



At the Council Chamber, Whitehall

THE 6th DAY OF JANUARY 2026

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

The Privy Council has approved amendments to the Ordinances of the The Royal College of Pathologists as set out in the Schedule to this Order.

Richard Tilbrook, CVO

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDINANCES OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS

1. In Ordinance 1:

(i) ***delete*** “Assistant Registrar” and its definition;

(ii) after the definition of ‘the By-laws’ ***insert***:

“Cellular Pathology' includes histopathology, dermatopathology, neuropathology, cytopathology, haematopathology, oral & maxillofacial pathology, perinatal/paediatric pathology and forensic pathology and together are to be regarded as one College Specialty for this purpose;”;

(iii) in the definition of “College Specialty” after “list of specialties” ***insert*** “(whether Cellular Pathology or Non-Cellular Pathology)”;

(iv) after the definition of “Month” ***insert***:

“Non-Cellular Pathology' means all specialties which pertain to the College other than Cellular Pathology including but not limited to: Haematology, Clinical Biochemistry, Medical Microbiology, Toxicology, Genetics/Genomics, Veterinary

Pathology, Immunology, Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics, Andrology/Embryology, Transfusion Medicine, Virology;”;

- (v) in the definitions of “Registrar” and “Treasurer” *delete* "Ordinance 31(f)" and *substitute* “Ordinance 31(i)”;
- (vi) in the definition of “Vice-President” *delete* “Ordinance 31(e)” and *substitute* “Ordinances 31(e) to 31(h)”.

2. **Delete** Ordinance 31 and *substitute*:

“Honorary Officers and the President Elect

31. (a) The Honorary Officers, who must be voting members, shall be:

- (i) the President;
- (ii) not more than five Vice-Presidents;
- (iii) the Treasurer; and
- (v) the Registrar.

(b) The Honorary Officers shall be elected from amongst the voting members of the College by the voting members and the Diplomate Voting Members of the College in accordance with the procedures set out in these Ordinances and the By-laws.

President

(c) The President shall be elected every three years and shall hold office for a three year term. No person shall hold office as President for more than one term. A candidate is only eligible to stand in a presidential election if they are a member of a different College Specialty to the incumbent President. Where any candidate is a member of more than one College Specialty the Registrar shall determine in their sole discretion that candidate’s eligibility to stand.

President Elect

(d) The person elected as President shall hold office as President Elect from the date on which they are elected until the next following Annual General Meeting at which they commence office as President but shall not be an Honorary Officer or a Trustee by virtue of being the President Elect.

Vice-Presidents

(e) Four Vice-Presidents shall be elected when a vacancy has arisen or will arise and shall hold office for a term of three years.

- (f) A fifth Vice President may be elected, if the Board determines that it would be in the best interests of the College to do so. In the event that a fifth Vice-President shall be elected, the Board shall determine the length of the term of office of such Vice-President, which shall be no longer than three years.
- (g) Any Vice-President may stand for election for a second consecutive term of office.
- (h) No Vice-President shall hold office for more than two consecutive terms of office as Vice-President unless at least one year will have elapsed between the end of their previous term of office and the commencement of their next term of office.

Treasurer and Registrar

- (i) When a vacancy has arisen or will arise, the voting members and the Diplomate Voting Members shall elect a Treasurer and a Registrar, to each hold office in accordance with Ordinance 31(j).
- (j) The Treasurer and the Registrar may each hold office for a maximum of two consecutive terms of up to three years each. A Treasurer or Registrar who is willing to stand for a second consecutive term of office may be reappointed by the Board and does not need to stand for re-election. A member who has held office as the Treasurer or Registrar for the stated maximum number of consecutive terms shall not be eligible to stand for re-election to that same office unless at least one year will have elapsed between the end of their previous term of office and the commencement of their new term of office.

General provisions relating to Honorary Officers

- (k) Nominations of candidates for election to the positions of the Honorary Officers may be made by any voting member of the College in accordance with the By-laws. The Board shall determine the process by which nominees will be assessed as to their eligibility to hold office. The list of eligible nominations for Honorary Officers shall be sent to the voting members and the Diplomate Voting Members of the College together with details of the ballot, the date by which the votes cast must be received by the College. The results shall be announced by the Board in such manner as it determines from time to time.
- (l) Honorary Officers shall hold office (subject to the provisions of these Ordinances) from the end of the Annual General Meeting at or immediately following the date on which their election is announced.
- (m) Honorary Officers shall hold office (subject to the provisions of these Ordinances) until the end of the Annual General Meeting at or immediately following the date on which the results of the election of new Honorary Officers who will replace them is announced.

- (n) No person may hold more than one Honorary Officer position at any one time.
- (o) Any Honorary Officer who ceases to be a voting member of the College shall thereupon cease to hold office.
- (p) Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance 31, the Board may at any time appoint any voting member of the College to fill an unexpected vacancy in any Honorary Officer position on an interim basis. Any person so appointed shall hold office until the end of the next Annual General Meeting. Any such period of office served on an interim basis, shall not be counted when determining how many terms of office an Honorary Officer has served.
- (q) A 'year', 'term of years', or 'annually' for the purposes of this Ordinance 31 shall mean the period beginning with the end of the Annual General Meeting at which the term of office of the Honorary Officer commences and ending at the end of the Annual General Meeting which coincides with, or is closest to, the termination of the term of office in question.”.

3. **Delete** Ordinance 86 and **substitute**:

“86. The Board may appoint any Honorary Officer to act in place of the Registrar if there is no Registrar capable of so acting.”.