations aligned with NRCN priorities, including:

- Agriculture and land-based industries
- Infrastructure and utilities
- Security, technology, and personal safety
- Academic and research institutions
- Rural advocacy and campaign organisations

3.2 All applicants must demonstrate a commitment to reducing rural crime and supporting rural communities.

3.3 NRCN reserves the right to accept or decline applications.

4. Associate Membership Status

4.1 Associate Members are non-governing partners unless otherwise agreed.

4.2 Associate Membership does not confer voting rights.

4.3 Associate Membership does not constitute endorsement of products, services, or positions.

5. Value Proposition (Associate Member Benefits)

NRCN provides members with:

5.1 Engagement and Insight

- Opportunities to engage with sector stakeholders and contribute to discussions relevant to rural crime
- Access to briefings, reports, and emerging trends (subject to restrictions)

Important Clarification:

Associate Membership ****does not confer, imply, or guarantee access to politicians, government ministers, policing leaders, or senior representatives of organisations such as the National Police Chiefs' Council. Any engagement of this nature is strictly managed by NRCN and occurs only at its discretion.**

6. Associate Member Responsibilities

Associate Members agree to:

- Act in line with NRCN values and mission
- Maintain high ethical and professional standards
- Support NRCN initiatives where appropriate
- Respect confidentiality and data-sharing protocols
- Avoid conduct that could bring NRCN into disrepute

7. Code of Conduct (Annex A – Binding)

All members must adhere to the following principles:

7.1 Integrity

Operate lawfully, ethically, and transparently at all times

7.2 Respect

Engage respectfully with all stakeholders, including victims of crime

7.3 Collaboration

Act in good faith when working with NRCN and other partners

7.4 Safeguarding

Demonstrate awareness of safeguarding responsibilities, particularly in relation to vulnerable individuals

7.5 Non-Exploitation

Membership must not be used to:

- Claim or imply privileged access to policymakers, policing leaders, or government officials
- Misrepresent the nature of the relationship with NRCN
- Use NRCN affiliation primarily for commercial marketing without meaningful contribution

8. Use of NRCN Name and Branding

8.1 Use of NRCN branding requires prior written consent

8.2 Approved usage must follow brand guidelines

8.3 Membership must not be presented as endorsement or accreditation

8.4 Members must not:

- Suggest endorsement by NRCN of their organisation, products, or services
- Imply formal partnerships with government, policing, or political bodies through their NRCN membership

9. Financial Contributions

9.1 Associate Membership is subject to payment of an annual membership fee

9.2 Sponsorship arrangements are agreed separately

9.3 Fees are non-refundable unless agreed otherwise

10. Data Sharing and Information Governance (Annex B – Binding)

10.1 Principles

- Data sharing must be lawful, necessary, and proportionate
- Sensitive information must be handled securely

10.2 Compliance

All members must comply with:

- UK GDPR
- Data Protection Act 2018

10.3 Restrictions

- Information shared via NRCN must not be disclosed without permission
- Intelligence (where shared) must not be used for commercial exploitation

10.4 Data Sharing Agreements

Where required, separate agreements will be put in place for specific projects

11. Conflicts of Interest

11.1 Members must declare any conflicts

11.2 NRCN may restrict involvement where conflicts arise

11A. Representation and Public Statements

- Members must ensure that any public reference to NRCN membership is accurate and not misleading
- Any statements implying influence over public policy, policing, or government must be approved in writing by NRCN

12. Duration and Termination

12.1 Membership lasts 12 months unless otherwise agreed

12.2 Either party may terminate with 30 days' notice

12.3 NRCN may terminate immediately in cases of:

- Breach of terms
- Reputational risk
- Misuse of data or branding

13. Liability

- 13.1 NRCN accepts no liability for member actions
- 13.2 Members are responsible for legal compliance

14. Amendments

- 14.1 NRCN may update these Terms & Conditions
- 14.2 Members will be notified of significant changes

15. Governance and Engagement Framework

To ensure meaningful participation:

- Members may be invited to thematic working groups (e.g. rural crime, domestic abuse, infrastructure theft)
- Associate Members may be invited to participate in advisory forums
- Sponsors may be involved in agreed campaigns or events

Final governance arrangements remain under the control of NRCN.

16. Application and Onboarding Process

16.1 Application

Organisations must submit:

- Membership Application Form
- Disclosure of any conflicts of interest

16.2 Assessment

Applications are reviewed against:

- Strategic fit
- Reputational considerations
- Potential contribution

16.3 Onboarding

Successful applicants will:

- Be briefed on governance, communications, and engagement opportunities

- Be asked to provide logos, quotes and other marketing collateral for social media purposes.

17. Governing Law

These Terms & Conditions are governed by the laws of England and Wales.

18. Acceptance

Membership constitutes acceptance of these Terms & Conditions and associated annexes.