



*At the Council Chamber, Whitehall*

THE 17th DAY OF APRIL 2023

BY THE LORDS OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE  
PRIVY COUNCIL

The Privy Council has approved the amendments to the Bye-Laws of The Royal College of Psychiatrists set out in the Schedule to this Order.

*Richard Tilbrook, CVO*

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*SCHEDULE*

AMENDMENTS TO THE BYE-LAWS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

1. In Section I:

(a) under 'Definitions' *insert* new definitions:

“‘electronic form’ and ‘electronic means’ means a document or information sent or supplied – (i) by electronic means (for example, by e-mail or fax), or (ii) by any other means while in an electronic form (for example, sending a disk by post);

‘hard copy’ and ‘hard copy form’ means a document or information sent or supplied in a paper copy or similar form capable of being read;

‘Virtual Means’ means by telephone or video conferencing and/or use of electronic facilities and/or electronic platforms in which all participants may communicate with other participants.”.

(b) Under ‘Rules of Interpretation’:

(i) in sub-paragraph (e) *insert* “hard copy form or” before “electronic form”;

(ii) *delete* sub-paragraphs (f) and (g) and *substitute*:

“(f) A reference in these Bye-Laws to a person being present at a meeting of the Board of Trustees or of the UK Council (as the case may be) shall include such person being present by suitable Virtual Means where the Regulations, the Board of Trustees or the UK Council (as the case may be) permit that meeting to be held by suitable Virtual Means.

(g) If the Regulations permit persons to attend General and Special Meetings by Virtual Means or otherwise for any General Meeting or Special Meeting to be held in two or more locations and persons are permitted to attend by Virtual Means and/or a General Meeting or a Special Meeting is held in two or more specified locations, a reference in these Bye-Laws to a person being present at that General Meeting or Special Meeting (as the case may be) shall include reference to a person being present at any of such specified locations or by such Virtual Means.”.

(iii) **Delete** sub-paragraph (h) and **re-number** existing sub-paragraphs (i) to (k) as (h) to (j).

2. In Section XVII, The Board of Trustees:

(a) In paragraph 6 after “prescribe” **insert** “(which may be by Regulations)”;

(b) **delete** sub-paragraph 6(a) and **substitute**:

“(a) providing for meetings of the Board of Trustees to be held by Virtual Means;”.

3. In Section XIX, The UK Council, **delete** sub-paragraph 8(a) and **substitute**:

“(a) providing for meetings of the UK Council to be held by Virtual Means;”.

4. In Section XXVII, Meetings, Notices and Miscellaneous Provisions:

(a) **Delete** paragraph 1 and **substitute**:

“1. The Meetings of the College shall be General and Special. The Regulations may prescribe for General and Special Meetings to be held by Virtual Means and/or in two or more locations and/or by enabling participants to attend in person or by Virtual Means (a hybrid meeting) in accordance with such procedures as may be set out in the Regulations.”.

(b) **Delete** paragraph 6 and **substitute**:

“6. No person other than a Member of the College or Specialist Associate may vote at any Meeting of the College. Every Member of the College or Specialist Associate present in person at Meetings of the College shall exercise one vote by a show of

hands and on a poll (or, where the Meeting of the College is held by Virtual Means, as a hybrid meeting or in two or more locations, their vote may be exercised in accordance with such means as may be specified in the Regulations such as using an electronic voting system). Unless the Regulations otherwise expressly provide, a Member of the College or Specialist Associate shall not be entitled to appoint a proxy to vote at any Meeting of the College.”.