
BSA position on virtual-only AGMs

Simon Rex <Simon.Rex@bsa.org.uk>
To: James Sherwin-Smith <james.sherwin.smith@gmail.com>

9 February 2026 at 14:51

Dear Mr Sherwin-Smith,

Thank you for contacting the BSA and for your kind words on welcoming our new CEO. I am responding on behalf of the Association.

We do not provide guidance/recommendations on fully virtual AGMs – it is a matter for each building society board.

The BSA does not gather information on the format building societies choose to hold their AGMs.

Kind regards,

Simon Rex
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From: James Sherwin-Smith <james.sherwin.smith@gmail.com>
Sent: 05 February 2026 11:04
To: Sarah Harrison <sarah.harrison@bsa.org.uk>
Cc: Simon Rex <Simon.Rex@bsa.org.uk>
Subject: BSA position on virtual-only AGMs

Dear Sarah (cc Simon),

Congratulations on your recent appointment.

I am writing concerning the recent publication of the government's position on virtual-only AGMs(1), as per my LinkedIn post published earlier today(2).

As you can see from my below enquiry to Simon last year, I have been reviewing governance procedures across the UK building societies. My research has identified that Nationwide is the only building society in the country that holds a virtual-only AGM. All other building societies allow members to attend a place, in person, in keeping with the BSA 1986 and guidance from the FRC(3).

Please could you confirm whether the BSA supports virtual-only AGMs, and what guidance or advice it has provided to members on this matter?

Best regards,

James Sherwin-Smith

1. UK Government - 20th January 2026 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/business-secretary-backs-british-scaleups-with-growth-package-and-red-tape-review>
2. LinkedIn - 5th February 2026 - <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7425126788944748544/>
3. Attachment: email correspondence with the Financial Reporting Council.

On Tue, 6 May 2025 at 17:03, Simon Rex <Simon.Rex@bsa.org.uk> wrote:

Thank you for your email. Unfortunately, the BSA does not collect this information. I can only suggest that you refer to Individual building society websites, especially their AGM and Society Rules pages. A list of our members, including all 42 building societies, with links to their websites, can be found here - <https://www.bsa.org.uk/about-us/bsa-members>