

Minutes of the Closed Session of the meeting held on 20 May 2022

Via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Carmel O'Boyle (Chair)	Board Member
Mark Anthony (Vice Chair) (part of meeting)	Board Member
Lauren Mawson	Board Member
Andrea Willimott	Board Member
Sharon Mason	Board Member
Zoe Ahearne	Board Member
Jill Lloyd	Board Administrator
Alan Finnegan	Board Member
Estephanie Dunn	Board Secretary

In attendance:

Paul Wood	Operational Manager
Kelly Dooley	Communications Manager

Apologies

Mark Anthony	Board Member
Joshua Gilroy	Board Member
Roshanak Valizadeh	Board Member
Sally Young	Professional Nurse Committee Member

Key Messages

Strengthening Regional Bonds

Whilst it was acknowledged that everyone's time is valuable as Board members, we do have a duty of care to the members who elected us to represent them at meetings. We need to strengthen the Boards engagement and to help us do this it was agreed to hold a development day face to face so we can re-energise and move forward. The Board Chair, Secretary and Administrator will arrange and circulate details.

The Board discussed other ways to strengthen their engagement with members by reaching out to branches and attending branch meetings as they are all link members and can feedback key messages from Board. Some Board members are attending Congress which will be an excellent opportunity to network. Others are involved in events at Branch level, keeping in touch with Branch Chair regularly and helping to keep communication open which helps with succession planning.

Congress Update

Jill Lloyd shared the number of voting seats available for the eight North West Branches, which totalled 58 places. Branches within the region have managed to fill most of their voting seats but a few remain vacant. Branches will continue to work with Sarah Hardman, who provides admin support for Congress, to fill spaces.

It was acknowledged that travel to Glasgow may be difficult with known train disruption over that weekend with it being the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and the RMT announcing some strike action. Voting members do have the option to drive if this is more convenient to them.

The Board agreed at its last meeting to allocate £5,000 to non-voting members. The Board Chair, Secretary and Administrator met and discussed allocating this funding. It was agreed to offer £250 as a contribution towards the members expenses in line with the RCN Policy. This would allow up to 20 members to be helped. An application process was agreed, advertised, selection process applied, and successful applicants contacted.

The discretionary funding of £1,500 is also being used in the same way but aimed at first time attendees attending Congress.

Isle of Man Pay and Branch Update

Paul Wood gave a summary on the different stages so far in the 2021/2022 pay awards and an update from the conciliation discussions held on Monday 16 May discussing the 2022/2023 offer.

Following discussions, the Board voted unanimously to recommend to the Trade Union Committee that we hold a consultative ballot of Manx care members on the new revised offer. The ballot should ask whether they want to accept or reject the new combined pay offer and if the offer is rejected, would they be willing to take any form of industrial action.

The Board also wanted all supportive background information on what taking industrial action means for member included in communications so that their decision is an informed one.

North West Board Elections, Constraints and Succession Planning

The Board was asked to consider a paper regarding Board elections. The purpose of this paper was for the Board to consider how it ensures its make-up is reflective of the membership in the region. To agree any constraints needed to be applied to the Board elections taking place in 2022 to help achieve a broad

representation. To consider and agree an 'equalities statement' to be reflected in the 2022 board election communications and confirm the intent to achieve a broad representation.

The North West Board has used a “geographical constraints” model for Board elections previously. The advantage of this model is that it can help to ensure Boards reflect the membership in the region.

Equality statement -“The RCN is proud of the diversity of the UK’s nursing workforce and our membership. It is vital that we represent our diverse membership in all aspects of what we do. Therefore, we very much welcome and encourage nominations from everyone who meets the eligibility criteria and from under-represented groups including those who work in the independent sector, retired members, members of the Black, Asian and minority ethnic community, LGBTQ community and those with a disability.”

Following discussion, the Board agreed to include the above statement and continue with the geographical constraints as in previous years. Going forward, they committed to encouraging a broader representation from across the membership by ensuring the UK Representatives are invited to meetings. Action Board Secretary invite UK reps to September meeting and Board Chair to engage with them also.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th September 2022. 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. The meeting will be held face to face in the Bolton office.