



THE **BA** BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION & HOW IT WORKS

Dear Booksellers,

The Booksellers Association (BA) is a long-established trade association representing booksellers across the UK and Ireland. We are keen to engage members in all our activities, and have been lucky over many years in attracting a wide range of energetic and engaged booksellers to help guide, advise and inspire us in our work. The BA is nothing without its members, and we'd urge you to get involved in what we do.

This document has been put together to give a brief overview of the structure of the BA, all of our committees and special interest groups, regional and national representative groups and online networks.

You can find out more about all of our activities by visiting the BA website for our Annual Review at booksellers.org.uk/annualreview and our Benefits Booklet at booksellers.org.uk/benefitsbooklet

If you have any queries about any of these groups, or would like to get more involved in the BA, please contact kate.gunning@booksellers.org.uk

All best wishes,



Meryl Halls
Managing Director
The Booksellers Association

The Booksellers Association Group Structure

The President and the Vice Presidents of the Booksellers Association are its highest office holders. The current BA President is Fleur Sinclair (Sevenoaks Bookshop), the two Vice Presidents are Debbie James (Kibworth Bookshop) and Mairi Oliver (Lighthouse Bookshop).

The BA Group consists of three companies under the overarching BA umbrella, the Booksellers Association of the United Kingdom & Ireland Ltd: The Booksellers Association (trade association); and two wholly owned subsidiary companies, National Book Tokens and Batch. Each company has its own Managing Director, Board and staff.



The **Executive Chair** of the BA Group is Nic Bottomley, former BA President and co-owner of Mr B's Emporium of Reading Delights. The Executive Chair is a part-time role.

The **Managing Directors** of the BA Group are Meryl Halls (BA), Alex de Berry (National Book Tokens) and Izzy Carlile (Batch). The Managing Directors have full-time roles, as does the Group Finance Director, Philip Goodson.

The **Group Board** is responsible for the running of the BA Group and comprises: the President and Vice Presidents of the BA, the Executive Chair, the MDs of all three divisions, the Chairs of all three divisions, and the Group Finance Director.

The **company boards** oversee company strategy, operations and financials. The Board Members are either experienced booksellers or experienced members of the book trade. The Board Members are appointed by the BA Group based on expertise and experience.

The BA **Divisional Board** comprises the President and Vice Presidents, the Executive Chair and three non-exec bookseller members, currently Carrie Morris (Booka Bookshop), Sarah Dennis (Mostly Books) and Kate Stilborn (Blackwells) as well as the Group Finance Director, the BA MD and the Director of Strategy & Communications, Alan Staton.

The **National Book Tokens Board** comprises William Pettinger (formerly Blackwells) – Chair; Alex de Berry – Managing Director; Philip Goodson – Finance Director; Amanda Truman (Truman Books); Kieron Smith (Blackwells); Lucy Hale (Pan Macmillan); Nic Bottomley (Exec Chair of the BA).

The **Batch Board** comprises Andrew Hutchings (formerly Blackwells) – Chair; Izzy Carlile – Managing Director; Philip Goodson – Finance Director; Alan Lorimer (Technical Consultant); Mel Griffin (Griffin Books); Nic Bottomley (Exec Chair of the BA); Sheila O'Reilly (BA Learning; formerly Dulwich Books); Colin James (formerly Penguin Random House).

BA Advisory Council

In addition to the three BA Group Boards, the BA also has an Advisory Council to represent all BA members. The Advisory Council is made up of experienced booksellers who advise the BA Group Boards on policy issues that affect all BA members. They provide feedback on and suggestions for BA projects, services, events, consumer campaigns and lobbying.

The Advisory Council meets at least four times a year and aims to reflect the diverse demographic balance of the membership. The Advisory Council is chaired by the BA President, supported by the two Vice Presidents: all three are experienced booksellers who also sit on the BA Group and the BA Division Boards.

There are 15-20 Advisory Council Members and they can serve up to two three-year terms (a six-year maximum term must be followed by a break of at least one year before the Member is eligible to return). New Council Members and Officers are nominated by the BA Advisory Council itself, and by BA members, and voted for at the BA Annual General Meeting once a year.

Members receive nomination papers in the early spring of each year.

Contact maggie.kay@booksellers.org.uk for more information on nominations.

If you would like a particular issue to be brought to the notice of an Advisory Council meeting, please email meryl.halls@booksellers.org.uk, Managing Director of the Booksellers Association, who would be happy to hear from you. Alternatively, you should feel free to contact any of the BA Advisory Council Members, who are your representatives and open to hearing from members (they can also be found here: booksellers.org.uk/advisorycouncil)

Name	Company	Email
Fleur Sinclair	Sevenoaks Bookshop	fleur@sevenoaksbookshop.co.uk
Debbie James	Kibworth Books	debbie@kibworthbooks.com
Mairi Oliver	Lighthouse Bookshop, Edinburgh	mairi@lighthousebookshop.com
Dawn Behan	Woodbine Books	dawn@woodbinebooks.ie
Ashley Bruce	WHS	ashley.bruce@whsmith.co.uk
Angie Crawford	Waterstone's	angie.crawford@waterstones.com
Richard Drake	Drake the Bookshop, Stockton on Tees	books@drakethebookshop.co.uk
Caoilfhionn Fay	Dubray	caoilfhionn@dubraybooks.ie
Jake Franklin	National Theatre Bookshop	jfranklin@nationaltheatre.org.uk
Meera Ghanshamdas	Round Table Books	meera.roundtablebooks@gmail.com
Adam Hewson	Hewson Books	adam@hewsonbooks.co.uk
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Marie Moser	Edinburgh Bookshop	marie@edinburghbookshop.com
Sheryl Shurville	Chorleywood Bookshop	sheryl@cwbookshop.co.uk
Will Smith	Sam Read	dr.will.smith@me.com
Yahya Thadha	A I Book Club	info@plodit.co.uk
Emma Corfield-Walters	Book-ish	emma@book-ish.co.uk
Nigel Wyman (Co-opted)	Gardners	Nigel.Wyman@gardners.com

BA Groups, Nations and Regions



The BA has several specialist groups, which are free for any member to join. We currently have specialist groups in children's bookselling, Christian bookselling, and independent bookselling.

The Independent Booksellers Forum (IBF) is an advisory panel which meets informally to advise the BA exec on independent-specific issues. The Children's and Christian booksellers groups have more formal committees, which meet quarterly represent those specialist areas. All members of the specialist groups with formal committees receive copies of the minutes from these committee meetings, so that they can see what issues have been discussed and pass on any feedback or concerns. For more information, please see: booksellers.org.uk/specialistbooksellers

We also seek to actively represent the academic bookselling sector, working with the main academic booksellers through the Advisory Council and its agenda.

If you would like a particular issue to be brought to the notice of a specialist group committee meeting or would be interested in joining one of the groups, please email kate.gunning@booksellers.org.uk or sharon.benton@booksellers.org.uk

Independent Booksellers Forum (IBF) Panel



The BA regularly convenes meetings of a group of experienced independent booksellers from a variety of independent bookshops to discuss issues and concerns related to independent bookselling. The IBF membership also acts as a sounding board for the BA as we create and improve projects and services for members. You can find more information about the panel here: booksellers.org.uk/independentbooksellersforum

If you want a particular issue brought to the notice of an IBF Panel meeting, do email alan.staton@booksellers.org.uk or sharon.benton@booksellers.org.uk

Regional and National Representation

The BA is active in all four nations of the UK and in the Republic of Ireland. We seek to represent and promote the interests of booksellers in all regions and nations.

Our English regions so far comprise Bookselling London and Bookselling North, joining Bookselling Ireland, Bookselling Wales and Bookselling Scotland; see below for more on those.



**Bookselling Ireland,
Bookselling Wales and
Bookselling Scotland**



BA members in Ireland/Northern Ireland have a committee of booksellers to represent them to the wider book trade and to Government, and to share mutual support and advice.

They also act as a sounding board for the BA's nation-specific events, services and campaigns. You can see more information about Bookselling Ireland at booksellers.org.uk/booksellingireland

Bookselling Scotland does not have a formal committee but meets twice a year to plan the Scottish Book Trade Conference and other trade matters, including liaison with Publishing Scotland.

Bookselling Wales is an advisory panel which works with the BA exec team on Welsh-specific issues, Welsh lobbying and the content and structure of the Welsh Book Trade Conference.

If you would like a particular issue to be brought to the notice of a Bookselling Ireland, Bookselling Wales or Bookselling Scotland meeting, please email alan.staton@booksellers.org.uk

Other Action Groups

We also have some other, subject-specific, action groups, made up of booksellers who have experience or interest in a particular area of bookselling. These groups set the agenda for changes and act as champions for their particular area of bookselling. We currently run:

- Supply Chain Working Party
- Sustainable Bookselling Action Group
- Equality & Inclusion Action Group

If you would like a particular issue to be brought to the notice of any of these action groups or would be interested

in joining one of them, please email meryl.halls@booksellers.org.uk or alan.staton@booksellers.org.uk