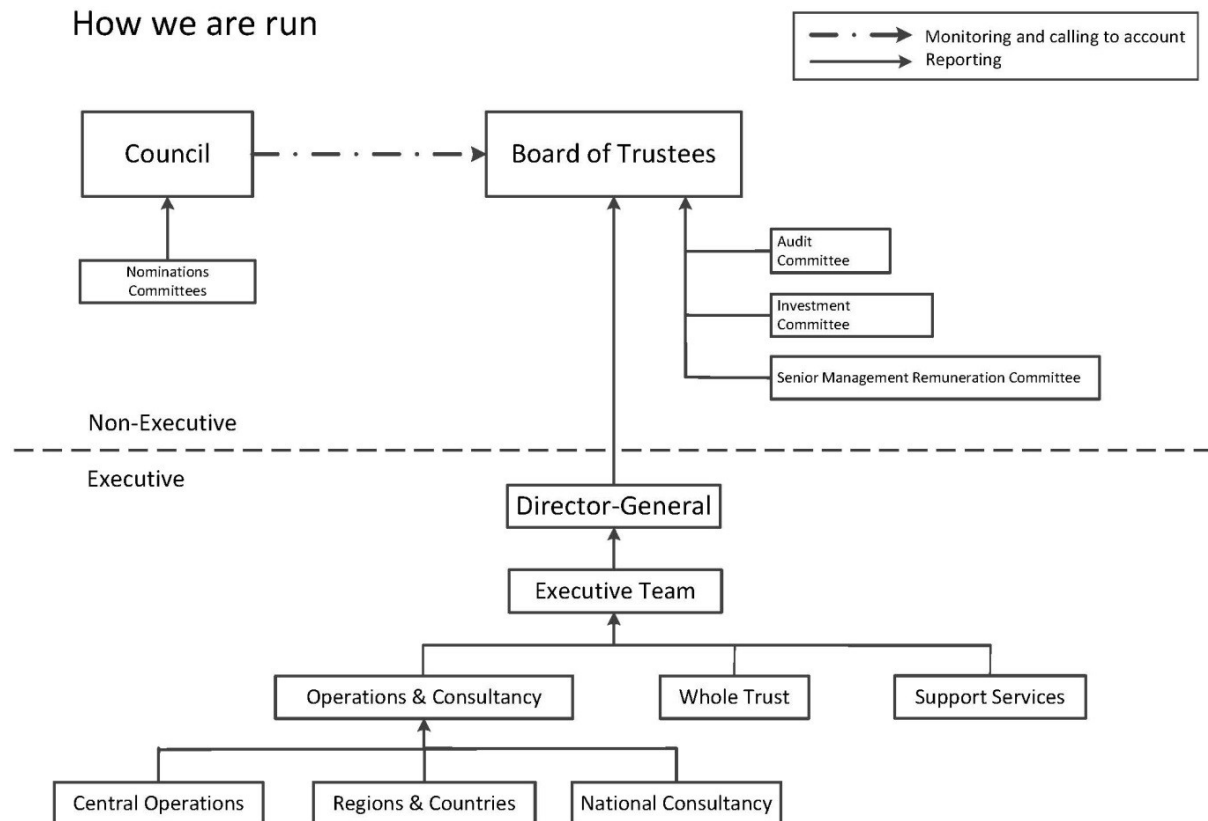


A summary of how the National Trust's governance structure works

Further information is available in the Sixth Edition of the [Governance Handbook](#) published in February 2024.



Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is ultimately responsible for everything that happens at the Trust and for ensuring it meets its statutory purpose. The Board does not manage the Trust; rather its job is to ensure the Trust is managed the way it wishes to be. The Board does this by agreeing a strategy and holding the Director-General and his/her executive team to account for its delivery. There are normally 12 Trustees on the Board but there can be up to 15. Trustees come from a variety of backgrounds from conservation to business. The specific responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are described in section 1.7 of the Governance Handbook.

Board Committees

The Board of Trustees has three standing committees to support its work, to which it delegates specific tasks. The Audit Committee addresses financial reporting, risk and internal controls (Governance Handbook section 3.2). The Senior Management Remuneration Committee makes recommendations about the remuneration and other terms and conditions of senior staff and maintains a succession plan (Governance Handbook section 3.5). The Investment Committee recommends to the Board of Trustees an investment strategy and monitors its implementation (Governance Handbook section 3.8).

The Council

The Council is the guardian spirit of the National Trust as embodied in its core purpose. Its specific responsibilities are to appoint the Trustees (including the Chair and Deputy Chair) and to monitor and support the Board of Trustees' work and performance. The Council debates important issues of strategy and policy and shares its views about them with the Board. There are normally 36 members of Council. Half of these are elected by the membership, and half are appointed by kindred bodies which have an interest in the National Trust's work. These are called Appointing Bodies. The specific responsibilities of the Council are described in sections 1.13.2-1.13.3 of the Governance Handbook.

Nominations Committees

Nominations Committees assist the Council in the appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair; other Trustees; elected members of the Council; Appointing Bodies to the Council; and external members of the Nominations Committees. The roles of these Nominations Committees are described in section 2.3 of the Governance Handbook.

Director-General and Executive Team

The Executive Team is comprised of the Directors chosen by the Director-General to be on the team responsible for the implementation of the strategy, plans and budgets agreed by the Board of Trustees and enacted through a Scheme of Delegation.

Governance Team
January 2025