



Royal College of Nursing
Shaping nursing since 1916

Report to members of the meeting of RCN Council held on Wednesday 2 March 2016 at the Hilton Leeds City Hotel, Leeds

1. This was the first meeting of our new Council since the elections last year and we welcomed all our new members.

Update from Janet Davies, Chief Executive & General Secretary

2. Janet updated us on the current key issues.
3. She highlighted the success of the Safe Staffing Bill in Wales which has passed through stage 4 of the law-making process in the National Assembly for Wales and now only needs Royal Assent to become law. This sets a good precedent for the rest of the UK.
3. Janet also congratulated members and staff in Northern Ireland for securing a pay settlement as well as a commitment that the recommendations of the Pay Review Body will be respected.
4. We noted that the RCN was in the process of finalising its response to the Health Education England consultation on the proposed nursing associate and that we were still waiting for the consultations to be published on the implementation of changes to the student bursary in England, and on apprenticeships.
5. Janet also updated us on her recent meetings with the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, and with Baroness Mary Watkins.
6. Finally, Janet spoke about the events taking place to celebrate the RCN centenary and we noted that there had been over 800 entries to the centenary photographic competition.

RCN awards

7. We approved the recommendations from the Awards Committee for new Fellowships and Awards of Merit which will be announced at this year's Congress in June.

8. We also noted that it is not too late to submit nominations – just go to [this web page](#) for more information including how to nominate members for Representatives of the Year.

Congress 2016

11. We approved the [business agenda for Congress 2016 which will be published on the RCN website](#) in the next few days, as soon as we have contacted all the members who submitted items to provide them with feedback.
12. Chair of Congress, Stuart McKenzie updated us on preparations for Congress. Everything is progressing well for a good Congress in Glasgow.
13. We also noted that we will not be using an electronic voting system this year at Congress and that members will be fully briefed on the card voting system well ahead of the event.

Elections 2016

14. We agreed the timetable for the elections for 2016. Nominations will open in June for President and Deputy President, Chair and Vice Chair of Congress, student member of Council, as well places on all the country and regional boards and UK representative committees.
15. We also agreed to recommend to the membership a change to the nominations process to enable two individual members to nominate a candidate in our elections. This will require a vote at the AGM in June and we will send out more details about this in due course.

Council Review

16. Most of our afternoon was spent discussing the recommendations from the Council Review Group. This was the group, I chaired, that has been undertaking the final part of the Legal and Governance Review.
17. The group was set up in 2014 to review the RCN's governance structure and how it works with the executive.
18. The group has examined the way the current governance structure works through carrying out desk-top reviews, meeting observations and interviews with members of the current structure.
19. The report sets out the views of the 10,000 members who have fed in their views through a member survey; board, branch, forum and committee discussions and interviews.

20. Council gave me the green light to present our findings and recommendations to members at the AGM in June when there will be a vote on the proposed changes to the current arrangements.
21. Consequently, we will be attending your board meetings in the next few months and aiming to talk to as many members as we can about the proposals. We will also ensuring that members are informed of the findings of the report and the proposed changes through all the usual RCN communication channels which will include RCN Bulletin, Activate, the RCN website and, of course, social media.

Michael Brown, Chair of RCN Council
March 2016