

# Using consultations and surveys

**Surveys and consultations offer good ways of engaging with members outside of the branch meetings and ensuring that members feel that the union is taking every available opportunity to listen to them.**

While these should obviously not be substitutes for the membership meeting, it must be recognised that meetings can unintentionally discriminate disproportionately against certain sections of our membership.

Consultations and surveys also form good ways of testing membership feeling in the case of low turnouts in meetings.

Used sensitively, the regular use of surveys and consultations can be complementary to the cultivation of branch democracy.

When they are not used, and where meetings are poorly attended, clearly we have a democratic problem.

If you want guidance on when and how to use consultations and surveys as part of your campaigning and branch life, contact your Regional Official in the first instance, or contact the Campaigns Team at [campaigns@ucu.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@ucu.org.uk).