

- to promote the science and art of nursing and the better education and training of nurses and their efficiency in the profession of nursing;
  - to promote the advance of nursing as a profession in all or any of its branches;
  - to promote the professional standing and interests of members of the nursing profession;
  - to promote through the medium of international agencies these purposes in other countries as well as in the United Kingdom;
  - to assist nurses who by reasons of adversity, ill-health or otherwise are in need of assistance of any nature;
  - to institute and conduct examinations in all branches of work conducive to the efficient conduct of the nursing profession, and the grant of certificates and diplomas to those who satisfy the requirements laid down by the council;
  - to make such arrangements with any university or other educational institution as may from time to time be considered desirable for association with or admission as a school or college of such university or other institution;
  - to solicit and receive, accept or refuse subscriptions and gifts of all kinds whether absolute or conditional for the purposes of the College or for any specific object connected with the science and art of nursing, and to undertake and execute any charitable trusts which may be considered expedient or desirable in the interests of the College;
  - to sell, dispose of, exchange, mortgage, charge, let, deal with or turn to account any of the property and rights of the College as may from time to time be considered expedient or desirable in the interests of the College;
  - to do all such other lawful things as may from time to time be conducive or incidental to any of the purposes aforesaid.
- 1.6 The RCN is a professional union, responsible for addressing its members' employment and welfare needs, as well as the realisation of their professional goals. In addition, unlike most other accredited trades unions within the health service, it is governed by its Royal Charter to promote the science and art of nursing.
- 1.7 The Council is the RCN's ruling body elected by the members with 25 representatives, 14 from England, 2 each from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Students have two elected representatives. The three other members are the RCN President, Deputy President and Chair of RCN Congress. RCN Council is responsible for the governance of the RCN and its policies, and the General Secretary is responsible for implementing those policies. Council takes account of resolutions carried by RCN Congress and recommendations from its Standing Committees.
- 1.8 The RCN has a nationwide network of Branches that are the local point of activity for members. Run by an elected Executive Committee, Branches provide RCN members with opportunities to meet and influence policy and action undertaken by