

## Regulation - RCN branches

**Note** - RCN branches are provided for in the RCN Standing Orders (Definitions 1.4) which states that “ ‘Branch’ means a branch of the College in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland recognised by the Council”. This regulation implements that Standing Order and sets out Council’s definition in detail.

1. A “Branch” means all the members within a geographical area which has been recognised as an RCN Branch by the Council following a recommendation by the relevant Board.
2. The purpose of the branch is to help deliver the RCN’s Charter objectives and Strategic Plan through:
  - recruiting, retaining, supporting and developing members
  - encouraging members to become engaged, involved and active in the RCN
  - enabling learning and development, leadership and support for professional and trade union activity
  - providing communication and networking opportunities for RCN members locally
  - providing a focus for local RCN visibility and local activity
  - providing a local RCN structure and its associated accountability
  - linking with the relevant Board to ensure that the views of branch members are taken into account in all consultations and that decisions and actions of the Board are communicated to members in the Branch
  - submitting proposed agenda items for RCN Congress and ensuring that the branch is represented at Congress.
  - supporting nominations for election to RCN Council, RCN President and Deputy President, the Agenda Committee and other entities as determined by as determined by the Charter, Standing Orders and Regulations.
3. The geographical boundaries of the branch will be agreed by Council on the recommendation of the relevant Board
4. Any change in title or boundary of the branch will be agreed by Council on the recommendation of the relevant Board.
5. All RCN members who have identified their main place of work as being within the branch’s geographical boundary will be members of the branch.
6. In the case of nursing students their place of study or placement must be situated within the branch’s geographical boundary.
7. Any RCN member who is not employed, or who are home-based workers, and whose home address falls within the geographical boundary will be a

member of the branch.

8. A member who is retired may choose to stay as a member of the branch of their former workplace, even though their home address may not be within the geographical boundary of the branch.
9. All branch members will have full voting rights in respect of all branch elections.
10. The branch may be dissolved, merged with another branch or have its geographical boundaries altered by approval of Council on the recommendation of the relevant board.
11. A Board should seek the approval of Council to carry out a review of the branches in its country/region. The Board will draft terms of reference for the review; and consult the country/regional membership on the terms and outcomes of the review. Council will approve the terms of reference for the review; any recommendations for change and will receive a report against the agreed outcomes of the review two years after the changes have been implemented.
12. In the event that Council decides to carry out a UK wide review the branch structure it will approve terms of reference for the review and there will be a member consultation on the terms of reference before the review commences. The outcomes of the review will then be consulted on before Council considers any recommendations for change.
13. The branch will elect a committee to manage the affairs of the branch and to ensure that it meets its purposes as set out in this regulation.

Regulation approved by RCN Council

Date: 3 December 2015