



# **Elections to support the future Royal College of Pharmacy**

**Information pack for prospective  
candidates for the 2026 elections**



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# Introduction

Thank you for your interest in becoming an elected member of the future Royal College of Pharmacy (RCPharm). Our elected volunteers ensure membership is at the heart of our organisation and help us to remain connected to our members and the wider pharmacy community, and through them, support our vision of ensuring the safe and effective use of medicines.

As many of you reading this pack will be aware; we are, as the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS), the professional leadership body for pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists, and we are on a journey of change to become the future Royal College of Pharmacy and a registered charity. This is an exciting moment in our long history and we are grateful for your interest in joining us at this pivotal moment for pharmacy.

This isn't our first evolutionary step. Our story began as the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, which was founded in April 1841 as an independent association. We received our first Royal Charter in 1843, and in 1988 Queen Elizabeth II agreed that the title 'Royal' should be granted to the Society. In 2010 the Society transferred its regulatory function to the General Pharmaceutical Council.

This next step, becoming the Royal College of Pharmacy a Royal Charter body with charitable status, was cemented in March 2025 with a historic member vote that mandated the necessary changes to the RPS' existing Royal Charter that will allow us to evolve to become the professional leadership body that pharmacy deserves, putting patients and the public at the heart of everything we do. We believe that by helping pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists to excel we will ensure that every patient will receive the best possible pharmaceutical care.

The Royal College of Pharmacy will champion pharmacy to policymakers and the public and support its members and the wider pharmacy community to advance the science, research and practice of pharmacy for the benefit of patients and the public.

We are well progressed on our journey, having sought and received informal agreement from the Privy Council, the Charity Commission and

the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, and we are currently in the process of bringing about the necessary changes to our structure and governance with an ambition to secure formal approvals, complete the transition, and to launch the College in April 2026.

These inaugural elections for the Royal College of Pharmacy are an important milestone on that transitional journey and offer an exciting and unique opportunity to shape the new organisation – particularly pharmacy policy and practice – in each nation and across GB.

Whilst elections to the National Pharmacy Advisory Councils are the starting point for a role that influences the future direction of pharmacy, we draw much of our organisational governance, which is delivered through the Senate and Board of Trustees, from the Councils. This pack will explain more about our future organisation, the types of activities our elected members might become involved with and the level of commitment required for the various roles.

We are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) and strongly encourage applications from individuals of all protected characteristics, including those from under-represented groups, such as members from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, people of all abilities, and individuals from diverse communities. Your perspectives and experiences are essential to ensuring our governance reflects the diversity of our profession and the communities we serve. We want every elected member to feel they belong and can contribute fully.

This pack provides information on the roles and responsibilities of elected members, including profiles of each role. To find out more about these and for further information on the forthcoming elections visit our **website**.

At the end of this pack, you'll find a link to the Information for Candidates document, containing full details of the elections process, as well as rules and advice on campaigning, and the candidate nomination form.

Please do stand for election and help us make our vision a reality.

**Paul Bennett** RPS Chief Executive

# About us

We are the professional leadership body for pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists and the future Royal College of Pharmacy. We champion the safe and effective use of medicines and support professionals to achieve excellence for the benefit of patients and the public.

- **Our mission** is to put pharmacy at the forefront of patient care.
- **Our vision** is to become the world leader in the safe and effective use of medicines.

Our core activities include our work across policy and advocacy, where we influence and promote pharmacy to policymakers within government, in the media, and in the health and care system through support for training and continuing professional development for pharmacy professionals; through the setting of standards and development of professional guidance to support practice; and through the development of a robust and effective credentialling system. We support individual professionals to thrive in their work, education and development, therefore improving the health outcomes of patients and the public, and help to shape the wider health and care system.

Our knowledge business, Pharmaceutical Press (PhP) is trusted by health and care professionals across the world and supports them with evidence-based pharmaceutical knowledge to improve patient safety. PhP creates trusted and valued products and workflow tools that help clinicians access medicines information in the way that best suits their needs. PhP returns its surplus to support the professional leadership activity of the RPS, and future royal college charity.

We are serious about equity, inclusion and diversity, for our members and within our own organisation. We are committed to making inclusion and diversity central to the wider pharmacy community, celebrating and amplifying diverse voices across pharmacy, removing barriers to participation and creating a culture of belonging where everyone feels valued and empowered to contribute.

To find out more about our work and who we are, **visit our website.**

# Our governance structure

## Royal College of Pharmacy The responsibilities of each governing body

Please note that this information is still subject to final approvals, and will only be finalised within the full Regulations for the future Royal College of Pharmacy

### Board of Trustees

Overall responsibility for all College activities and ensures the College is operated in accordance with charity regulations and the Royal Charter obligations

Takes fiduciary responsibility for the College

Agrees strategy and annual plans with the input of Senate on professional matters

Ensures the College delivers against its objectives

### Senate

Determining the strategic direction of UK pharmacy professional leadership

Advising the Board of Trustees on professional matters

Monitoring College's impact at a GB level

Harmonises the activities of the Councils and all other professional advisory groups and committees

### English Pharmacy Advisory Council

Guiding the implementation of the College's strategy in England

Developing pharmacy policy and practice in England

Supporting professional development activity in England

Engaging with members and representing the College

### Welsh Pharmacy Advisory Council

Guiding the implementation of the College's strategy in Wales

Developing pharmacy policy and practice in Wales

Supporting professional development activity in Wales

Engaging with members and representing the College

### Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council

Guiding the implementation of the College's strategy in Scotland

Developing pharmacy policy and practice in Scotland

Supporting professional development activity in Scotland

Engaging with members and representing the College

# Our governance structure

continued

Our governance structure is the framework that defines how our organisation is run, who has oversight, and how decisions are made. As the Royal College of Pharmacy, our operations will be led by our CEO and Executive Team who will report to the Board of Trustees. Our Board of Trustees leads the organisational governance, ensuring that we deliver our strategy and comply with our fiduciary responsibilities and the organisation's regulations. The Board of Trustees is supported by the Senate, which is responsible for determining the strategic direction of UK pharmacy professional leadership.

Supporting the Board of Trustees and Senate are the National Pharmacy Advisory Councils. They play a critical role in the College by informing, shaping and monitoring strategic implementation and ensuring that national priorities actively influence GB-wide direction, have oversight of policy development, and support the delivery of professional development, member support and engagement.

Read more detail on what each of these bodies will be responsible for in the sections on this page and following pages.

## National Pharmacy Advisory Councils

Recognising that health is a devolved issue, we have three National Pharmacy Advisory Councils, for England, Scotland and Wales, that co-create, evaluate and aid implementation of the College's strategy within the relevant nations. Each Council, and thus its members, are responsible for:

- collaborative development of pharmacy policy and practice across each nation, which aligns as a GB approach, ensuring relevance to each nation and supporting the implementation of national visions, directly or through advocacy and engagement activity. This work involves engaging with devolved and UK parliamentary bodies, liaising with the civil service, Government, and NHS leadership to influence policy and advocate for the profession. In addition, we are committed to ensuring that the voice of patients and the public is central to our work. This means actively collaborating with patient groups and advocacy organisations to ensure policies,

professional standards and guidance reflect patient needs, improve health outcomes, and promote equitable access to medicines and care;

- working together, to translate the College's professional development activity to a national context and in doing so, supporting and identifying excellence within the profession that the College can both support and showcase;
- acting as an important touchpoint for the wider membership base and therefore have a key role in engaging with members, through visits, conference attendance and representing the College, and ensuring diverse member views are heard within the College;
- helping the College monitor its impact at a national level, through shared insights and feedback;
- electing their own Chair (who also fulfils the role of Vice President of RCPharm) and Council Vice Chair;
- collectively, selecting the College President from amongst their membership.

The Councils are able to draw on the expertise of other expert groups, with sectoral, therapeutic, career stage, science, research, or educational knowledge to inform their work. The Councils similarly may be asked to give advice specific to their nation to those other groups, the Senate or the Board of Trustees.

Our National Pharmacy Advisory Councils are critical to the work of the organisation, and, depending on skills and experience, National Pharmacy Advisory Council Members' may take on a role in our wider organisational governance, by being elected to National Pharmacy Advisory Council positions that sit on the Senate and the Board of Trustees. The President and Vice Presidents (National Pharmacy Advisory Council Chairs) are ex officio members (meaning full members with voting rights) of the Senate and Board of Trustees, and the Vice Chairs are ex officio members of the Senate.

We therefore ask that you consider the possibility of a wider governance role when contemplating standing for a National Pharmacy Advisory Council role.

# Our governance structure

continued

## Senate

The Senate, in consultation with the National Pharmacy Advisory Councils, is responsible for determining the strategic direction of GB-wide pharmacy professional leadership and advising the Board of Trustees on professional matters. This collaborative approach ensures that decisions reflect the perspectives of all nations and the diversity of the profession. The Senate also acts as an important point of connectivity for the work of all of the College's various professional advisory groups, including ensuring harmonisation of the work of the National Pharmacy Advisory Councils and ensuring science, research and education are integral to the College's activities.

The Senate supports the Board of Trustees on professional matters by having an important role in membership activities, safeguarding the heritage of the organisation, considering recommendations for awards and nominations, and approving College appointments to GB-wide and international professional groups.

The Senate has up to 15 members, including the President, a further nine members who are drawn from the three National Pharmacy Advisory Councils and an early careers pharmacist. The remaining roles are appointed and include a specialist in pharmaceutical science and an educationalist, who are the Chairs of the Science and Research Committee and the Education Standards Committee, respectively. Two further roles are defined from time to time according to the needs of the Senate.

## Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has the ultimate responsibility and accountability for the leadership and oversight of the College, agreeing its overall strategy and ensuring that it meets its regulatory and statutory obligations. Critical parts of this are ensuring that the College delivers against its Objects and holding the Executive Team to account. The Board of Trustees receives advisory input on a variety of matters, covering the profession, financial responsibilities, and risk management.

The Board of Trustees is expected to be initially constituted with eight or nine members, the majority of whom will always be drawn from the profession. The President and Vice Presidents are ex officio members (meaning full members with voting rights) of the Board of Trustees, with the Senate selecting a further trustee from within their membership, depending on the prevailing skill mix of the Board of Trustees at the time of selection. The remaining roles are appointed and include an experienced Chair of Trustees and a trustee with financial knowledge, with other roles determined from time to time in order that the Board of Trustees is best equipped to appropriately discharge its duties. The Board of Trustees is able to directly draw upon the insight, evidence, and recommendations provided by the National Pharmacy Advisory Councils and Senate. This collaborative approach ensures that governance decisions at the highest level are informed by professional, member-led intelligence from across the nations wherever this is appropriate.

# Our governance structure

continued

## Royal College of Pharmacy The composition of each governing body

Please note that this information is still subject to final approvals, and will only be finalised within the full Regulations for the future Royal College of Pharmacy

### Board of Trustees

**9 places at inception, with the majority elected from the membership. Made up of:**

Chair of Trustees (appointed)

5 Senate members including the President and Vice Presidents (elected)

Up to 3 additional trustees (appointed: 1 will be Vice Chair)

### Senate

**Maximum of 15 places, with the majority elected from the membership. Made up of:**

President (elected by all National Pharmacy Advisory Council members)

3 Vice Presidents (elected Chairs of each National Pharmacy Advisory Council)

6 National Pharmacy Advisory Council members (elected: 2 England; 2 Scotland; 2 Wales and will include

Vice Chairs of each National Pharmacy Advisory Council)

An early careers pharmacist (appointed)

A specialist in pharmaceutical science and an educationalist (appointed)

Additional specialist roles as required (appointed)

### English Pharmacy Advisory Council

**Max 12 places, all elected from the membership. Made up of:**

Elected Chair (also sits on Senate and Board of Trustees)

Elected Vice Chair (also sits on Senate)

Up to 10 additional elected members

### Welsh Pharmacy Advisory Council

**Max 9 places, all elected from the membership. Made up of:**

Elected Chair (also sits on Senate and Board of Trustees)

Elected Vice Chair (also sits on Senate)

Up to 7 additional elected members

### Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council

**Max 9 places, all elected from the membership. Made up of:**

Elected Chair (also sits on Senate and Board of Trustees)

Elected Vice Chair (also sits on Senate)

Up to 7 additional elected members



# Our inaugural elections

## An extraordinary year of change

Following our constitution and governance review we are restructuring the organisation, building on the proud 184-year heritage of the RPS, in order to create the foundations for a royal college that can truly embody its professional leadership role. We believe that becoming the Royal College of Pharmacy is the first important step to embodying our vision, adapting our culture to put patients at the forefront of what we do, and supporting pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists to develop their skills and ensure that patients are able to benefit from medicines as safely and effectively as possible.

We are currently working to develop the new strategy for the Royal College of Pharmacy and have been engaging with our membership on our commitments for the College.

As the Royal College of Pharmacy we will:

- Create greater recognition for pharmacy and the scope of its impact
- Collaboratively shape the future of pharmacy
- Advance pharmacists to provide excellence in patient care
- Support workforce transformation
- Put patients at the forefront of our work

Our new five-year strategy will be built around these commitments and you can read more about them [here](#).

## What this means for the first National Pharmacy Advisory Council elections in 2026

In order to manage the transition to becoming the Royal College of Pharmacy in April 2026, the elections process is being held across February and March 2026. We are announcing our intent to hold elections as early as possible in order to give our members time to consider their involvement as volunteers within a charity and also whether they are prepared to be involved with the Senate and Board of Trustees.

In a normal year, following these elections and once all elected candidates had been appointed and completed their induction, we would hold Officer elections for the President, Vice President and Vice Chair roles. However, in order for us to manage a transition to the Royal College of Pharmacy that culminates in the population of five elected members onto the Board of Trustees, we need to hold Officer elections for these specific roles earlier than usual, immediately after the Council election results on Friday 13 March 2026.

If you decide to stand for election and would also like to put yourself forward for an Officer role (President, Vice President or Vice Chair), you will therefore need to consider your personal statement which sets out to your fellow Council Members why you are the right person to hold one of these roles by 9am on Tuesday 17 March 2026 – a few days after the election results are announced. Voting in Officer elections will open on Wednesday 25 March and close on Thursday 26 March 2026.

A Council Members' induction for all National Pharmacy Advisory Council members will take place on Tuesday 24 March 2026. This induction is to support the election of the College Officers, who will take up roles on the Senate and the Board of Trustees. We will also be holding formal inductions in June 2026.

## Role profiles for President, Vice President and Vice Chair

Find out more about the roles and responsibilities of the President, Vice President and Vice Chair:

### Role profile for President

### Role profile for Vice President

### Role profile for Vice Chair

# Being an elected member

## The roles of elected National Pharmacy Advisory Council Members

The National Pharmacy Advisory Councils play a key role in informing the development and guiding the implementation of the College's strategy within England, Scotland and Wales, including in relation to the development of policy, the delivery of professional development, member support, and engagement.

Our elected members ensure that professional and diverse views are brought into the organisation. We are therefore seeking individuals who are actively connected with the delivery of pharmacy services (as demonstrated by registration with the General Pharmaceutical Council) in the nation in which they intend to stand for election. This requires an interest in the priorities for the pharmacy profession and health issues within their nation and a sound understanding of the UK health and policy landscape, with a particular emphasis on an understanding of healthcare in the nation in which they are standing for election.

Council Members are tasked with acting in the best interests of the College to enhance its reputation as the professional leadership body, including promoting pharmacy and professions and advocating for membership of, and engagement in ways that reflect the diversity of the profession with, the College. This requires an ability to listen to and influence members, inclusively advocate for them and the wider profession and in doing so demonstrate cultural competence and political sensitivity. We actively encourage engagement with underrepresented groups to ensure all voices are heard.

To do this effectively a Council Member will need an understanding of, and commitment to, the strategic priorities for the College and its members, its purpose and its work and if elected the College will support individuals to gain a deeper understanding of the work we do as well as provide training to expand your existing skillset.

## The College and its elected members are responsible for:

- the development of pharmacy policy and practice across GB aligned to the college's strategic objectives, ensuring relevance to each nation and supporting the implementation of national visions, directly or through advocacy activity. This includes working jointly with and across other national councils and relevant teams and measuring its influence on national and GB wide policy, development and advocacy;
- translating the College's professional development activity to a national context and in doing so, support and identify excellence within the profession that the College can both support and showcase;
- acting as an important touchpoint for the wider membership base and therefore have a key role in engaging with members, through visits, conference attendance and representing the College, and ensuring members views are heard within the College;
- helping the College monitor and evaluate the impact and outcome of its activities at a national level, ensuring member perspectives inform future priorities;
- selecting the College President from amongst their membership, and each Council elects its own Chair (who also fulfils the role of Vice President) and Vice Chair.

The Councils are able to draw on the expertise of other expert groups, with sectoral, therapeutic, career stage, science, research, or educational knowledge to inform their work. The Councils similarly will be asked to give advice specific to their nation to those other groups, the Senate or the Trustee Board.

Council Members are expected to collaborate across the three nations to share learning, highlight emerging themes, and identify opportunities for collective impact, while actively seeking and amplifying diverse voices and perspectives to inform GB – wide policy. This collaborative approach ensures that the College's professional leadership work benefits from the diversity of practice across England, Scotland

# Being an elected member

continued

and Wales, and that nation-specific insights inform GB-wide policy development. In doing so, the Council will actively promote inclusion and diversity by valuing different cultural, professional, and regional perspectives, ensuring equitable representation in decision-making, and fostering an environment where all voices are heard and respected. At the same time, the Council will draw on the rich demographic diversity of pharmacy, spanning varied backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives to ensure that policies and initiatives are inclusive and truly representative of the communities it serves.

To support this, regular cross-nation meetings of the Councils will be convened, facilitated by the Senate, to align strategic priorities and ensure consistency in professional advocacy. The College is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of its work as outlined in our RPS I&D Strategy 2020–2025. We value the unique perspectives and experiences of our members and believe that diverse leadership strengthens decision-making and governance. We actively encourage applications from individuals of all backgrounds and are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where every voice is heard and respected.

## Role profile

### Key responsibilities

- Acting in the best interests of the College to enhance its reputation as the professional leadership body, including promoting the pharmacy profession and advocating for membership of, and engagement with, the College.
- Contributing to the shaping of national priorities and the College's five-year strategic plan through insight and advocacy, ensuring that diverse perspectives and experiences inform decision making.
- Representing the College by attending, when possible, relevant meetings and events such as College meetings, conferences, awards ceremonies, and/or engaging with members across varied practice settings to gain inclusive insights and feedback. This activity is flexible and supported by our National Teams.
- Upholding the values, decisions and policies of the College and acting as a role model for inclusive leadership and equity to members and the wider profession.
- Acting in line with the College's governing documents and embedding principles of fairness and equity in all governance activities.
- Demonstrating a strong commitment to and accountability for equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) by championing inclusive practices and challenging barriers.
- Encouraging openness and transparency in College activities, ensuring communication and engagement is accessible and representative of the diversity within pharmacy.
- Actively seek and amplify diverse voices within pharmacy to inform decision-making and policy development.
  - Promote psychological safety in discussions and decision-making, creating an environment where all elected members feel valued and able to contribute.
- Champion inclusive engagement by ensuring that College activities, communications, and events are accessible to all members, including those from underrepresented groups.
- Challenge bias and barriers to participation in governance and leadership roles, promoting fairness and equity.

# Being an elected member

continued

## Person specification

- A professional, actively connected with, and credible to, the pharmacy profession, registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council.
- An interest in the priorities for the pharmacy profession and health issues within their nation and a sound understanding of the UK health and policy landscape and how these impact diverse populations, with a particular emphasis on their home nation.
- An understanding of, and commitment to, the strategic priorities for the College and its members, its purpose and its work.
- The ability to listen to and influence members, advocate for them and the wider profession and in doing so demonstrate sound cultural competence, political sensitivity and an appreciation of different perspectives.
- Personal integrity and a commitment to act in the best interests of the College and the profession, ensuring fairness and inclusion, without regard to personal interest or benefit.
- The ability to communicate clearly and effectively, building strong relationships across diverse groups and giving honest and objective opinions.
- Able to make decisions and add value to decision making by offering different perspectives, challenging bias and providing constructive suggestions, promoting inclusive practices.
- Demonstrate characteristics consistent with the Nolan Principles of public life and behaviours in office in line with the College's values, its policies and guidance. Commitment to championing diversity in leadership and governance roles, supporting representation from underrepresented groups.
- Ability to identify and challenge barriers to inclusion in policy and practice.
- Openness to learning and development in EDI, including unconscious bias awareness and inclusive leadership training.

# Being an elected member

continued

## Role requirements

### Tenure

The typical term of office is three years (with the option of being re-elected for two further terms), however as we are in transition some roles may be one or two years. This will be decided on the basis of the number of votes cast.

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### Commitments

The role of Council Member requires flexibility to meet the requirements of the position, which may include some commitments in the evenings and at weekends. We understand that individuals have different personal and professional responsibilities, and we will work with elected members to accommodate these wherever possible.

The estimated time commitment for a Council Member is anticipated to be a total of 18 days per annum, roughly 1.5 days per month. This includes:

- A total of 7 days for Council meetings
- A total of 1 day for training
- A total of 3 days for weekly meetings
- A total of 3 days for reading emails / responding to consultations
- A total of 4 days for attending events

This time commitment is given in days, but may be executed in shorter periods of time, and could be during the day or in the evening. This does not include travel time. Events include attendance at conferences, networking, lobbying, parliamentary events, where Members are representing the College. This is flexible and up to individual Members.

We provide training and development to support your effectiveness in the role as well as ensures that you fully understand the laws, regulations and internal policies that must be adhered to so that the College minimises any legal risk and fosters a culture of accountability and ethical conduct. Essential compliance training is typically delivered online and includes topics such as cyber security.

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### Location

Office locations are in London, Cardiff and Edinburgh, with the Council Member likely to attend in London and their national office. There will be a mix of onsite and remote working, plus some UK travel.

We are committed to making participation accessible and inclusive. Meetings and training may be held in person or virtually, and we will provide reasonable adjustments to support members with disabilities or other needs.

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### Remuneration and expenses

Council roles are voluntary and unpaid in line with Charity Commission guidance. Expenses will be reimbursed, in line with the Royal College of Pharmacy policy, for attending College meetings and undertaking College activities in line with the role specification.

# Being an elected member

continued

## Support for the role

We recognise the significant contribution our elected members give to the Royal College, and we are committed to developing their inclusive leadership capability through ongoing support, development, participation and training including:

- Providing the training and development to enable all council members to flourish in their roles, with a focus on inclusive leadership and cultural competence.
- Exploring a mentoring framework that values diversity and ensures equitable access to guidance and support for our elected members.
- Encouraging and supporting you to stand for wider organisational governance roles within the Senate and Board of Trustees, promoting representation.
- Supporting you with any discussions and arrangements that your employer may need to enable you to volunteer with us alongside your substantive role, ensuring flexibility and fairness for elected members which may include referencing and how skills developed would benefit their organisation.

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## Opportunities

As well as the opportunity for continued professional development, our elected members also have the opportunity to progress further within our governance structure.

Council Members may take on wider roles and remits in our organisational governance, by being elected to council positions that sit on the Senate and the Board of Trustees. The College will provide further structured mentoring, development and shadowing opportunities, to prepare and support members taking on wider roles and remits.

In doing so, we will ensure these opportunities actively promote inclusion and diversity by encouraging participation from members across different backgrounds, experiences, and countries, fostering equitable access to leadership pathways ensuring that the organisational governance is representative of the pharmacy profession.

Want to find out more about the role of elected members?

**Hear from previously elected members and why they stood**

# Being an elected member

continued

## Values and behaviours

Elected members will work to enable the Royal College of Pharmacy to deliver its vision, and to discharge its responsibilities under its Royal Charter objects. To do this effectively, Council Members are expected to demonstrate characteristics consistent with the **Nolan Principles of public life**, adhere to our Code of Conduct and operate in accordance with the College’s values, its policies and guidance. **The Code of Conduct** can be found in appendix A of the current Regulations.

This specifically includes championing equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) as a core part of leadership. Council Members should actively promote inclusive decision-making, ensure

that diverse voices are heard and valued, and challenge barriers to participation. They are expected to foster a culture of belonging and respect, reflecting the diversity of the pharmacy profession and the communities it serves.

As the professional leadership body for pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists, and the future Royal College of Pharmacy, we believe that diverse perspectives strengthen governance and improve patient care. Elected members should demonstrate cultural competence, advocate for underrepresented groups, and support initiatives that embed EDI principles across all College activities.



# About the 2026 elections

The 2026 elections for the future Royal College of Pharmacy are being independently run and managed by MiVoice, an independent scrutineer. We've included a summary below but all prospective candidates should visit **[www.mi-nomination.com/rpharms](http://www.mi-nomination.com/rpharms)** for further information to support those that decide to take forwards their nomination, including:

- Information for Candidates document, which contains all of the details around the elections process, nominations, as well as rules and advice on campaigning
- Candidate nominations form, to complete with a Proposer and Seconder, and submit by 5pm on Monday 2 February 2026 if you wish to stand for election

## Vacancies

### English Pharmacy Advisory Council

#### Current available roles in 2026 elections:

- 4x roles with a 3-year term
- 4x roles with a 2-year term

**Candidates with the most votes will be appointed to roles with the longest terms.**

### Welsh Pharmacy Advisory Council

#### Current available roles in 2026 elections:

- 3x roles with a 3-year term
- 3x roles with a 2-year term

**Candidates with the most votes will be appointed to roles with the longest terms.**

### Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council

#### Current available roles in 2026 elections:

- 3x roles with a 3-year term
- 2x roles with a 2-year term

**Candidates with the most votes will be appointed to roles with the longest terms.**

## Eligibility criteria

### A person will be eligible for election to a National Pharmacy Advisory Council if they are:

- A current Member (MRPharmS or FRPharmS) of the Society
- Registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council

### The following criteria must also be followed:

- Members are only eligible to stand for election in a country in which they work (based on their place of work)
- Members may only stand for election to one National Pharmacy Advisory Council

### A person will not be eligible for election to any College governance bodies if they are:

- Disqualified from being a charity trustee under any applicable UK charity legislation;

- Are or become unwilling or unable to act as Trustee of the College (whether appointed to that role or not);
- Have been removed from the register of pharmacists in any jurisdiction;
- Have been removed from membership of the College or the Royal Pharmaceutical Society or from a College governance body;
- Are an employee of the College;
- Have served (or been deemed to have served) a maximum of nine consecutive years on a College Governance Body and have not taken a break of a Full Term before seeking re-election or appointment;
- Have failed to pay, by the date and time fixed for the return of nominations forms, any subscription or other debt due and payable by them to the Society.



# About the 2026 elections

continued

## Nominations Process

Detailed information on nominations process and information required can be found in the Information for Candidates document on **MiVoice website**.

### Proposer and a Second

Each candidate must provide the name and contact information of two Members of the Society who are willing to act as a Proposer and Second of their nomination. Candidates may not put themselves as either Proposer or Second.

A Proposer and a Second must:

- Have personal knowledge of the candidate and be satisfied that they are suitable to serve as an elected member
- Be eligible to vote for a candidate they are nominating.

Proposers and Seconders may not withdraw their nomination of a prospective candidate once made. Candidates may not withdraw their nomination after 5pm on Wednesday 18 February 2026.

## Nominations information

Candidates will be required to provide statements in response to pre-set questions, which can be found on the nominations form. Further details around these, including word count is also provided on the form. Candidates will also have the option to supply a photograph and video response.

Candidates will also be required to submit the following information as part of the nominations form:

- Full name and address as on the Society's database
- Candidate CV and declaration of relevant interests, including the extent and type of work they undertake
- Declare any relevant interests including sponsorship, family interests and beneficial interests in shareholdings

# About the 2026 elections continued

## Timetable

11am on Monday 5 January 2026	<b>Nominations open</b>	Candidates wishing to stand for election must submit their nominations form within this timeframe. Nominations received outside of this period will not be included.
5pm on Monday 2 February 2026	<b>Nominations close</b>	
Thursday 5 February 2026	<b>Shortlisted candidates announced</b>	After all candidates have been verified against the eligibility criteria, they will be notified individually and announced publicly.
9am on Monday 23 February 2026	<b>Voting opens</b>	Any Members (MRPharmS) and Fellows (FRPharmS) who are members of the Society on the Electoral Roll Closure date, which is 5pm on Thursday 29 January 2026, are eligible to vote in the election for their nominated nation.
5pm on Wednesday 11 March 2026	<b>Voting closes</b>	
Friday 13 March 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter	<b>Results announced</b>	All results will be announced, with successful candidates receiving the highest number of votes.
9am on Tuesday 17 March 2026	<b>Deadline for candidate submissions for Officer elections</b> (President, Vice President and Vice Chair roles)	Candidates wishing to stand for an Officer role (President, Vice President, Vice Chair) must submit their personal statement setting out to fellow Council Members why they are the right person for the role by this date.
10am on Wednesday 25 March 2026	<b>Voting for Officer elections opens</b>	All Council Members who will be in place on a Council on the 'Effective Date' will be eligible to vote in the new Officers. Each will have one vote for President, and one vote for their own nation's Chair/ Vice President and Vice Chair.
5pm on Thursday 26 March 2026	<b>Voting for Officer elections closes</b>	Outgoing Council Members will not be eligible to vote in these elections.
Friday 27 March 2026	<b>Results of Officer elections announced</b>	All results will be announced, with roles allocated to those candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

# About the 2026 elections

continued

## I want to stand – what's next?

1. Visit the MiVoice website: **www.mi-nomination.com/rpharms** where you will find the Information for Candidates document and candidate nominations form.
2. Review and complete your candidate nominations form. This must include a Proposer and Secunder who are Members of RPS.
3. Submit your nominations form here after 11am on Monday 5 January 2026 and before 5pm on Monday 2 February 2026.

If you have any further questions about the elections, serving on a National Pharmacy Advisory Council, Senate or Board of Trustees, or completing the forms, please contact:

- Amandeep Doll for England  
**Amandeep.Doll@rpharms.com**
- Geraldine McCaffrey for Wales  
**Geraldine.Mccaffrey@rpharms.com**
- Laura Wilson for Scotland  
**Laura.Wilson@rpharms.com**

## I want to get involved but I'm not yet ready to stand

If after you've read this pack, you do not feel ready to stand for election at this stage but would still like to contribute to your professional leadership body and future royal college, there are many other ways to get involved. Please take a look at our royal college **website page** for more information.

