

Indie SAGE Membership (“core group”) - Code of Conduct **(Updated in March 2022)**

This document contributes to the governance structure of Indie SAGE. It recognizes that existing membership has changed since May 2020 and that some have taken temporary sabbaticals from Indie SAGE due to work and other commitments. All group members are asked to agree to the following.

Meetings

Attendance at IndieSAGE meetings and weekly briefings. These are currently held on Thursday evenings. From 21 April 2022, they will be *at most* an hour long from 6:30-7:30pm, with the first half hour for discussing the Friday session and the remaining half hour for any other business as needed (hopefully many weeks will not need the full hour). Weekly briefings are at 1.30pm on Fridays and the aim is for them to be 45 minutes long when there are no special guests. There may be additional ad hoc meetings.

We recognize that all members have other commitments and work in IndieSAGE within their own time. As we move forward into the third year of Indie SAGE (!), we certainly expect that people will not be able to make every week. Nevertheless, we expect members to normally attend at 25%-50% of meetings, since this ensures their active contribution and engagement with IndieSAGE.

If a member cannot attend a weekly Friday briefing, they do not need to attend the Thursday meeting the evening before. If they can attend the Friday briefing, attendance at the preceding Thursday meeting is encouraged.

Note that all members except the Chairs contribute to minuting key actions from meetings on a rotating basis.

Documents

While Indie SAGE is now producing far fewer reports, we do still write shorter statements in response to events and position statements on e.g. future pandemic policy, the Inquiry or new variants. All members are required to agree to the Independent SAGE process for Report Writing. These documents will aim to reflect a collective view of the group, and members are expected to be supportive of this process.

Communication

Members are expected to show respect and tolerance to each other, and take responsibility for maintaining the coherence of the group.

External Representation

Indie SAGE has built a significant public following and reputation. There are some who would wish to oppose our views and damage us. Membership of Indie SAGE requires a commitment to support

Indie SAGE in public fora, and not to bring Indie SAGE into disrepute, including through social media.

Group members are each expert in their own right and have every right to represent their own views. However, if members are discussing policy or topics that are not agreed as an “Indie SAGE” position (either on social or broadcast media), members should be clear that they are speaking in a personal capacity and not on behalf of the whole group.

Confidentiality

We want Indie SAGE members to share their thoughts with each other in an open manner, and without fear of misuse. This is currently undertaken through e mail, WhatsApp, and online meetings. The forwarding of Indie SAGE discussions and communications to those outside the group should only be undertaken with the express consent of all Indie SAGE members.

Sabbaticals

Members can step back from active Indie SAGE participation for work or other commitments as necessary. The Indie SAGE website will indicate which members are currently on sabbatical.