

Process for filling casual vacancies to roles on RCN Council, boards and committees

Introduction

Casual vacancies arise when a member leaves an elected or appointed role before the end of their term of office.

This document uses the principles in the Rules to determine whether or not a vacancy has arisen on a committee or board.

It should be noted that all casual vacancies will be filled for the duration of the scheduled term of office and will not extend beyond that.

Process for filling a casual vacancy on Council which forms part of the regulations and will follow the timeline and stages in that guide.

If it is determined that the vacancy occurs at such a time to make the election and subsequent term of office impractical then a decision may be made to defer that election until the next scheduled elections for that office. This decision will be made by the Chair of Council in consultation with the Director of Governance Support.

As a guide, however, where the election timeline enables an elected office to take up the role for six months or more, an election will be held.

Process for filling a casual vacancy on boards and committees

The process for filling casual vacancies on RCN boards and all other committees is as follows:

For an elected role an election will be held if the duration of the remaining term of office is greater than two years. The election will be held following the timeline and processes set out in the RCN's Guide to Election Procedures.

If the duration of the term of office is less than two years the role will be filled by appointment in line with the agreed process for appointments.

For all appointed roles, whatever the duration of the term of office, the vacancy will be filled in line with the agreed process for appointments.

If it is determined that the vacancy occurs at such a time to make the election or appointment and subsequent term of office impractical, then a decision may be made to defer that election/appointment until the next scheduled elections/appointments. This decision will be made by the chair of the board or committee in consultation with the Director of Governance Support and, in the case of country and regional boards, the Country or Regional Director and, in the case of UK forums, with the Head of Nursing.

As a guide, however, where the election/appointment timeline enables the role to be taken up for six months or more, an election/appointments process will be held.

Agreed by RCN Council, March 2013.