

RCN UK Representatives' Spring Conference 2024

**Delta Marriott Hotel Bristol City Centre
7-8 March 2024**

Programme

Learning outcomes

At the end of the conference participants will:

1. Network to connect with other RCN reps and staff to support each other in trade union activity.
2. Understand their active role in supporting the Safe Staffing Campaign.
3. Further develop their knowledge in creating a healthy workplace for our members.
4. Prepare action plans for their workplace to encourage members to actively engage with the forthcoming general election and have their voices heard.
5. Utilise the updates from a legal perspective and in the approach to Equalities to achieve the best outcomes for our members.

DAY 1

12.00	<p>Registration, lunch, exhibition and networking</p> <p>During this time there will be information stands and staff available to answer your questions. Members of your UK representative committees want to hear from you during the conference. Come and meet them, share your priorities as a rep, and let them know what support and resources you need in your rep role.</p>
13.00	<p>Welcome and opening remarks from the Chair Phil Cole, Chair of UK Stewards Committee</p>
13.10	<p>Welcome to the South West Region Lucy Muchina, Regional Director, RCN South West</p>
13.20	<p>RCN General Secretary & Chief Executive's Address Professor Pat Cullen, RCN General Secretary & Chief Executive</p>
14.00	<p>Unsafe staffing: understanding the crisis Professor Nicola Ranger, RCN Chief Nurse</p> <p>Professor Jane Ball, Professor of Nursing Workforce Policy, Southampton University</p>

DAY 1	
	<p>Our members see daily the unfolding crisis in nursing staffing levels. Nowhere and no health setting is immune from the impact. What suffers? Our members, and ultimately their ability to deliver the right standard of patient care.</p> <p>We are joined by Professor Jane Ball, Professor of Nursing Workforce Policy at Southampton University, and Professor Nicola Ranger, RCN Chief Nurse, who will together set out the compelling evidence that reveal the human cost of current nurse staffing levels, and what route the RCN is embarking on to tackle the crisis.</p>
14.45	Break with networking and exhibition viewing
15.15	<p>Reps Tackling the Crisis</p> <p>Lena Johnson, RCN England Professional Lead (Workforce) Janine Compston, RCN Steward, Northern Ireland <i>Using the RCN's Workforce Standards</i></p> <p>An overview of the RCN's workforce standards and a case study of how reps have used the standards, followed by group work at the tables. The session and group work will look at using the RCN's Ask Listen Act alongside the checklists that accompany the standards.</p> <p>Kim Sunley, Head of Health, Safety and Wellbeing <i>Using health and safety legislation as a lever to improve working conditions</i></p> <p>An overview of how health and safety risk assessment and workplace inspections can be used as a lever for improvements, followed by group work at tables using a combination of scenarios and tools.</p> <p>George Woods, Associate Director, Activism Academy <i>What role can the Activism Academy play?</i></p>
17.00	<p>Closing remarks from the Chair Phil Cole, Chair of UK Stewards Committee</p>
17.05	Close
19.00	Welcome drink - pick up your complimentary soft drink
19.30	Sit down for dinner
21.00-21.30	End of dinner

DAY 2	
9.00	<p>Opening remarks from the Chair Fiona Holley, Chair of UK Learning Reps Committee</p>
9.15	<p>Menstrual Wellbeing at Work - creating healthy workplaces for our members Ginisha Vekaria, Wellbeing Programme Manager, Endometriosis UK</p>
10.15	Break with networking and exhibition viewing
10.45	<p>Are you General Election ready? Liam Beattie, RCN Public Affairs Adviser</p> <p>Where do party manifestos sit on nursing, health and social care, workforce and other issues our members care about? How can reps engage with members to encourage members to participate in the democratic process and vote for nursing?</p>
12.00	<p>Lunch and exhibition</p> <p>Time for a lunch break which runs from 12.00-13.30. Visit the exhibition, meet your national committees and RCN employment relations staff to ask questions and pick up resources, then join a fringe event of your choice.</p> <p>FRINGE EVENTS 12.30-13.20</p> <p>Choose from the following fringe events (spaces are limited and offered on a first come first served basis):</p> <p>Building a powerful RCN in your workplace Stephanie Goodwin, RCN Head of Organising This session will explore different types of power, particularly the power that RCN members in the workplace have that can be used if barriers to action are removed.</p> <p>Levelling up Employment Standards Gary Kirwan, RCN National Officer – Team Leader, Employment Relations Chelsea Bleasdale, RCN National Officer, Employment Relations Find out more about the development of RCN employment standards for all workplaces and sectors. Share your views on what should be included.</p> <p>Legal Update John Halson, RCN Head of Legal (Employment) Chris Musgrave, RCN National Officer, Employment Relations This session will focus on reasonable adjustments and the role of reps in flagging potential issues that could give rise to a better outcome for members. It will also include a brief update from Chris on recent changes to the rules around partial retirement in the NHS.</p>
13.30	<p>RCN EDI strategy: Your chance to shape the future Wendy Irwin, RCN Diversity and Equalities Coordinator Edleen John, Half the Sky</p>

DAY 2	
14.30	Closing address RCN President, Sheila Sobrany
14.50	Closing remarks from the Chair Fiona Holley, Chair of UK Learning Reps Committee
15.00	Conference closes