Could you be...?

RCN elections and appointments
Could you be...

- Agenda Committee member
- Branch Committee member
- Chair or Vice Chair of Congress
- Council member
- Council sub-committee member
- country or regional board member
- Forum Steering Committee member
- Health Practitioner Committee member
- President or Deputy President
- Students Committee member
- UK Learning Representatives Committee member
- UK Safety Representatives Committee member
- UK Stewards Committee member
An opportunity for you, and for nursing

Council and board members are responsible for the overall governance of the RCN whilst our representative committee members ensure our members’ voices are heard and influence policy and decisions that affect both members and nursing itself.

Putting yourself forward for a role offers you unique learning and networking opportunities.

Whatever your specialty, this is an opportunity to be an essential part of the RCN.

Nursing and health face some of the biggest challenges for decades in both the professional and trade union arenas. By becoming more involved with the RCN, you could bring a different perspective to the way things work and the issues being tackled.

You can be a voice for members and for the RCN, whilst extending your expertise and experience in a broad range of areas.

Whatever role you take on, it will be fulfilling and rewarding.
Why get involved?

By taking on a Council, board or representative committee role, you will have the opportunity to get involved with the RCN on matters relevant to members and the wider nursing profession.

In return for your commitment you will be able to champion causes and act on behalf of our members whilst expanding your own skills, knowledge and experience.

Put yourself forward and:

• gain support from a close network of RCN staff and representatives
• access development and continuing learning opportunities
• have the opportunity to put your views forward
• attend high profile meetings and events.

The RCN ensures it stays a true membership organisation by taking good governance and representing members very seriously. We are not just led by members but accountable to them too.

How much time is needed?

Most roles require attendance at a certain number of meetings per year as a minimum, as well as some commitment and time in between meetings. However, as our technology continues to improve, we are increasingly using teleconference and online ways of working.

For more details, please read the individual role descriptor of the role you are interested in at www.rcn.org.uk/elections or www.rcn.org.uk/appointments or email elections@rcn.org.uk

*Please note that council, committee and board members are able to claim expenses but they are not paid roles.
Before you put yourself forward for an RCN role, we do ask you to speak with your manager and seek their support. Our staff will also speak to your manager (or tutor if you’re a student) if it helps.

What about my employer?

Being more involved in the RCN will benefit both you and your colleagues. It will enhance your skills, expertise and expose you to wider nursing issues – all of which can be shared with your workplace.

You will be the eyes and ears of your organisation making sure our members are represented and supported at all times.

“With Linda being an RCN board member, we have an excellent opportunity to continue to develop our partnership with the RCN in our mutual aim to improve services for staff and patients. This relationship ensures members’ views are represented at corporate level so the RCN can be assured change is not only effective but relevant to today’s nursing issues.”

Employer of Linda, West Midlands Board Member
Election or appointment?

The RCN is a Royal Charter body and a trade union and has to meet certain legal requirements. For some roles elections are held but for others, in particular, forum steering committees and other expert committees, we have an appointment process.

Eligibility requirements depend on the role but the most important thing is to be a passionate, committed team player and an ambassador for nursing.

If you think that is you – please put yourself forward.

The importance of voting in an election

When it comes to elections, we need you to vote.

Voting is crucial to ensure the best candidates are elected. Please spread the word when you hear about an RCN election – the more who vote the fairer and more representative the election.

Information about candidates will be posted on the RCN website prior to and during the voting period to help you make an informed choice and decide, for yourself, who will carry out the role most effectively.

Voting is simple

You will be asked to vote in one of two ways – by post (if it is a Council member election) or electronically via a link from an email (all other elections).

Where possible, postal ballot papers will be included in the circulation of existing mailings such as the RCN Bulletin. So watch out for these when they arrive on your doormat.
Make a difference

By taking on an RCN role or by voting, you can really make a difference. The RCN is led by members, for members. Make sure it stays that way.

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