

## Council report for members

---

**Report to members of the confidential meeting of RCN Council meeting held on Wednesday 11 March 2015 at RCN HQ, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN and by teleconference.**

1. At this one day meeting of RCN Council we discussed a number of important issues.

### **NHS pay and Excess Hours Campaign**

2. We received an update from Josie Irwin, Head of Employment Relations, on the outcomes of the meeting of the NHS Staff Council which had taken place on 9 March. We heard that the Staff Council had agreed to accept the Government's pay offer for NHS Staff in England of 1% for all staff up to point 42 from April 2015 up to band 8c.
3. This agreement followed consultation by the 13 trade unions with their members in England who are on Agenda for Change pay, terms and conditions, with their members.
4. We also heard that, following negotiations, it had been agreed that the new cap on redundancy agreements would not be applicable to those redundancy arrangements which had started before 1 April.
5. Josie informed us that the pay offer in Wales had also been accepted and in Scotland, where the usual process is being followed, the Pay Review Body will report on Thursday 12 March. Negotiations are continuing in Northern Ireland with GMB, Unite and Unison expected to take strike action on Friday 13 March.
6. We also received an update on our Payment for Excess Hours Worked campaign which is now running in a number of sites in England and Northern Ireland. Although it is still relatively early days the campaign has been generating enthusiasm among members and attention from other trade unions and employers in the targeted sites. It is yielding a lot of useful information about different employment practices which the RCN will be able to use to challenge the anticipated threat to unsocial hours arrangements.

## **RCN Foundation trustees**

7. We agreed that, in future, RCN appointed trustees of the RCN Foundation will be appointed for a period of four years, irrespective of their term on Council. This will provide continuity for the Foundation Board.
8. We also agreed, in order to fill a current RCN Council appointed vacancy on the Board, by advertising for expressions of interest amongst the membership as a whole. Ideally we are looking for someone who has experience in managing grants and preparing project and research grants. We will advertise the vacancy shortly but please let us know at [governance.support@rcn.org.uk](mailto:governance.support@rcn.org.uk) if you would be interested and we will send you details of the application process.

## **Chief Executive & General Secretary's appointment**

9. Following Peter Carter's resignation we agreed the recruitment process for his successor.

## **AGM 2015**

10. We agreed the agenda and notice for the 2015 Annual General Meeting which will take place on Wednesday 24 June at 2.30 pm at the Bournemouth International Centre. There are no special resolutions this year but we hope as many members as possible will attend to discuss the activities of the organisation over the past year.

## **Congress 2015**

11. Stuart McKenzie reported back from recent meetings of the Congress Agenda Committee.
12. Registration has now opened and more details can be found on the RCN website at [www.rcn.org.uk/congress2015](http://www.rcn.org.uk/congress2015)
13. We agreed the Congress business agenda and this will be published on the website in the next few days. Agenda Committee hopes that the agenda will stimulate interesting and informative debates which will help put nursing at the top of the political agenda following the General Election.
14. The Agenda Committee has left plenty of room for emergency items and we would like to encourage submitting entities to put items forward on new and

emerging issues. You can find out more about how to do this [here](#).

15. We also agreed the Fellowships and Honorary Fellowships that we will be awarding this year.

16. We have extended the deadline for nominations for the Award of Merit until 3 April 2015 and would encourage you to put forward members who you think have particularly contributed to the success and work of the RCN. More details can be found [here](#).

### **General election**

17. With the UK General Election around the corner we had an update from Fiona Johnson, Director Communications, on our manifesto and our Nursing Counts campaign. The manifesto was developed following consultation with members and we are using it to lobby and influence all prospective MPs in the run up to the election. It is incredibly important that the nursing voice is heard during the election campaign and to ensure that our perspective is reflected in the policies of the new Government, whoever is elected.

18. You can find out more on the [Nursing Counts](#) pages of the RCN website.

### **Council Review**

19. We were updated on the latest phase of our Legal and Governance Review – the review of Council itself. Members of the Council Review Group attended Council to observe how well we are meeting our responsibilities as Council members. We were also updated on progress to date and the next steps of the review group. Members and external stakeholders will be consulted as part of the review and we will be sending out further communications around this in due course.

### **RCN Elections 2015**

20. We approved the election procedures and timelines for the 2015 RCN elections. This year we will be electing new members to RCN Council as well as to the Agenda Committee and the Student Committee.

21. Nominations for Council and the Student Committee will open during Congress week in June. Nominations for new members of the Agenda Committee will open on Monday 16 March – details will be on the election page of the RCN website [here](#) from that date.

22. Please think about whether you or any of your fellow RCN members could take on one of these important roles. If you would like an informal chat about what any of the roles involve please email the governance team at [elections@rcn.org.uk](mailto:elections@rcn.org.uk) and they will be in touch.

### **Business Committee**

23. Finally we received an update from David Harding-Price as Chair of the Business Committee.

24. The committee had endorsed a recommendation to find alternative accommodation for the West Midlands Office on the expiry of its lease.

25. We were also updated on the RCN's new website project and the new membership database and were assured that both projects are developing according to plan.

Michael Brown  
Chair of RCN Council  
11 March 2015