

The Royal College of Anaesthetists Northern Irish Board Terms of Reference

Version control and review

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Purpose

These Terms of Reference are to guide the workings of the Royal College of Anaesthetists Northern Irish Board ('the Board'). 'Anaesthesia' means the art, science and practice of anaesthesia, including the related subjects of perioperative medicine, critical care and pain medicine. In promoting high standards of training and practice in anaesthesia, the Board will maintain a cohesive and consistent approach to all aspects of the College's core business across the UK, while acknowledging and ensuring active engagement in interacting with the increasingly divergent healthcare system in Northern Ireland.

1. Responsibilities

- 1.1 To keep under review matters relating to training in, and the practice of, anaesthesia in Northern Ireland and to make recommendations to Council in regard to any matter of direct relevance to Northern Ireland.
- 1.2 To undertake discussions and consultation with the health department of the Northern Irish Government on matters relating to training in, and the practice of, anaesthesia in Northern Ireland.
- 1.3 To arrange direct communication between the President of the RCoA with the Chief Medical Officer, the ministers and other officials of the Northern Irish Government and its subsidiary organisations.
- 1.4 Chair to attend Council either by election or by co-option and to facilitate liaison between the specialty in Northern Ireland and the College.
- 1.5 Requests for representatives to relevant organisations in Northern Ireland concerned with matters relating to training in, or the practice of, anaesthesia will be approved and appointed by the Board and

forwarded to Council. The representative¹ will provide reports of their activity to the Board and Council. This process will give the Board full access to administrative support by the Royal College without limiting effective representation.

- 1.6 The representation provided to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties in Northern Ireland and to the Northern Ireland Joint Consultants' Committee shall normally be by the Chair of the Board.
- 1.7 To carry out any function associated with the delivery or monitoring of training of anaesthetists or associated with the maintenance of professional standards in anaesthesia, in Northern Ireland as are assigned and delegated to the Board by Council.
- 1.8 To liaise with the Chief Executive and Governance Team regarding the organisation of appointment to the Board.
- 1.9 To coordinate the process of RCoA nominations for any awards in Northern Ireland on behalf of the President of the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

2. Constitution

The Board shall, subject to the resolution of Council, comprise some or all of the following members:

- 2.1 Chair, ordinarily the elected Member of Council working in Northern Ireland. If this does not apply, Chair, being a Consultant Member and Fellow of the College, to be elected from among the members of the Northern Ireland Board and confirmed by Council.
- 2.2 Vice Chair, elected from among the members of the Northern Ireland Board.
- 2.3 Up to five elected or appointed Consultant Members being Fellows working in Northern Ireland and representative of the Trusts throughout Northern Ireland.
- 2.4 One elected or appointed member being a Fellow or Member of the Royal College or the CAI working in Northern Ireland who is a Staff or Associate Specialist (SAS)
- 2.5 One or more Trainees training in Northern Ireland registered with the College, holding the FRCA and appointed by the Northern Ireland School of Anaesthesia.

These members will be elected or appointed following a process agreed by the Chair of the Northern Ireland Board and College Council, as recommended by the Governance Team.

¹ The RCoA Trustee, Council and Devolved Nation Board member Code of Conduct will be forwarded to the successful nominee for their acknowledgement.

Ex Officio Members:

- 2.6 The President, who may be represented by a Vice-President.
- 2.7 The Northern Irish Regional Adviser Anaesthesia and Deputy Regional Adviser to the College.
- 2.8 The Northern Irish Intensive Care Regional Adviser.
- 2.9 The Northern Irish Pain Medicine Regional Adviser.
- 2.10 A Northern Irish representative of the Association of Anaesthetists.
- 2.11 The Honorary Secretary of the Northern Irish Society of Anaesthetists.
- 2.12 The Anaesthetic Adviser to the Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland.
- 2.13 One member of the PatientsVoices@RCOA, normally resident in Northern Ireland, and selected in such a manner as shall be determined by College Council.
- 2.14 A Clinical Director or equivalent representative normally resident in Northern Ireland and selected in such a manner as shall be determined by the Board.

Co-opted Members

- 2.15 The Board may co-opt such members or observers as it deems appropriate to assist it in its function.

In attendance

- 2.16 A representative of the College Executive Team (usually the Chief Executive or a director).
- 2.17 Administrative and secretarial support.

3. Members shall serve on the Board for the following periods:

- 3.1** The President and Regional Advisers shall serve for the duration of their terms in those offices.
- 3.2** Elected Members of Council shall serve for the duration of their term of office on Council so long as they remain working in Northern Ireland.
- 3.3** Elected or appointed Consultant members shall serve for a term of 3 years and shall be eligible for re-election for one further term of 3 years. The elected or appointed Specialty Trainees shall serve for a single term of up to 3 years. The elected or appointed Specialty Trainee will normally be expected to resign within one year of appointment as a consultant. Terms of office will normally commence in March.

- 3.4 A co-opted member or observer shall serve for the period prescribed by the Board.
- 3.5 Those present "In attendance" as appropriate.
- 3.6 Ex-officio members will be appointed with the approval of the Board Chair and shall serve during their terms in the office they are representing, subject to annual approval by the Board.
- 3.7 The Chair of the Board shall be appointed by the Board after consultation with the members of the Board, following a process approved by Council. The Chair shall normally be an elected member of the Board or an elected member of Council.
- 3.8 The term of office of the Chair shall normally be 3 years, subject to annual re-appointment. Extension beyond 3 years may be allowed at the discretion of Council and up to a maximum of 6 years.
- 3.9 The Board shall elect, from among its members, a Vice-Chair to support the Chair and to deputise for the Chair where required. The Vice-Chair shall be elected annually for a maximum of 3 years.

4.Procedure

- 4.1 The RCoA's Governance Team will provide the secretariat support in organising, minute taking and discharging actions of its meeting.
- 4.2 The quorum of the Board shall be 50% or more of those board members identified in 3.1 a, b, c and d.
- 4.3 The Board shall meet normally twice per year. To meet the College's sustainability and cost targets, one of those meetings shall be held online only. Expenditure on any additional meeting must have the prior written sanction of the Finance Committee of the College.
- 4.4 The Board should be aware of the College's overarching strategy and look to implement it in Northern Ireland.
- 4.5 The minutes of the meeting must go to Council for review. Where any decision impinges upon the work or jurisdiction of another College committee, the views of that committee must be sought before the matter is brought to Council for approval.
- 4.6 The Chair will present minutes of Board meetings and other relevant workings of the Board to Council.
- 4.7 Any conflicts of interest must be asked for and declared at the start of each meeting.
- 4.8 The Board may, subject to the College's Charter, Ordinances and Regulations, make any standing order regulating its own procedure provided that these (or any subsequent amendments thereto) shall not take effect until approved by Council.

- 4.9 Sub-committees: subject to approval by Council, as stated in the College's Scheme of Delegation, the Board may establish any sub-committee or sub-group with such terms of reference to consider any matters falling within the Board's term of reference and to report on that matter to the Board.
- 4.8 The Board shall review these Terms of Reference at their second meeting of each year and any changes must be ratified by Council.