

Role Descriptor: Deputy President of the Royal College of Nursing

Title: Deputy President

Reporting To: Council

Basis: In accordance with RCN Standing Orders, the Deputy President is elected for a two-year term from amongst the RCN membership. Any individual occupying the role of Deputy President shall be eligible for re-election for one further term only.

Time commitment (including meetings): The estimated time commitment for the RCN Deputy President is around three to four days per month. This includes formal planned and ad hoc meetings and attending events. The RCN Council meets at least 5 times per year in person at RCN HQ (Cavendish Square, London), hybrid or online. Ad hoc meetings of Council may be required between planned meetings for timely discussion and/or decision making.

The Deputy President is the ex-officio Vice Chair of the Awards Committee.

Eligibility: The Deputy President of the Royal College of Nursing must be a fully paid-up member of the Nurse membership category and must have been in membership for five consecutive years immediately prior to the close of nominations. They must also adhere to any other relevant eligibility requirements set out in the RCN Elections Policy and Processes document.

Purpose of the role

The Deputy President of the Royal College of Nursing acts as an ambassador to promote, support and represent the RCN and the art and science of nursing, deputising for the President in their absence. The purpose of the role is to assist the President in ensuring that:

- The RCN and the nursing profession is positively promoted, supported and represented by its members across the UK and to nursing staff across the globe.
- The RCN and the nursing profession is positively promoted, supported and advocated to external stakeholders and the public across the UK and internationally.

The Deputy President should not involve themselves in the day-to-day administration and operations of the RCN, but may, from time to time, work with RCN staff members to achieve results. When representing the RCN in a public space in their capacity as Deputy President and an ex-officio Council member, they should ensure that their actions do not bring the RCN and profession into disrepute, and they should take care not to take public positions contrary to those of the RCN.

Key responsibilities of the role include:

- Working collaboratively with the President in the best interests of the RCN.
- Fostering and maintaining constructive working relationships with the Chair of Council, the RCN Vice Chair of Council, Council members, RCN Chief Executive & General Secretary and the RCN Executive Team to ensure effective leadership.
- Supporting the President in establishing two-way communications with the membership, across the four nations and – in collaboration with the RCN Council and Executive Team – building relationships with key senior external stakeholders.
- Promoting membership of, and engagement with, the RCN in every arena.
- Acting in the best interests of the RCN to enhance its reputation as a respected trade union and professional body for nursing staff.
- Upholding the values, decisions and policies of the RCN and acting as a role model to members and to nursing more widely.
- Demonstrating a strong commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and leading by example.
- Deputising for the President when required or in their absence by:
 - Attending official functions on behalf of the RCN – including state, government, civic, social and ceremonial events in the UK and abroad.
 - Attending official RCN functions.
 - Attending RCN meetings and events including conferences, awards ceremonies and visiting RCN members in their workplaces to gain insights and feedback.
 - Attending external meetings and conferences on behalf of the RCN in the UK and abroad.
 - Chairing the RCN Annual General meeting, and any other General Meetings, in accordance with the RCN's Standing Orders.
- As an ex-officio RCN Council member, acting as a governor of the organisation and in accordance with the Council member role descriptor.
- Participating in committees and panels as necessary and acting as Vice Chair of the Awards Committee.
- Attending the RCN's annual Congress
- Undertaking specific activity on behalf of the RCN, where directed and required.

- Reporting on activities as Deputy President to Council and to the membership as a whole.

Person specification:

In addition to the requirements for a Council member, the Deputy President should be able to demonstrate:

1. A sound understanding of nursing and health issues across the UK and internationally.
2. An understanding of, and commitment to, the RCN, its purpose and its work.
3. The ability to listen to RCN members, advocate on their behalf and to demonstrate sound cultural and political sensitivity.
4. 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.
5. Integrity and commitment to act in the best interests of the RCN without regard to your personal interest or benefit.
6. Awareness of how the world is changing politically, economically and socially.
7. The ability to communicate clearly, give direct and honest opinions, and add value to decision making by offering different perspectives and constructive suggestions.
8. Skill and ability as a public speaker.
9. A commitment to ensuring effective member engagement.
10. Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to influence.
11. The ability to drive through change.
12. Commitment to the role of Deputy President.
13. Demonstrate active commitment to RCN Respect Charter, promoting EDI and Nolan Principles.