

Appendix B

RCN AGM 2024 – Resolutions rationale

Resolution 1 – Definition of Council Officers

The KPMG Report on Governance (published in April 2022) and the Independent Review of the Culture of the Royal College of Nursing, by Bruce Carr KC (published in September 2022) both made recommendations designed to improve the governance processes at, and culture of, the RCN, which were accepted in full by Council in 2022.

Both reports call for the need to clearly define key governance roles. The reasons for this are to ensure greater understanding, distinction and mutual recognition and respect between roles and individuals, both Executive and members and to establish clear lines of responsibility and accountability.

A definition of Council Officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Honorary Treasurer) in the Standing Orders will set out clearly those responsible for holding the key governance positions within the Council and draw a distinction between Council Officer roles and the President and Deputy President roles.

In addition, the changes to the Standing Orders will clarify that no person may hold more than one Office holder role at the same time and that none of the Officers may simultaneously hold the position of President or Deputy President. While this is commonly understood among the membership, and is best practice, it is not explicitly stated in the Standing Orders.

Resolution 2 – Council elections (NB: whether this resolution goes to the AGM will depend on the outcome of Council discussions on this item at the meeting on 22 May 2024)

At the AGM last year, members voted to extend the terms of office for current Council members until 31 December 2024 in order to provide stability while the recommendations of the Governance and Culture Review reports are implemented.

Consequently, all of Council are due to refresh at the end of this year. This includes the regional/country seats and the President and Deputy President positions. Normally, the President/Deputy President elections are run in separate years to the country/regional seat elections. While this has not occurred previously, this will become the normal timetable in future years too.

Combining the elections in this way significantly reduces costs but may attract candidates to consider more than one role. While the guidance has always been clear that people should stand for one role only in a Council election, it is not explicitly stated in the Standing Orders. The proposed additional sub-clauses are designed to make this clear and remove any ambiguity: candidates will only be able to put themselves forward for one role.

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