

RCN Forum Annual Report 2023

Forum Name: Defence Nursing Forum (DNF)

Introduction:

The Forum promotes the principles of defence nursing practice to everyone in the nursing and midwifery community and is the link for everyone in defence with their nursing professional body.

Membership of the forum

- The chair is Dr Janet Kelly, Army Reserve
- Steering Group members are:
 - Lt Natalie Anderson, RN
 - Capt Kendal Moran – Army
 - Flt Sgt Michelle Maund
 - SSgt Kirsty Hancock, Representation and communication with Defence Healthcare Assistants – link member
- Currently, there are 1089 members (first choice 581)

Achievements in 2023 and last report: (Outputs and outcomes)

- Updated DNF Charter
- Attendance at RCN Congress – Lt Natalie Anderson, and fringe event promoting the forum.
- Continued to effectively use Facebook & Twitter communication to greater effect.
- Successful and well attended '**Defence Nurse Clinical Education Webinar**' - chaired by Lt Natalie Anderson
- Greater use of twitter feed (now X) Now 630 follows - double from last year.
- Attended and promoted the forum through attendance and presentation at the Defence Nurses Conference, Defences Medical Services HQ at Whittington Barracks, Staffordshire.
- Lt Col Janet Kelly in April 2023 presented '**Enhancement of Military Medical Ethics Knowledge and Understanding for Military Nurses through Digital Technology**' RCN International Education Forum Conference, Birmingham.

Academic papers accepted

- Bricknell, M and **Kelly, JC** (2023), 'Ethical Tensions in Delivering Defence Engagement (Health)', *BMJ Military Health*, DOI: [10.1136/military-2022-002318](https://doi.org/10.1136/military-2022-002318)

Contribution to Consultations/Policy development

Collated all Forums feedback for the RCN Governance Review

Plans for 2023:

1. Revisit the direction of the forum in the forthcoming strategy day in Feb/Mar 2024 i.e., given the low committee members to discuss where we want to go and what we want to do. What can we do with limited personnel?

2. Invite key senior personnel from defence nursing to attend the strategy day in order to constructively align, where possible with their strategic aims for defence nursing
3. With the forum professional lead to discuss a more effective recruitment strategy to highlight the forum with the aim of attracting applicants wishing to be a committee member
4. Continue with Twitter feed and Facebook posts (to be updated) t on all issues current to defence nursing.
5. Use of podcast related to military matters.
6. Defence Nursing social media – Continue to inform followers on current RCN DNF work and events, open dialogue with followers on Forum Facebook page and link info onto the Twitter account and vice versa. We will continue with both Facebook and Twitter as both all equally valuable but target different audiences.
7. Participation at Congress 2024.
8. The RCN is becoming more digitised so resources will continue to become more accessible which can be interlinked into the social media feeds for the DNF.

Date: 21 Nov 2023

Dr Janet Kelly