



## The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Council Elections 2026

### Information Sheet

#### 1. Timeline

- The call for nominations will open on Monday 01 June 2026.
- The deadline for receipt of applications to stand as a Council Member is 29 June 2026 at 5pm BST.
- Voting will open online on Monday 20 July 2026.
- The closing date for receipt of votes is Monday 31 August 2026.
- Successful candidates will be informed by Friday 04 September 2026 and will take their place on Council from Friday 20 November 2026.

#### 2. Duties of Elected Council Members

It is essential that any Fellow considering standing for election gives careful attention to the duties and time commitment required of elected Members of Council. Please see “Council Member Role” on the election homepage.

#### 3. Eligibility

To be eligible to stand for Council, you must:

- be a surgical Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in good standing<sup>1</sup>
- not be under investigation by, or facing disciplinary action, from any relevant regulatory body or employer organisation, and/or have been charged with a criminal offence.
- all applications must be supported by two Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in good standing and who have given consent for their names to appear as a proposer and seconder.

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<sup>1</sup> Good Standing in respect of a Fellow or Member means they:

- (i) are not in arrears with their subscriptions or fees to the College and/or a Faculty; and
- (ii) have no restrictions on their practice from a regulatory body

- Due to the change in Regulations, up to three elected Members of Council may be from outwith the UK at any one time. These places are not ringfenced. For the 2026 elections, only one place is potentially available for an international candidate.
- If you are retired, you must have retired from active clinical practice within 2 years.

#### **4. Term of office**

Any candidate who is successfully elected will be admitted to Council at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 20 November 2026. New Council Members' term of office will run for three years, until November 2029. If this is their first term of office, they will then be eligible to stand for two further terms of office, up to a maximum of nine years.

#### **5. Composition of Council**

Under the College's Laws, Trustees have delegated responsibility to Council for all substantive matters relating to professional and public policy which upholds the mission and strategic aims of the College and supports members.

As of November 2025, the composition of Council is now:

- The President elected by Council
- Four Vice Presidents elected by Council
- The Vice President (Dental) elected by Dental Council
- 17 Elected Members of Council elected by a vote of all Members and Fellows of the College
- A Dental Vice Dean, elected by Dental Council
- Two Trainee Members of Council
- Two SASL (Specialty Doctors, Associate Specialist, Specialist Grade & Locally employed surgeons') Members of Council
- Two Younger Fellows (those within 10 years of Fellowship); and
- The College's appointed Deans of Education, Examination and the International Postgraduate Deanery.

#### **6. Diversity**

While Council Members are not appointed or elected as representatives of any particular group, region or body of Fellows, the College welcomes and strongly encourages candidates from a broad and diverse range of backgrounds, perspectives and

geographical areas. There are several places available on Council and we strongly encourage our Fellows to stand for Council and help shape the future of the profession.

Please see “Council Members 2026” which details the current composition of Council below.

## **7. Civica Election Services (CES)**

The College has appointed CES to run the nomination process and voting for this election on behalf of the College. CES has assisted the College with their election processes for many years and has a vast knowledge and experience of running and administering elections, ballots and consultation processes and are the UK’s leading provider of election services.

## **8. Council Election - Application Process**

Those eligible should complete the online nomination form via the CES platform:

[www.cesvotes.com/RCSEdCouncilNoms26](http://www.cesvotes.com/RCSEdCouncilNoms26)

### **Personal statements**

Each prospective candidate will be asked to include in the application:

- A written election statement of no more than 350 words outlining why they wish to stand for Council and their aspirations for the future of the College.
- A statement of no more than 250 words reflecting on their contribution to College activities to-date.
- A recent high-resolution photograph.

This information shall form the basis of the ballot and voting pack that will be available to the electorate.

In addition, at the point of nomination, candidates must provide via the CES system:

- An employer letter of support
- The names of a proposer and seconder who are Fellows of the College in good standing - permission having been sought prior to submitting their names.

Please note that the College will not circulate any statement containing comments which the College's legal advisers regard as libellous. In such an event, the candidate will be advised and, provided the statement is received in time, the candidate will be given the opportunity to amend it.

The Council agreed in January 2025 that the canvassing of votes is prohibited.

Candidates and their supporters must not use their own communication channels or College branding (including the College Logo) to promote their candidacy. This includes using the communication channels of their Specialty Association, the press or their own social media. Please see the Election Code which governs this election.

## **9. Deadline for receipt of nominations**

All completed applications must be submitted online and received no later than 29 June 2026 at 5pm BST.

Confirmation of receipt of nomination forms will be acknowledged by CES within five working days of receipt. Any nominee who does not receive confirmation should contact CES via the details provided on the online nomination form.

## **10. Distribution of Ballot Papers**

On 20 July 2026, every Fellow and Member who is eligible to vote\* and whose email is registered at the College will receive an email from Civica advising of the opening of the voting window through an online portal; this will include the details of the candidates who have satisfied the application process outlined above. You are requested to give notice, without delay, of any change of email to avoid misdirection of your ballot papers to the Membership Office of the College at [membership@rcsed.ac.uk](mailto:membership@rcsed.ac.uk). Fellows and Members will be able to vote online through the portal.

*\*Please kindly note that Members or Fellows who are elected post-15 July 2026, will not be eligible to vote in this year's elections.*

## **11. Successful candidates**

Successful candidates will be formally announced at the Council meeting to be held on 4 September 2026 and will be invited to join Council at the AGM to be held on Friday 20 November 2026.

## **12. Data Protection (UK GDPR)**

Candidates' election statements and photographs will be reproduced and circulated to voters with the ballot paper and also used for the purpose of publicising the election via College communications to its membership under UK GDPR part. 6.1(f) legitimate interest. This will include College newsletters and its social media channels. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [dataprotection@rcsed.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@rcsed.ac.uk)

### **13. Enquiries**

Enquiries concerning the election should be directed, in the first instance, as follows:

- Enquiries on eligibility to vote or stand for election should be directed to the Membership Department – [membership@rcsed.ac.uk](mailto:membership@rcsed.ac.uk)
- Enquiries on the election process should be directed to Civica Election services – [support@cesvotes.com](mailto:support@cesvotes.com)
- For any other enquiries, please contact Ms Anna Paisley, Vice President via the PA to the Office Bearers [officebearerpa@rcsed.ac.uk](mailto:officebearerpa@rcsed.ac.uk)

## Office Bearers and Council Members 2025-2026

### Office Bearers

C McNaught	President	General Surgery	Harrogate
A Paisley	Vice President	General Surgery	Edinburgh
R Paton	Vice President	Trauma and Orthopaedics	Burnley
P Turner	Vice President	Trauma and Orthopaedics	Manchester
A Watson	Vice President	General Surgery	Inverness
G McIntyre	Vice President - Dental	Dental	Dundee

### Council Members

P Brennan	Neurosurgery	Edinburgh
L Chagla	Breast Surgery	Merseyside
S Clark	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	Manchester
F Din	General Surgery	Edinburgh
P Driscoll	General Surgery	Kirkcaldy
C Edwards	Trauma and Orthopaedics	Norwich
R Khan	General Surgery	Pakistan
S Liau	HPB Surgery	London
KK Madhavan	General Surgery	Edinburgh
A McCabe	Paediatric Surgery	Edinburgh
A Mountain	Trauma and Orthopaedics	Stoke on Trent
A Nassef	Vascular Surgery	Leeds
Z Raza	Vascular Surgery	Edinburgh
H Rehman	Trauma and Orthopaedics	Dundee
C Selvasekar	General Surgery	Manchester
E Stapleton	Otolaryngology	Manchester
S Vittal	General Surgery	India