

Regulation

RCN Council members - fit and proper persons criteria

RCN Council Members should meet the following criteria to ensure they are fit and proper to undertake their role. This Regulation supplements the provisions in the RCN's Royal Charter Rule 1.

Council members and prospective Council members will be asked to:

- Sign a declaration that they will abide by the Nolan Principles of Public Life, as adapted for RCN and set out in the schedule to this Regulation.
- Provide truthful information, at the time of nomination, to demonstrate that they meet the qualities, skills, and experience required for the role as described in the role descriptor for Council members.
- Sign a declaration
 - if employed that they have the support of their employer to carry out the role, as well as the time and availability.
 - if a student that they have the support of their tutor to carry out the role as well as the time and availability.
- At the time of nomination and throughout the time of their office declare any potential conflict of interests.

Good character, honesty and integrity

Council members must not:

- Have been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence or been convicted elsewhere of any offence which, if committed in any part of the United Kingdom, would constitute an offence unless the conviction is considered spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974) or equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland.
- Be disqualified from acting as a company director or charity trustee.

- Have been erased, removed or struck off the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Register, or any other register of professionals maintained by a regulator of health or social care, or have any active cautions from such a regulator against their name.
- Be included in the children's barred list or the adults' barred list maintained under section 2 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, or in any corresponding list maintained under an equivalent enactment in force in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Financial credibility

Council members must not:

- Be an undischarged bankrupt or a person whose estate has had sequestration awarded in respect of it and who has not been discharged.
- Be the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim bankruptcy restrictions order or an order to like effect made in Scotland or Northern Ireland.
- Be a person to whom a moratorium period under a debt relief order applies under Part VIIA (debt relief orders) of the Insolvency Act 1986.
- Have made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, creditors and not been discharged in respect of it.
- Have been held by HMRC not to be a fit and proper person in accordance with the fit and proper persons test for charity trustees.

Note – The Chair of Council, the Council, Chief Executive & General Secretary and the RCN Group Secretary each have the right to request evidence from a serving Council member, or a candidate for a Council position, that they meet the above criteria.

Schedule
Nolan Principles as Adapted for RCN

1. Selflessness

Council members must act solely in the interests of RCN and its members.

2. Integrity

Council members must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They must not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

3. Objectivity

Council members must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

4. Accountability

Council members are accountable to RCN and its members for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

5. Openness

Council members should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from members unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

6. Honesty

Council members should be honest, truthful and act with integrity at all times.

7. Leadership

Council members should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support these principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.