



How to write a motion for the Irish Policy Conference

A motion to the Union's Irish Policy Conference should either seek to establish a new policy; extend existing policy or, reiterate current policy.

(N.B. whilst a motion may re-affirm current policy, it is not necessary to do this for it to remain in place. Once agreed, policy is only altered by motions which explicitly seek to do so).

Motions should not require the union to amend its rules and should not be specific to the business of a particular industrial sector.

When writing a motion you should include the following key points: please also ensure you give your motion a title.

Introduction

Motion should commence with words "This Conference..." if the motion was submitted or agreed by a branch or other committee you should amend the wording so that the motions says it is being agreed by the conference.

What it is you want to achieve

Make it absolutely clear what it is you want to achieve. For example this could be:

- lobby the government
- raise awareness among members
- commit the union to run a campaign

Why you want what you want

You should make it clear what the motivating factors behind your motion are. For example it could be because:

- members' jobs are at stake
- members are suffering financial hardship
- pensions are threatened
- government is failing to address a specific issue

Who you want to do it

You should make it clear who should be responsible for taking the motion forward. Possibilities are:

- the union's Executive Council
- the Irish Executive Committee

- the Irish Congress of Trades Unions
- the union's officers or departments
- government

When you want it done by

Always make sure you include a timescale, otherwise it might never get done!

What not to include

Try and keep motions to a reasonable limit of words (300 should be enough).

Remember it is not necessary to include all your arguments in the motion itself, these can be elaborated upon in the moving speech.

Use of language including jargon

When writing your motion bear in mind that not everyone will know jargon including acronyms that may be familiar to the writer. Please write your motion using language that is clear and accessible i.e. easy for a wide audience to understand.

When using acronyms e.g. RISC or ICTU you should always write the title in full the first time you use it and include the acronym in brackets, subsequently you can use the acronym on its own. Using the two examples above you would use Regional Industrial Sector Committee (RISC) or Irish Congress of Trades Unions (ICTU) in the first instance and then you can use just the letters signifying the title.

To view the report/motions passed at the last Irish Policy Conference in 2024, please click into this link <https://unitetheunionireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/report-of-ipc-2024-for-july24-iec.pdf>