



Dear <Member>

Please find attached notice of the **British Society of Animal Science - Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)** to be held on **9<sup>th</sup> June 2025** via Zoom, **13:00–14:00**. The main agenda points relate to the proposed change of the Society's name and constitution to build a stronger place in the Society for our Irish members and help strengthen our Irish membership base. This involves a proposal to change the name from The British Society of Animal Science (BSAS) to The British and Irish Society of Animal Science (BISAS), and associated constitutional changes, to fully recognise Irish representation within the Society's structures and activities and the overall benefits this affords.

Download the BSAS EGM - Agenda

Download the BSAS EGM - Proxy Form

We urge you, as a member of the society, to attend the meeting.

If you are not able to attend but would like to vote please complete the attached proxy and return to [maggie.mitchell@bsas.org.uk](mailto:maggie.mitchell@bsas.org.uk) by 17:00, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

**Joining details:**

This meeting will be held via Zoom. To join this meeting, please use this link: [BSAS EGM 2025 Zoom meeting](#).

We look forward to seeing many of you in June

Kind regards

Maggie Mitchell



## **British Society of Animal Science - Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD  
VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025 AT 13:00**

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. To vote on the proposal from BSAS Trustees to change the Society's name from 'The British Society of Animal Science' (BSAS) to 'The British and Irish Society of Animal Science' (BISAS). This is not a merger of two separate organisations, but a formal recognition that BSAS has, for many years, operated as a collaborative society across both the UK and Ireland.**

**Members are asked to approve this motion and delegate authority to BSAS Trustees to progress the necessary steps to change the Society name.**

### **Benefits**

There are mutual holistic benefits to full integration of Irish colleagues that include a stronger BSAS team to shape the future of animal science with a shared voice within the UK, Ireland, Europe and globally.

The proposed change of name reflects the reality that the British Society of Animal Science has always maintained a strong membership base in Ireland and no differentiation in the rights and responsibilities of members in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Despite the historical lack of distinction between British and Irish members, which is well-recognised among existing members, some confusion about scope exists among non-members, including potential new members from the Republic of Ireland. This might be a constraint on recruitment.

Formally acknowledging the status of the BSAS as a joint British and Irish association will support its activities by facilitating recruitment, growing its activities, and strengthening its position in public debate and policy development in the UK and Ireland. For the British and Irish animal science and associated sectors, we see benefit in bringing together colleagues to support, encourage and grow the sector and its future sustainability;

- Membership and community growth**

The new name will reflect the Society's longstanding cross-border identity, helping to attract and retain Irish members and appealing to early-career researchers who value inclusivity, visibility and a modern professional community.

- **Visibility, credibility and recognition**

A name that clearly represents both the UK and Ireland will strengthen the Society's legitimacy among academic, public, industry and media stakeholders, and help external audiences more easily understand its cross-border role and recognise BSAS as a trusted authority in animal science.

- **Collaboration and international presence**

A British–Irish identity will support stronger international partnerships, increase the Society's standing in global scientific networks and consortia, and ensure a more unified voice in regional and international science and policy discussions, where geographic balance and diversity of representation are valued.

- **Alignment with funding and policy frameworks**

A name that reflects the Society's operational reach across the UK and Ireland will enhance its ability to engage effectively with cross-border funding and policy initiatives, including those from UKRI, DAERA, DAFM and EU Horizon.

- **Academic exchange and innovation**

A shared identity will support deeper collaboration in research, academic mobility and training between institutions in both the UK and Ireland, encouraging exchange of expertise and joint participation in scientific development.

**3. To vote on the proposal from BSAS Trustees to make changes to the BSAS Constitution to formally recognise the importance of our Irish membership and ensure balanced representation from UK and Ireland in the governance and organisation of the Society's activities.**

To update the constitution to incorporate full and active collaboration between the British and Irish animal science sectors with agreed Trustee representation from both. The annual and other scientific meetings and activities undertaken by the Society would be organised to facilitate access from the whole membership to mutual benefit. British and Irish animal scientists, researchers and related industry would speak with one voice. Once drafted, the amended constitution will require formal approval by members (by way of a General Meeting) and will only be implemented once this has taken place.

## Notes:

### Preliminary Poll

- A preliminary poll conducted at the 2025 conference in Galway, showed unanimous support in the change. A further poll sent out to all BSAS members via email, showed a further overwhelming support, with 167 (92%) of respondents in agreement of the proposed changes.

### Why is BSAS considering a name change?

- BSAS is an inclusive society, welcoming members from any country.
- The Republic of Ireland (Irish) has strong engagement, with two past BSAS presidents from Irish and multiple conferences held in the region.
- To better reflect our membership base and strengthen our connection with Irish.
- A constitutional update is also proposed to ensure representation from across the UK and Ireland in governance.
- Goals of the rebrand:
  - Strengthen Irish members' sense of belonging within the society.
  - Increase membership from Ireland

### How will this affect my membership?

- Membership benefits will remain the same, with potential enhancements.

### How will this affect EAAP relationships?

- DAFM (funder of the Irish EAAP membership) are supportive of the name change and the spirit that it fosters and have raised no concerns regarding possible conflict with EAAP.

### Benefits of including Ireland & expanding collaboration

- **Stronger sense of belonging** – Irish members will feel fully included, encouraging growth.
- **Unified voice for animal science** – Greater impact across the UK, Europe, and globally in influencing policies, research funding, and priorities.
- **Expanded networking & CPD opportunities** – More collaboration, joint research, CPD events, and career development avenues.
- **Stronger industry ties** – Many commercial companies operate across both the UK and Ireland; expanded collaboration strengthens connections.
- **Inclusive representation** – Supports BSAS's ambition to grow, welcoming more Irish professionals into a diverse, global network.

### How will governance & structure change?

- Representation from Irish will be formally embedded within the board of trustees.
- Governance structure remains focused on delivering value for members across the UK & Ireland.

### How will this benefit Irish professionals?

- Establishes a formal network for the animal science sector, enhancing career growth.
- Increases visibility of Irish scientists in the UK and internationally.

### General

- To have the right to attend and vote at the Extraordinary General Meeting, members must be fully paid-up members of the British Society of Animal Science SCIO. Any member so entitled may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on their behalf, provided that the proxy form is properly completed and returned to the CEO no less than 48 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting.

**Sent on behalf of BSAS Trustees**

Registered Office: 18 North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5NQ  
Registered Charity No. SC050710

BRITISH SOCIETY OF ANIMAL SCIENCE SCIO (BSAS)

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING - FORM OF PROXY

Form of proxy for use at the BSAS EGM 2025 to be held virtually, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 13:00. Before completing this form, please read the meeting notice, agenda, and the explanatory notes below.

I, *(insert name of BSAS Member)*

NAME:

Being a Member of the British Society of Animal Science SCIO, hereby appoint the Chairman of the Meeting or the following person *(please only complete if appointing someone other than the chairman of the meeting)*:

NAME OF PROXY:

as my proxy to exercise all or any of my rights to attend, to speak and to vote for me on my behalf at the EGM | 9th June 2025 and at any adjournment thereof.

I have indicated with a "x" how I wish my proxy to vote on the resolutions to be proposed at the meeting. I further direct my proxy to vote as they think fit for me and on my behalf on any other matter which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof. If no indication is given, the proxy may vote at his/her/its discretion.

*Please indicate how you wish your proxy to vote by inserting "X" in the appropriate box.*

Proposal	For	Against	Abstain
<b>To vote on the proposal from BSAS Trustees to change the Society’s name from ‘The British Society of Animal Science’ (BSAS) to ‘The British and Irish Society of Animal Science’ (BISAS). This is not a merger of two separate organisations, but a formal recognition that BSAS has, for many years, operated as a collaborative society across both the UK and Ireland.</b>  <b>Members are asked to approve this motion and delegate authority to BSAS Trustees to progress the necessary steps to change the Society name.</b>			

Signature / Date

**Notes:**

- 1 A proxy need not be a Member of the Society. A Member who is entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint another person, as a proxy to exercise all or any of their rights to attend and to speak and vote at the meeting.
- 2 This form must be signed and dated by the Society Member.
- 3 To be valid, the form of proxy, must be received by the BSAS CEO no later than 17:00, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Appointment of a proxy will not prevent the Member from attending the meeting and voting in person.

To direct your proxy how to vote on the resolutions mark the appropriate box with an 'X'. Your proxy will vote (or abstain from voting) as they think fit in relation to any other matter which is put before the meeting.

- 4 Voting at the meeting will be by way of a show of hands (virtual).



**BRITISH SOCIETY OF ANIMAL SCIENCE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 2025  
HELD VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM | MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 13:00**

**MINUTES (draft)**

There were 24 members in attendance, and 13 Proxy votes received.  
Maggie Mitchell, CEO and Catherine Lowe, Operations Executive BSAS also attended the meeting.

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The meeting Chair, BSAS President Helen Warren, welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies received from: Araceli Pinelli Saaavedra, Claire Wathes, David Thomas, Elizabeth Magowan, Gareth Arnott, John Pluske, Michael Lee, Mike Steele, Oswald Matika, Paul Smith, Peter Amer, Peter Williams, Sokratis Stergiadis, Stephen Mansbridge, Tony Lawrence.

The Chair summarised the reason for holding the EGM and the benefits of moving forward with the tabled proposal.

There are mutual holistic benefits to full integration of Irish colleagues that include a stronger BSAS team to shape the future of animal science with a shared voice within the UK, Ireland, Europe and globally.

The proposed change of name reflects the reality that the British Society of Animal Science has always maintained a strong membership base in Ireland and no differentiation in the rights and responsibilities of members in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Despite the historical lack of distinction between British and Irish members, which is well-recognised among existing members, some confusion about scope exists among non-members, including potential new members from the Republic of Ireland. This might be a constraint on recruitment.

Formally acknowledging the status of the BSAS as a joint British and Irish association will support its activities by facilitating recruitment, growing its activities, and strengthening its position in public debate and policy development in the UK and Ireland. For the British and Irish animal science and associated sectors, we see benefit in bringing together colleagues to support, encourage and grow the sector and its future sustainability;

The new name will reflect the Society's longstanding cross-border identity, helping to attract and retain Irish members and appealing to early-career researchers who value inclusivity, visibility, and a modern professional community.



A name that clearly represents both the UK and Ireland will strengthen the Society's legitimacy among academic, public, industry and media stakeholders, and help external audiences more easily understand its cross-border role and recognise BSAS as a trusted authority in animal science.

A British–Irish identity will support stronger international partnerships, increase the Society's standing in global scientific networks and consortia, and ensure a more unified voice in regional and international science and policy discussions, where geographic balance and diversity of representation are valued.

A name that reflects the Society's operational reach across the UK and Ireland will enhance its ability to engage effectively with cross-border funding and policy initiatives, including those from UKRI, DAERA, DAFM and EU Horizon.

A shared identity will support deeper collaboration in research, academic mobility, and training between institutions in both the UK and Ireland, encouraging exchange of expertise and joint participation in scientific development.

The chair asked Maggie Mithell (MM) to bring forward the view of a member not able to be present at the meeting.

'BSAS is a brand that has been established over 30 years since the change from BSAP. It has become and is a world-wide recognised brand in the science of animal science. I believe we all understand what the brand represents, truth and excellence in animal science. There needs to be a very, very strong reason to change the brand identity. It's a bit like asking Cadbury to change the name of their chocolate!!

Introducing the "I" is apparently to widen the brand and be more inclusive of our Irish counterparts – an action to which I have no objection to in terms of the objective. However, we sacrifice a great deal to simply add Ireland. With no disrespect to Ireland.

Why do we not take this opportunity to be more encompassing and develop a name that is inclusive of the world-wide membership of the Society. I propose that "The Universal Society of Animal Science; USAS" would be more inclusive and therefore appropriate. Thereby opening our membership opportunity to a world-wide animal science community.'

MM summarised as follows 'In essence BSAS is recognised, trusted and valued around the world and we could potentially lose what we have / dilute this recognition by changing the name. However, if we are going to change the name don't do it by half and make it totally encompassing with no geographical emphasis e.g. The Society for Animal Science (TSAS).

There were then various comments and questions from members present with further discussion as the 'why' and the 'benefits of moving forward with the proposal.

## **2. The chair then asked for those present to vote on the proposal**

- a) To vote on the proposal from BSAS Trustees to change the Society's name from 'The British Society of Animal Science' (BSAS) to 'The British and Irish Society of Animal Science' (BISAS).

Members are asked to approve this motion and delegate authority to BSAS Trustees to progress the necessary steps to change the Society name.

The vote was carried unanimously by those at the meeting qualified to vote (24) and supported by 11 supporting proxy votes, with 2 voting against.

- b) To vote on the proposal from BSAS Trustees to make changes to the BSAS Constitution to formally recognise the importance of our Irish membership and ensure balanced representation from UK and Ireland in the governance and organisation of the Society's activities.

The vote was carried unanimously by those at the meeting qualified to vote (24) and supported by 11 supporting proxy votes, with 2 voting against.

It was reiterated that any change to the constitution will require formal approval by members (by way of a General Meeting) and can only be implemented once this has taken place.

There were further questions and discussion around timescales. With general consensus that as the process will be subject to responses from various bodies such as OSCR, who have to approve any name change, we will be subject to the response times of these bodies which are difficult to determine.

It was further discussed if the name, presuming all proceeds, would be shown as 'The British and Irish Society of Animal Science' or 'The British & Irish Society of Animal Science' with the majority of support being for the latter option.

### **3. AOB**

No further business was raised.

Meeting Closed.