

Date: April 29, 2026

Member note: what happens to membership if SAFE transitions to a charitable trust

Introduction

SAFE is proposing to transition from an incorporated society to a charitable trust. If that transition proceeds, the current voting membership structure would come to an end and governance would sit with the trustees. There would no longer be members with voting rights in the same way as under the incorporated society.

We know many members have supported SAFE for many years, and we want to be clear that this change is about legal structure and governance. It is not a reflection of the value of members or the importance of your support.

What will change

- SAFE would be governed by trustees rather than by voting members.
- Current society memberships would end when the transition takes effect.
- Former members would be invited to remain actively involved as supporters of SAFE.
- Supporters would not have voting rights and would not appoint or remove trustees.

How you can stay involved

- Continue receiving updates and hearing about SAFE's campaigns and priorities.
- Take part in petitions, outreach, events, volunteering, or other supporter activities.
- Offer specialist skills or experience where useful.
- Provide input through supporter surveys or other feedback channels.
- Provide financial support.

The aim is to keep people connected to SAFE in practical and meaningful ways, while keeping governance responsibilities with the trustees.

Membership renewals and fees

- Until any transition takes effect, SAFE remains an incorporated society and current membership arrangements continue.

- New membership applications remain on hold while SAFE considers the proposed transition to a charitable trust.
- If your membership falls due before the transition takes effect, you may renew it as usual if you wish.
- You are also free not to renew if you would prefer not to do so.
- If you renew and the transition then takes effect before the end of that paid membership period, SAFE will look at reimbursing the unused portion of the annual membership fee on a pro-rata basis. Further details will be confirmed if and when the transition proceeds.

Thank you for your support of SAFE. Your contribution to the organisation matters, and we are committed to communicating clearly with members throughout this process.

