

Governance Report

1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland is an Irish registered charity (Charities Regulatory Authority Number 20002718) and complies with the Charities Governance Code. RCPI is governed under the 1692 Charter (and subsequent amendments) and the RCPI by-laws.

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
October 2026

Council Members and Trustees

The fellows of the College as the Body Corporate have devolved authority to Council, which has the ultimate responsibility for the actions, decisions and policies of RCPI. All Council members are Trustees of RCPI.

Council's role is to ensure the legal and ethical integrity of the College. It defines the values, mission, vision, goals, objectives and strategic direction of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and approves general policies. Council also ensures the accountability of RCPI by monitoring and supporting the implementation of policies, directives and general functions. It fulfils this accountability and monitoring through various means including the receipt and review of reports from the President and CEO, the Treasurer, the Executive Committee, Faculty Boards, and its standing committees.

During the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 Council met four times, with one meeting held in University College Cork.

Some key highlights include the following:

- In June 2025, the new **RCPI Strategic Plan 2025–2029** was launched. At Council meetings throughout the year, Council members received quarterly progress updates on all strategic projects, together with presentations on key strategic initiatives, including the General Internal Medicine Review Progress Update, the RCPI Public Engagement Strategy, and Reasonable Adjustments in Training.
- The **Museum Board** provided regular updates to Council on progress with the Museum project.
- The **Connect Project** remained a standing item on the Council agenda, with Trustees receiving regular updates from the Steering Committee as the project progressed.
- Council approved the RCPI and Hibernia College proposal to enter into a framework agreement to co-develop and deliver five innovative **education programmes**. Council also approved the proposal to commence the formal development of the Professional Diploma in Obesity Care.
- Council reviewed and approved a number of new and updated **College policies**, including the RCPI Donations Acceptance Policy, RCPI Legacy and Bequest Policy, updated RCPI Reasonable Adjustment Policy, External-Facing Charitable Activities Policy, and updated RCPI Investment Policy.
- During the year, Council commissioned external providers to conduct an Effectiveness Review, Skills Audit, and a Governance Review, all of which were completed.
- In December, Council members received an update from the RCPI Representative on the **Medical Council**.

- Council oversaw the **elections** for President-Designate and four Ordinary Councillors. The following Fellows were elected to Council for a three-year term commencing in October 2026: Professor Anto O'Regan (President-Designate), Professor Derek O'Keeffe (Medicine), Dr Declan Byrne (Medicine), Dr Sean Fleming (Medicine), and Dr Tom O'Connell (Occupational Medicine).
- In June 2026, Council and Executive Committee members participated in a joint governance workshop facilitated by an external consultant.

Members of Council

Name and Title	Role	Notes
Dr Diarmuid O'Shea	President	
Prof Michael Keane	Registrar	
Prof Mary Higgins	Treasurer	
Dr Martin Hogan	Vice President and Ordinary Councillor (Occ Med)	Appointed Vice President on 20 October 2025
Prof Pamela O'Connor	Ordinary Councillor (Paeds) and Vice President	Completed term as Vice President on 20 October 2025
Prof Liam Plant	Ordinary Councillor (IOM)	Completed term on Council on 20 October 2025
Prof Joan Power	Ordinary Councillor (Pathology)	Completed term on Council on 20 October 2025
Dr Anna Clark	Ordinary Councillor (IOM)	Completed term on Council on 20 October 2025
Prof Cathy McHugh	Ordinary Councillor (IOM)	
Prof Donal Reddan	Ordinary Councillor (IOM)	
Prof Gaye Cunnane	Ordinary Councillor (IOM)	
Prof Aine Carroll	Ordinary Councillor (IOM)	
Dr Laura Durcan	Ordinary Councillor (IOM)	
Professor Rónán Collins	Ordinary Councillor (IOM)	Term commenced on 20 October 2025
Dr Michael Farrell	Ordinary Councillor (Path)	Term commenced on 20 October 2025
Prof Tim Lynch	Ordinary Councillor (IOM)	Term commenced on 20 October 2025

Name and Title	Role	Notes
Dr Jennifer Martin	Ordinary Councillor (PHM)	Term commenced on 20 October 2025
Prof Keelin O'Donoghue	Ordinary Councillor (O&G)	Term commenced on 20 October 2025
Jamie Olden	Advisory Co-optee	Term commenced on 26 September 2025
Joe O'Shea	Advisory Co-optee	
Dr Alessandra Bagini	Chair Trainees Committee	Term completed 30 June 2026
Dr Sarah Cavallari	Vice Chair Trainees Committee	Term commenced 1 July 2025

Executive Committee

Under delegated authority, in accordance with the By-Laws and the strategy set by Council, the Executive Committee oversees the operation and management of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. The Executive Committee reports to RCPI Council.

The President is the Chair of the Executive Committee and the members include the Officers and Deans/Chair of the faculties and institutes. The Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and a Senior Independent Director also sit on the Executive Committee.

Members of Executive Committee

Name and Title	Role	Notes
Dr Diarmuid O'Shea	President and Chair	
Prof Michael Keane	Registrar	
Prof Mary Higgins	Treasurer	
Dr Pamela O'Connor	Vice President	Term completed 20 October 2025
Dr Martin Hogan	Vice President	Term commenced 20 October 2025
Prof Edward McKone	Dean, Institute of Medicine	
Dr Judith Meehan	Dean, Faculty of Paediatrics	
Dr Suzanne O'Sullivan	Chair, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology	
Dr Alex Reid	Dean, Faculty of Occupational Medicine	
Prof Cecily Kelleher	Dean, Faculty of Public Health	Term completed December 2025
Dr Kevin Kelleher	Dean, Faculty of Public Health	Term commenced December 2025
Prof Mary Keogan	Dean, Faculty of Pathology	Term completed 13 February 2026
Dr Shari Srinivasan	Dean, Faculty of Pathology	Term commenced 13 February 2026
Dr Maeve Doyle	Dean of Education and Chair, Academic Board	
Mr Martin Freyne	Senior Independent Director	Term commenced 19 May 2026
Ms Audrey Houlihan	CEO	
Ms Sheila Gallagher	CFO	

Trustees and Other Information

Trustees (See table of Council Members)

Chief Executive Officer: Ms Audrey Houlihan

Executive Committee (See table of Executive Committee Members)

Senior Leadership Team:

- Ms Audrey Houlihan CEO
- Ms Sheila Gallagher, CFO
- Mr Diarmuid Breathnach, Director of Training, Education & Lifelong Learning
- Sinead Lucey, Director of Business Development and Examinations
- Siobhán Creaton, Director of Communications and Public Affairs
- Michael Hughes, Chief Technology Officer
- Prof Trevor Duffy, Head of Healthcare Leadership

Principal Office

Frederick House
19 South Frederick Street,
Dublin 2

Principal Bankers

AIB
Grafton Street,
Dublin 2

Auditors

BDO
Block 3, Miesian Plaza,
50-58 Baggot St Lower,
Dublin 2

Solicitors

Arthur Cox
Ten Earlsfort Terrace,
Dublin 2

Ronan Daly Jermyn
The Exchange,
George's Dock IFSC,
Dublin 1

Charity Registration

CHY Number: 1897 Charities Regulatory Authority Number: 20002718