ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

ROLE OF ORDINARY COUNCILLOR

Council's role is to ensure the legal and ethical integrity of RCPI. It defines the values, mission, vision, goals, objectives and strategic directions of the College, and approves general policies. Council also ensures the accountability of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland by monitoring and supporting the implementation of policies, directives and general functions. It fulfils this accountability and monitoring through various means including the receipt and review of reports from the Executive Board, Faculty Boards, standing committees and the CEO.

Council has the ultimate responsibility for the actions, decisions and policies of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

Duties of Councillors

In addition to being a Trustee of the College, membership on Council provides Fellows with the opportunity to contribute to the College's strategic development through leadership, support and advocacy roles.

Time commitment and remuneration:

Councillors are expected to attend all RCPI Council meetings, which are held four to six times a year on a Friday afternoon for 3 hours. Attendance at the Annual Stated Meeting on 17 October (or the nearest Saturday) each year is mandatory.

Ordinary Councillors are also expected to carry out various supporting duties, including:

- Serving as a Member or Chairperson of Committees of the College (as appointed by the Governance and Nominations Committee)
- One Councillor to be appointed annually to serve as Vice-President of the College and Censor for one year of their term
- Three Councillors to be appointed annually to serve as Censors
- Councillors may also be required to assist with carrying out other duties such as: Officiating at Fellowship Admission Ceremonies and other College events, providing input and expertise on strategic decisions, reports, publications and policy documents.

Members of Council, in their role as Trustees, do not receive remuneration for their services to the College. However, they can claim reimbursement for all eligible travel expenses. Council members are encouraged to obtain advance agreement from their employer so that they will be given time to perform their Council duties.

Key Competencies and Characteristics
Generally, Council members should possess the ability and willingness to advance the purpose of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland as set out in its mission, vision and values; knowledge of principles of good governance and ability to align this knowledge with related RCPI systems and processes; ability to fulfil fiduciary obligations of a governing board; demonstrated commitment to the activities of the RCPI and the ability and willingness to participate effectively in committees and meetings.

Council members will be expected to:

- Be familiar with and adhere to RCPI By-Laws and associated internal and external policies and regulations (such as the Charities Regulator Code of Governance)
- Have a strong desire to help shape and develop the future of RCPI
- To understand the RCPI's strategy, business plan and values
- To prioritise work commitments so as to be able to dedicate such time as is needed for the diligent execution of the duties of a Council member
- Make every effort to attend all meetings of Council in person, recognizing that on occasion that may not be possible
- To volunteer to be a member of committees and/or working groups set up by Council in order to share the workload evenly between Council members
- Undergo induction and participate in other relevant development plans as appropriate
- Come to Council meetings well prepared, having read the papers, and ready to contribute
- To carry out effective oversight and, where appropriate, constructive challenge of matters delegated to others
- To work in partnership with the Executive Board and others, striking a balance of support and challenge as appropriate
- To listen to the views of others and provide 'wise counsel' on issues affecting the wider interests of the whole membership
- To act as an advocate for agreed strategy, policies and decisions taken by and on behalf of Council as well as bringing to attention issues of concern to members
- To act in a professional manner when representing RCPI
- To be aware of the responsibilities as a member of the governing body
- To act as a team player
- To respond within the specified timescales to requests for input or decision on items circulated by email for Council members attention
- To participate in reviews of Council and monitoring of its effectiveness
- To respect staff, members and others' capabilities and contributions
- To declare any conflicts of interest as and when they arise