

# Could you be...

## ... an RCN Council member?

### Role summary

- Ensure that the RCN delivers its statutory purposes through its Royal Charter and Standing Orders and is compliant with trade union and company legislation.
- Be accountable for the affairs and activity of the College.
- Make decisions and delegate authority for the affairs and activity of the college.
- Act as advocates of the RCN.
- Provide leadership and direction, and ensure the RCN has a clear vision and strategic plan and is financially sustainable.
- Act as guardians of the assets of the RCN.
- Appoint the Chief Executive & General Secretary.
- Provide advice and expertise on nursing, health and employment issues.
- Seek and provide assurance that the RCN meets its targets.
- Ensure appropriate risk management and internal control.

### Council members hold a key role as governors of the RCN. They:

- are accountable to the members for delivering the objects in the Royal Charter and Standing Orders and ensuring compliance with trade union and company law
- contribute strategic thinking and agree policy
- act as a critical friend to the RCN, providing overview and scrutiny
- act as an advocate for and voice of members in the constituency which elects them
- champion and promote the RCN as well as nursing and its contribution to health and wellbeing, wherever and whenever they can.

### The role

This role is essential to the work of the College, both as a trade union and professional organisation. Council members are at the forefront of all activities and act in a way that strengthens the RCN and nursing as a profession.

### Key responsibilities

- Upholding corporate decisions.
- Attending Council meetings, development sessions, the Annual General Meeting and Congress.
- Joining Council committees, governance committees and sub-committees as agreed.
- Advising on specific professional issues and providing a sounding board for staff.
- Lending their own expertise to the RCN and signposting to other experts who can help the RCN.
- Assisting with policy development and providing external reference points.
- Being a member of their constituency board or committee (for example, country or regional board, Student or Health Practitioner Committee) in line with the appropriate role descriptors; unless they are an ex-officio member of Council (President, Deputy President, Chair of Congress).
- Undertaking specific activity on behalf of the RCN as discussed and agreed with the Chair of Council and the Chief Executive & General Secretary.
- To actively foster good relations with members, stakeholders and staff of the RCN.
- To promote membership of, and engagement with, the RCN in every arena.

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## What we are looking for

- A sound understanding of nursing and health issues across the UK and internationally.
- An understanding of, and commitment to, the RCN, its purpose and its work.
- The ability to listen to and can speak up for RCN members.
- A passion for nursing and wanting to make a difference.
- Objectivity, fairness, independence of mind, integrity, wisdom, discretion, good judgement and the gravitas to be taken seriously at the highest levels UK-wide and internationally.
- Integrity and commitment to act in the best interests of the RCN without regard to your personal interest or benefit.
- Strategic vision and the ability to focus on practical issues.
- Awareness of how the world is changing politically, economically and socially.
- The ability to give direct and honest opinions, and add value to decision making by offering different perspectives and constructive suggestions.
- A readiness to take and be accountable for decisions.
- To be willing to abide by the RCN's Dignity Charter.
- Commitment to the role and an understanding of the time required.
- Willingness and openness to undertake personal development and training to be able to carry out an effective governance role.

## How to become an RCN Council member

- Council elections take place every two years.
- Candidates must meet the criteria which is set out in the election procedure document published when nominations open.
- Candidates should complete a nomination form and provide biographical information and an election statement.

All forms and full details of the elections can be found at:

**[www.rcn.org.uk/elections](http://www.rcn.org.uk/elections)**

## Find out more

**[www.rcn.org.uk/elections](http://www.rcn.org.uk/elections)**

**[www.rcn.org.uk/rcncouncil](http://www.rcn.org.uk/rcncouncil)**

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The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice and shapes health policies.

**[www.rcn.org.uk](http://www.rcn.org.uk)**