

RCN Scotland Board meeting 15 February 2024: Branch Briefing

Dear Colleagues

At our February Board meeting there were very interesting discussions on a wide range of topics, and I hope that the information provided below is helpful for you.

Please get in touch with the RCN Scotland team if you have any queries or suggestions.

Thank you for all your continued work and support.

Best Wishes

Julie

Julie Lamberth
Chair, RCN Scotland Board



Director Colin Poolman provided a comprehensive report on all aspects of RCN Scotland's work during the quarter October – December 2023.

Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health & Social Care

The Board noted that Mr Mathieson has resigned and been replaced by Mr Neil Gray who has taken up the position of Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care with immediate effect. The RCN has written to the new Cabinet Secretary highlighting members concerns at seeking an early meeting.

Staffing for Safe and Effective Care

With the legislation coming into effect on 1 April 2024, RCN Scotland had a communications plan for members to understand in implications of the Act on their work. The Board raised concerns that there was a lack of understanding amongst senior staff of their duties and responsibilities from the outset. The Board highlighted issues of ensuring patient safety with staffing issues and corridor care/contingency bed. Members are encouraged to report concerns (e.g. about staffing levels) through the relevant process, ensuring reporting is properly recorded. RCN Scotland across local systems are escalating issues where they have been raised by members as well as escalating the issues nationally. The Board noted that in addition to the communication plans there will also events to promote the implementation of the legislation in the lead up to 1 April.

Branch Funding

The Board discussed branch funding and is keen to encourage branches to plan and spend the allocated resource as a number of branches have not utilised their allocated budget. Branches are urged to submit their branch plans as early as possible in the new year. Link to the branch funding guidance and form is here: [Branch Finances: Funding Sources and use of Funds | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](#)

Congress

The Board will shortly be in a position to agree Congress attendance. An information pack will be produced for members travelling from Scotland which will include a briefing congress items.

Next Meeting

The Board next meet on Friday 24 May 2024.

If you have any feedback or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or your patch teams.

ENDS