



*At the Council Chamber, Whitehall*

THE 13th DAY OF APRIL 2026

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

The Privy Council has approved the revised Ordinances of The Royal College of General Practitioners as set out in the Schedule to this Order.

*Niall Clarke-Petty*

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*SCHEDULE*

REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

**Interpretation**

1. In these Ordinances, the following words and expressions have the meanings shown beside them, subject to the context:

<b>“Byelaws”</b>	Byelaws of the College.
<b>“Charters”</b>	The original Charter, the Supplemental Charter to which these Ordinances are scheduled and any other Supplemental Charters, as amended, added to or revoked from time to time.
<b>“College”</b>	The Royal College of General Practitioners, incorporated by Royal Charter.
<b>“Council”</b>	The Council of the College.
<b>“Head of Staff”</b>	The head of staff of the College, including any person temporarily carrying out the duties of the post.

**“General Practitioner”** A person who is a Registered medical practitioner and whose name is included on the General Practitioner Register in accordance with section 34C of the Medical Act 1983.

**“In writing”** Written or produced by any substitute for handwriting, wholly or partly, including facsimile transmission, use of electronic mail or inclusion on computer disk.

**“In good standing”** Means that the member or associate so designated has duly paid all fees and subscriptions due from them to the College.

**“Overseas”** Any country or territory outside the United Kingdom.

**“Registered medical practitioner”** A person who is fully registered with the General Medical Council under Section 30 of the Medical Act 1983.

**“Trustee Board”** The Trustee Board of the College constituted in accordance with the Supplemental Charter.

2. References to “member” and “membership” include, subject to the context, “fellow” and “fellowship”, but exclude “international fellows”, “international members” and “international membership”.
3. The Interpretation Act 1978 applies to these Ordinances as to an Act of Parliament, except where a word or expression is expressly defined in these Ordinances, in which case the definition in these Ordinances shall prevail.

### **Membership of the College**

4. (1) Applications for membership shall be in such form and contain such information as the Council may require.
- (2) Each applicant for membership (excluding international membership and fellowship) must be a fully registered medical practitioner and, unless the Council in its discretion in an exceptional individual case waives any or all of the following requirements shall either:
  - (i) have completed special vocational training for general practice, the length and content of which complies with the requirements of the Council, and satisfy the Council by examination that he or she has had satisfactory training for general practice; OR
  - (ii) have been a registered medical practitioner for at least the five years immediately preceding his or her application and satisfy the Council by such method of assessment as is laid down by the Council that he or she undertakes the responsibilities of general medical practice to a standard at least equivalent to that required to pass the examination mentioned in (i).

- (3) Each applicant for international membership shall be a medical practitioner registered outside the United Kingdom who has satisfied the requirements of an approved assessment body. In this paragraph, “approved” means approved by the Council.

### **Fellowship of the College**

5. The Council may appoint as a fellow or international fellow respectively any member or international member of the College who satisfies the requirements prescribed in accordance with Ordinance 6 and completes the application process required from time to time by the College.
6. A member is qualified for appointment as a fellow or international fellow under Ordinance 5 if they have satisfactorily completed a process of assessment of their abilities as a general medical practitioner in such manner as the Council may decide, or has been nominated for fellowship or international fellowship for their distinguished contribution to general medical practice.

### **Associateship of the College**

7. A person is eligible for admission as an associate if they are a fully or provisionally registered medical practitioner and comply with the requirements in the Byelaws. Associate status granted to any person who is provisionally registered ceases after two years if they have not become fully registered in that time.

### **Termination or suspension of membership or associateship**

8. (1) Subject to (2), any member or associate who ceases to be a registered medical practitioner shall cease to be a member or associate of the College. Where a person’s registration as a medical practitioner is suspended for more than three months, their membership or associateship shall likewise be suspended.
- (2) A person who has voluntarily ceased to be a registered medical practitioner on the basis that they have retired permanently from medical practice, or is taking a temporary career break, and who was at the date of their ceasing to be so registered a member of the College in good standing, shall be entitled to continue their membership of the College.
- (3) A person who fails to pay any fee due to the College under these Ordinances or the Byelaws within any prescribed period shall cease to be a member or as the case may be associate of the College.

### **International affiliate status**

9. (1) The Council may afford affiliate status, which is not a form of membership of the College, on such conditions as it shall decide to medically-qualified persons outside the United Kingdom who are not registered medical practitioners.

- (2) The privileges of holders of international affiliate status shall be decided by the Council, but shall not include any right to receive notices for, or to attend, speak or vote at, general meetings.

### **Fees and subscriptions**

10. Each applicant for membership, associateship or international affiliate status shall pay to the College the application fee laid down under the Byelaws.
11. No person shall be admitted as a member, associate or international affiliate until they have paid the entrance fee laid down under the Byelaws.
12. Each member, associate and international affiliate shall pay the annual subscriptions laid down under the Byelaws. The Trustee Board may reduce the subscription payable in any particular case or category of cases on the grounds of hardship or for other good reason.

### **General meetings**

13. The College shall in every year hold an annual general meeting in person or online at such time and place as may be decided by the Trustee Board. Not more than fifteen months shall elapse between any two successive annual general meetings. The Trustee Board and the Council may each convene a general meeting at any time.
14. Fifty or more members may give notice in writing to the Head of Staff requiring the Trustee Board to convene a general meeting to consider a motion stated in the notice. If the Trustee Board does not within 28 days of receipt of the requisition convene a general meeting accordingly, the members requisitioning the meeting may require the Head of Staff to convene the general meeting.
15. The Byelaws may lay down rules governing general meetings, if not inconsistent with the Charters and these Ordinances.

### **Provost**

16. The College may appoint any member, fellow or honorary fellow as Provost of the College. The procedures for electing the Provost shall be as stated in the Byelaws.
17. The Provost holds office until the end of the second annual general meeting after their appointment (disregarding any adjournment of that meeting for this purpose), following which their successor takes office. A vacancy shall arise in the office of Provost in the same way as a vacancy would arise in the office of a Council member. No person shall be eligible for re-election as Provost unless the Council certifies that exceptional circumstances exist justifying their possible re-election.
18. If a casual vacancy arises in the office of Provost, arrangements will be made for an election and Council may appoint a Council member to fill the office until the conclusion of the election.

19. Where a person who is not a member of the College is elected as Provost, the Council shall appoint a member of the College as Deputy Provost, who shall discharge the duties of the Provost on their behalf.

### **The Trustee Board**

20. The Trustee Board shall consist of:
  - (1) eight members of Council; and
  - (2) four lay persons appointed by the Council on the basis of their special expertise and knowledge.
21. (1) The Byelaws shall state:
  - (a) Whether any of the Council members of the Trustee Board shall be ex officio and, if so, which officers shall serve on the Trustee Board ex officio;
  - (b) Any additional criteria which are thought to be appropriate for the election or appointment of the members of the Trustee Board;
  - (c) The procedure for the election by the Council of the Council members of the Trustee Board (other than any ex officio members), with a view to ensuring that the procedure is fair and transparent and complies with the Equality Act 2010 and College policies in this regard, as well as the guidance issued by the Charity Commission of England and Wales;
  - (d) The procedure for selecting and appointing lay members of the Trustee Board, with a view to ensuring that the procedure is fair and transparent and complies with the Equality Act 2010 and College policies in this regard, as well as the guidance issued by the Charity Commission of England and Wales; and
  - (e) The term of office of members of the Trustee Board (other than any ex officio members), whether members (other than any ex officio members) can be re-appointed or re-elected and, if so, for what number of occasions.
- (2) (a) Subject to (b), the Byelaws may subject to such conditions as are stated empower the Trustee Board to make regulations governing its meetings and procedures.
- (b) Questions arising at any meeting of the Trustee Board shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting and in the case of a tie, the Chair of the meeting shall have a second, or casting, vote.
- (3) Any act done in good faith by a meeting of the Trustee Board shall be valid, notwithstanding any defect in the appointment of any person or any other procedural irregularity, but this paragraph shall not validate any act contrary to

the College object or any provision in the Charters, these Ordinances or the Bye-Laws Byelaws.

### **The Council**

22. The Council shall be constituted, and Council members elected or appointed, in accordance with the Byelaws, if consistent with the Charters and these Ordinances.
23. Only a member of the College shall be eligible to be a member of the Council, but the Byelaws may subject to the prior consent of the Council provide that eligibility may be extended to other categories of person.

### **Removal and suspension of Council members and Trustee Board members**

24. (1) The office of a Council member or a lay member of the Trustee Board shall be vacated in any of the following circumstances:
  - (a) They resign in writing addressed to the Head of Staff;
  - (b) In the case of a member of the Trustee Board, they become disqualified from holding office as a charity trustee under the Charities Act 2011 as amended, re-enacted or replaced from time to time;
  - (c) In the case of a Council member or a member of the Trustee Board, they are absent without leave from four consecutive meetings of the Council or the Trustee Board, as the case may be, and the Council resolves that the office shall be vacated;
  - (d) In the case of a Council member, their term of office as a Council member expires and they are not re-elected or re-appointed to the Council;
  - (e) In the case of a Council member, they cease to be a member of the College;  
or
  - (f) They are removed from office as a Council member or a lay member of the Trustee Board by the Council under Ordinance 25.
- (2) Provisions in this Ordinance, and in Ordinances 25 – 27, relating to vacation of office by, or removal or suspension of, a Council member as such shall be taken in the case of a Council member of the Trustee Board to include also vacation of office, removal or suspension of that member from office as a member of the Trustee Board.
- (3) Provisions in this Ordinance, and in Ordinances 25 – 27, relating specifically to members of the Trustee Board as such apply to both Council members of the Trustee Board and lay members of the Trustee Board.

25. (1) Subject to the conditions set out in (2), the Council may remove a Council member or a lay member of the Trustee Board on any of the following grounds:

(a) The member has, in the opinion of such committee or other body as the Council has established to investigate the conduct of Council members and lay members of the Trustee Board:

(i) failed to comply in a serious respect with any Code of Conduct the Council has adopted and which is for the time being in force; or

(ii) seriously neglected their duties as a Council member or a lay member of the Trustee Board, other than in respect of failure to attend meetings of the Council or the Trustee Board, as the case may be; or

(b) The member has been convicted of any criminal offence in any court in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands which would, in the case of a member of the Trustee Board, not disqualify them from acting as a charity trustee, other than:

(i) One leading to an absolute or conditional discharge, or

(ii) A motoring offence where a fine or disqualification from driving for 12 months or less was imposed

and the committee or other body referred to in (a) recommends their removal; or

(c) In the case of a Council member, they have been the subject of adverse findings by the General Medical Council, other than those leading them to be erased from the register or suspended from practice, and the body referred to in (a) recommends their removal.

(2) The conditions under which the Council may remove a Council member or a lay member of the Trustee Board from office under Ordinance 25(1) are:

(a) Not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting at the Council meeting which is considering the proposed removal must vote in favour of it;

(b) Not less than 21 days' notice must be given of the Council meeting at which the proposed removal is to be considered;

(c) Notice in writing of the proposed removal, stating with sufficient particularity the grounds on which it is proposed, must be given to the member concerned not less than 21 days before the Council meeting at which the proposed removal is to be considered: and

(d) the member must be afforded a reasonable opportunity to make representations to the Council, whether in person or by a legal

representative, as they shall decide, on the subject of their proposed removal both –

- (i) in writing, prior to the Council meeting at which the proposed removal is to be considered, such written representations being circulated to Council members prior to that meeting, and
- (ii) orally, at the Council meeting at which the proposed removal is considered.

26. (1) Without prejudice to the other provisions in this Ordinance, the Council may suspend a Council member or lay member of the Trustee Board from their duties for such period as it shall specify, if:
- (a) it would otherwise be empowered to remove them from office under Ordinance 25(1);
  - (b) the procedural conditions set out in Ordinance 25(2) have been satisfied;
  - (c) it considers that this would be a more appropriate sanction in relation to the matters concerned than removal from office; and
  - (d) in the case of a lay member of the Trustee Board, it has consulted the Trustee Board.
- (2) Without prejudice to the other provisions in this Ordinance, a Council member or a lay member of the Trustee Board shall be suspended from their duties if:
- (a) the Council refers a complaint against the member arising under the Code of Conduct to such committee or other body established to investigate the conduct of Council members; or
  - (b) The Head of Staff receives written information that the member has been convicted of a criminal offence falling within Ordinance 25(1)(b); or
  - (c) in the case of a Council member, the Head of Staff receives written information that the member has been the subject of adverse findings by the General Medical Council falling within Ordinance 25(1)(c).
- (3) Suspension of a Council member or a lay member of the Trustee Board under (2) shall continue:
- (a) until the committee or other body referred to in Ordinance 25(1)(a) issues a report exonerating the member, if a complaint has been referred to that committee or body under that provision; or
  - (b) until the committee or other body referred to in Ordinance 25(1)(a) issues a report recommending that the member should not be removed, where the

member has been the subject of a criminal conviction falling within Ordinance 26(1)(b)); or

- (c) where neither (a) nor (b) applies, until the Council meeting at which the proposed removal of the member is considered, and the Council has decided whether the member should be removed.
  - (4) Without prejudice to the other provisions in this Ordinance, the Council may suspend any Council member or lay member of the Trustee Board from their duties for a period of up to 90 days where, in the opinion of the Council having consulted the Trustee Board in the case of a lay member of the Trustee Board, this is necessary to separate the member from any employee of the College who has made a complaint against that member.
27. A Council member who is suspended from practice by the General Medical Council shall be suspended from their duties as a Council member during the period of suspension by the General Medical Council.

### **Proceedings of the Council**

28. The Council may meet, transact business, adjourn and otherwise regulate its meetings as it thinks fit and may make standing orders for this purpose. Questions arising at any Council meeting are decided by a majority of those present and voting. In the case of a tie, the Chair of the meeting shall have a second, or casting, vote.
29. The continuing members of the Council may act notwithstanding any casual vacancies, but if the number of Council members falls below the quorum for Council meetings the remaining Council members may act only to fill vacancies or to convene a general meeting. If there are no Council members able or willing to act, any two members of the College may convene a general meeting to appoint members of the Council.
30. Any act done in good faith by a Council meeting or by a committee meeting, or by a member of the Council or of a committee, shall be valid, notwithstanding any defect in the appointment of any person or any other procedural irregularity.

### **Financial powers of the Trustee Board**

31. The Trustee Board may exercise all the financial powers of the College and may make regulations dealing with the exercise of these powers.

### **Investment powers**

32. The College acting through the Trustee Board may invest its moneys in any investment authorised by the Trustee Act 2000, as amended, repealed or re-enacted from time to time, or in any investment authorised by any other statute, in a common investment fund or under a scheme made by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

### **Power to make Byelaws**

33. The Trustee Board may make, amend, add to or revoke Byelaws for the regulation of the College and generally to further the College object, if not inconsistent with the Charters and these Ordinances.
34. A Trustee Board resolution making, amending, adding to or revoking Byelaws has no effect until confirmed by a resolution of a general meeting passed by a majority of the members voting.

### **Devolved councils**

35. (1) The devolved councils are in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The Council may establish additional devolved and overseas councils.
  - (2) The devolved councils shall further the College object in their areas, and may exercise delegated functions on behalf of the College and the Trustee Board or the Council, depending on the allocation of responsibility for the function stated in the Supplemental Charter, subject to any conditions stated in the Byelaws, and provided the Trustee Board or the Council, as the case may be makes appropriate arrangements to be kept informed about the exercise of such delegated functions.
  - (3) Nothing in this Ordinance precludes the Trustee Board or the Council as the case may be from exercising any function delegated to a devolved council.
36. The Byelaws shall regulate the terms of reference, powers and membership of the devolved and overseas councils, and may adopt different terminology to refer to them. Each devolved and overseas council shall adopt rules for the administration of its affairs, if not inconsistent with the Charters, these Ordinances or the Byelaws. No such rules shall have effect until approved by the Trustee Board.

### **Faculties**

37. The existing faculties of the College shall be continued, and the Council may establish additional faculties, with the purpose of furthering the College object. The name and scope of each faculty shall be decided by the Council. Faculties may exercise delegated functions on behalf of the College and the Council, subject to any conditions stated in the Byelaws and provided the Council makes appropriate arrangements to be kept informed about the exercise of such delegated functions.
38. The Byelaws shall regulate the terms of reference, powers and membership of faculties. Each faculty shall adopt rules (to be known as “Faculty Byelaws”) for the administration of its affairs, if not inconsistent with the Charters, these Ordinances or the Byelaws. No such rules shall have effect until approved by the Trustee Board.

### **Sub-Faculties**

39. Any faculty may, with the approval of the Council, establish a sub-faculty and make provision for its membership and the regulation of its affairs.

### **Officers and staff of the College**

40. The Council may appoint a President and other officers, with such terms and duties as the Council decide, and may suspend or remove them from office.
41. The Trustee Board may appoint a Head of Staff and such other staff of the College as it may decide, with such duties as may be decided, and may decide their terms and conditions of employment.

### **Accounts and audit**

42. (1) The Trustee Board shall ensure that proper books of account are kept in compliance with relevant accounting standards. The Trustee Board shall lay before each annual general meeting accounts for the previous financial year containing an income and expenditure account and balance sheet, together with the auditors' report on those accounts.
  - (2) The audited accounts, in full or summary form, may be made available to members by electronic means, including by being placed on the website, provided the full accounts are available on request before and at the meeting.
43. A Council member is entitled to inspect the accounting records of the College at any time. Any member of the College is entitled to inspect the accounting records of the College, subject to any restrictions imposed by the Trustee Board.
44. Auditors shall be elected at each annual general meeting. The Byelaws shall state the procedure for the nomination and election of the auditors. The auditors must be registered auditors under the Companies Act 2006 (or any consolidation or re-enactment of that Act).
45. The remuneration of the auditors shall be fixed by a general meeting, or in such manner as a general meeting may decide.
46. The auditors are entitled to receive notice of every general meeting, to attend such meetings and to speak on any item of business concerning them as auditors.

### **Authentication of documents**

47. The Head of Staff and any person authorised by the Head of Staff may sign any document issued by or on behalf by the College to authenticate it, and may certify as a true copy any copy of, or extract from, such a document:

### **The common seal**

48. The common seal of the College shall be affixed to any document only with the authority of the Trustee Board or in accordance with regulations approved by the Trustee Board. Use of the common seal shall be counter-signed by two members of the Trustee Board or by one member of the Trustee Board and the Head of Staff.

### **Indemnity**

49. Every member of the Trustee Board, Council member, chair of any committee, auditor, or member of the College staff may, subject to the Charter, be indemnified by the College for any liabilities arising from the carrying out of their duties.