

Form AR21

Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992

Annual Return for a Trade Union

Name of Trade Union:

Royal College of Nursing

Year ended:

31 December 2024

List no:

528T

Head or Main Office address:

20 Cavendish Square

London

Postcode

W1G 0RN

Website address (if available)

www.rcn.org.uk

Has the address changed during the year to which the return relates?

Yes

No

X

('X' in appropriate box)

General Secretary:

Professor Nicola Ranger

Telephone Number:

020 7647 3447

Contact name for queries regarding the completion of this return

Marika Ruddick

Telephone Number:

020 7647 3509

E-mail:

marika.ruddick@rcn.org.uk

Please follow the guidance notes in the completion of this return

Any difficulties or problems in the completion of this return should be directed to the Certification Officer as below or by telephone to: 0330 109 3602

You should send the annual return to the following email address stating the name of the union in subject:

returns@certoffice.org

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Return of Members

(see notes 10 and 11)

	Number of members at the end of the year				
	Great Britain	Northern Ireland	Irish Republic	Elsewhere Abroad (including Channel Islands)	Totals
	565,183	18,837	375	5,322	589,717
Total	565,183	18,837	375	5,322	A 589,717

Number of members at end of year contributing to the General Fund

589,717

Number of members included in totals box 'A' above for whom no home or authorised address is held:

6,423

Change of Officers

Please complete the following to record any changes of officers during the twelve months covered by this return

Position Held	Name of Officer ceasing to hold Office	Name of Officer Appointed	Date of change
Council member	Julie Green		31 July 2024
Council member (Chair of Congress)	B J Waltho		07 June 2024
Council member (Chair of Congress)		Linda Bailey	24 September 2024

State whether the union is:

a. A branch of another trade union?

Yes

No

X

If yes, state the name of that other union:

b. A federation of trade unions?

Yes

No

X

If yes, state the number of affiliated unions:

and names:

Officers in post

(see note 12)

Please complete list of all officers in post at the end of the year to which this return relates.

[illegible]

General Fund

(see notes 13 to 18)

	£000	£000
Income		
From Members: Contributions and Subscriptions		63,224
From Members: Other income from members (specify)		
Total other income from members		
Total of all income from members		63,224
Investment income (as at page 12)		1,721
Other Income		
Income from Federations and other bodies (as at page 4)		
Income from any other sources (as at page 4)	4,091	
Total of other income (as at page 4)		4,091
Total income		69,036
Interfund Transfers IN		
Expenditure		
Benefits to members (as at page 5)		35,710
Administrative expenses (as at page 10)		26,293
Federation and other bodies (specify)		
Total expenditure Federation and other bodies		
Taxation		
Total expenditure		62,003
Interfund Transfers OUT		
Surplus (deficit) for year		7,033
Amount of general fund at beginning of year		64,649
Amount of general fund at end of year		71,682

(see notes 19 and 20)

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Analysis of benefit expenditure shown at the General Fund

(see notes 21 to 23)

			£000
Representation – Employment Related Issues		brought forward	28,473
	28,371	Advisory Services	3,988
Representation – Non Employment Related Issues		Other Cash Payments	
		Education and Training services	3,249
Communications	11	Negotiated Discount Services	
Dispute Benefits	91	Other Benefits and Grants (specify)	
carried forward	28,473	Total (should agree with figure in General Fund)	35,710

(See notes 21 and 23)

Fund 2		Fund Account		
Name:		£000	£000	
Income	From members			
	Investment income (as at page 12)			
	Other income (specify)			
		Total other income as specified		
		Total Income		
		Interfund Transfers IN		
Expenditure	Benefits to members			
	Administrative expenses and other expenditure (as at page 10)			
			Total Expenditure	
			Interfund Transfers OUT	
			Surplus (Deficit) for the year	
			Amount of fund at beginning of year	
			Amount of fund at the end of year (as Balance Sheet)	
			Number of members contributing at end of year	

Fund 3		Fund Account		
Name:		£	£	
Income	From members			
	Investment income (as at page 12)			
	Other income (specify)			
		Total other income as specified		
		Total Income		
		Interfund Transfers IN		
Expenditure	Benefits to members			
	Administrative expenses and other expenditure (as at page 10)			
			Total Expenditure	
			Interfund Transfers OUT	
			Surplus (Deficit) for the year	
			Amount of fund at beginning of year	
			Amount of fund at the end of year (as Balance Sheet)	
			Number of members contributing at end of year	

(See notes 21 and 23)

Fund 4		Fund Account	
Name:		£000	£000
Income			
From members			
Investment income (as at page 12)			
Other income (specify)			
Total other income as specified			
Total Income			
Interfund Transfers IN			
Expenditure			
Benefits to members			
Administrative expenses and other expenditure (as at page 10)			
Total Expenditure			
Interfund Transfers OUT			
Surplus (Deficit) for the year			
Amount of fund at beginning of year			
Amount of fund at the end of year (as Balance Sheet)			
Number of members contributing at end of year			

Fund 5		Fund Account	
Name:		£	£
Income			
From members			
Investment income (as at page 12)			
Other income (specify)			
Total other income as specified			
Total Income			
Interfund Transfers IN			
Expenditure			
Benefits to members			
Administrative expenses and other expenditure (as at page 10)			
Total Expenditure			
Interfund Transfers OUT			
Surplus (Deficit) for the year			
Amount of fund at beginning of year			
Amount of fund at the end of year (as Balance Sheet)			
Number of members contributing at end of year			

(See notes 21 and 23)

Fund 6		Fund Account	
Name:		£000	£000
Income			
	From members		
	Investment income (as at page 12)		
	Other income (specify)		
	Total other income as specified		
	Total Income		
	Interfund Transfers IN		
Expenditure			
	Benefits to members		
	Administrative expenses and other expenditure (as at page 10)		
	Total Expenditure		
	Interfund Transfers OUT		
	Surplus (Deficit) for the year		
	Amount of fund at beginning of year		
	Amount of fund at the end of year (as Balance Sheet)		
	Number of members contributing at end of year		

Fund 7		Fund Account	
Name:		£	£
Income			
	From members		
	Investment income (as at page 12)		
	Other income (specify)		
	Total other income as specified		
	Total Income		
	Interfund Transfers IN		
Expenditure			
	Benefits to members		
	Administrative expenses and other expenditure (as at page 10)		
	Total Expenditure		
	Interfund Transfers OUT		
	Surplus (Deficit) for the year		
	Amount of fund at beginning of year		
	Amount of fund at the end of year (as Balance Sheet)		
	Number of members contributing at end of year		

(See notes 21 and 23)

Fund 8		Fund Account	
Name:		£000	£000
Income	From members		
	Investment income (as at page 12)		
	Other income (specify)		
	Total other income as specified		
	Total Income		
	Interfund Transfers IN		
Expenditure	Benefits to members		
	Administrative expenses and other expenditure (as at page 10)		
	Total Expenditure		
	Interfund Transfers OUT		
	Surplus (Deficit) for the year		
	Amount of fund at beginning of year		
	Amount of fund at the end of year (as Balance Sheet)		
	Number of members contributing at end of year		

Fund 9		Fund Account	
Name:		£	£
Income	From members		
	Investment income (as at page 12)		
	Other income (specify)		
	Total other income as specified		
	Total Income		
	Interfund Transfers IN		
Expenditure	Benefits to members		
	Administrative expenses and other expenditure (as at page 10)		
	Total Expenditure		
	Interfund Transfers OUT		
	Surplus (Deficit) for the year		
	Amount of fund at beginning of year		
	Amount of fund at the end of year (as Balance Sheet)		
	Number of members contributing at end of year		

Political fund account

(see notes 24 to 33)

£000

£000

Political fund account 1

To be completed by trade unions which maintain their own political fund

Income			
	Members contributions and levies		
	Investment income (as at page 12)		
Other income (specify)			
		Total other income as specified	
		Total income	

Expenditure under section (82) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 on purposes set out in section (72) (1) where consolidation of expenditures from the political funds exceeds £2,000 during the period

Expenditure A (as at page i)	
Expenditure B (as at page ii)	
Expenditure C (as at page iii)	
Expenditure D (as at page iv)	
Expenditure E (as at page v)	
Expenditure F (as at page vi)	
Non-political expenditure (as at page vii)	
Total expenditure	
Surplus (deficit) for year	
Amount of political fund at beginning of year	
Amount of political fund at the end of year (as <u>Balance Sheet</u>)	
Number of members at end of year contributing to the political fund	
Number of members at end of the year not contributing to the political fund	
Number of members at end of year who have completed an exemption notice and do not contribute to the political fund	

Political fund account 2 To be completed by trade unions which act as components of a central trade union

Income			
	Contributions and levies collected from members on behalf of central political fund		
	Funds received back from central political fund		
Other income (specify)			
		Total other income as specified	
		Total income	
Expenditure			
	Expenditure under section 82 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (specify)		
	Administration expenses in connection with political objects(specify)		
	Non-political expenditure		
		Total expenditure	
		Surplus (deficit) for year	
		Amount held on behalf of trade union political fund at beginning of year	
		Amount remitted to central political	
		Amount held on behalf of central political fund at end of year	
		Number of members at end of year contributing to the political fund	
		Number of members at end of the year not contributing to the political fund	
		Number of members at end of year who have completed an exemption notice and do not therefore contribute to the political fund	

The following pages 9i to 9vii relate to the Political Fund Account Expenditure

Political fund account expenditure (a)

Expenditure under section 72 (1) (a) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (consolidation) Act.

To be completed where total expenditure from the political fund exceeds £2,000 during the period to which return relates.

Contribution to the funds of, or on the payment of expenses incurred directly or indirectly by a political party

[illegible]

Political fund account expenditure (b)

Expenditure under section 72 (1) (a) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (consolidation) Act.

To be completed where total expenditure from the political fund exceeds £2,000 during the period to which return relates

Expenditure of money on the provision of any services or property for use by or on behalf of any political party

Name of political party to which payment was made	Total amount paid during the period
	£
Total	

Political fund account expenditure (c)

Expenditure under section 72 (1) (a) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (consolidation) Act.

To be completed where total expenditure from the political fund exceeds £2,000 during the period to which return relates.

Expenditure in connection with the registration of electors, the candidature of any person, the selection of any candidate or the holding of any ballot by the union in connection with any election to a political office

[illegible]

Political fund account expenditure (d)

Expenditure under section 72 (1) (a) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (consolidation) Act.

To be completed where total expenditure from the political fund exceeds £2,000 during the period to which return relates.

Expenditure on the maintenance of any holder of political office	
Name of office holder	£
Total	

Political fund account expenditure (e)

Expenditure under section 72 (1) (a) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (consolidation) Act.

To be completed where total expenditure from the political fund exceeds £2,000 during the period to which return relates.

The expenditure of money on the holding of any conference or meeting by or on behalf of a political party or of any other meeting the main purpose of which is the transaction of business in connection with a political party

Name of political party	£
Total	

Political fund account expenditure (f)

Expenditure under section 72 (1) (a) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (consolidation) Act.

To be completed where total expenditure from the political fund exceeds £2,000 during the period to which return relates

On the production, publication or distribution of any literature, document, film, sound recording or advertisement the main purpose of which is to persuade people to vote for a political party or candidate or to persuade them not to vote for a political party or candidate

Name of organisation or political party	£
Total	

**Expenditure from the political fund not falling within section 72 (1) of the trade union & labour relations
(consolidation) act 1992**

For expenditure not falling within section 72 (1) the required information is-

(a) the nature of each cause or campaign for which money was expended, and the total amount expended in relation to each one		£

Total expenditure

(b) the name of each organisation to which money was paid (otherwise than for a particular cause of campaign), and the total amount paid to each one

£

Total expenditure

£

(c) the total amount of all other money expended

Total expenditure

Total of all expenditures

(see notes 34 and 35)

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Analysis of officials' salaries and benefits
(see notes 36 to 46 below)

Office held	Gross Salary	Employers N.I. contributions	Benefits			Total
	£	£	Pension Contributions £	Other Benefits		£
				Description	Value	
					£	
29 May - 31 December 2024						
General Secretary & Chief Executive (current)	69,140	9,109	5,531	none		83,780
1 January - 29 May 2024						
General Secretary & Chief Executive (former)	75,969	10,061	6,938	none		92,968

Analysis of investment income

(see notes 47 and 48)

	Political Fund £000	Other Fund(s) £000
Rent from land and buildings		
Dividends (gross) from:		
Equities (e.g. shares)		663
Interest (gross) from:		
Government securities (Gilts)		101
Mortgages		
Local Authority Bonds		
Bank and Building Societies		957
Other investment income (specify)		
		1,721
Total investment income		1,721
Credited to:		
General Fund (Page 3)		1,721
Political Fund		
Total Investment Funds		1,721

31 December 2024

31 December 2024

31 December 2024

Fixed assets account

(see notes 53 to 57)

	Land and Buildings		Furniture and Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Not used for union business	Total
	Freehold	Leasehold				
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or Valuation						
At start of year						
Additions						
Disposals						
Revaluation/Transfers						
At end of year						
Accumulated Depreciation						
At start of year						
Charges for year						
Disposals						
Revaluation/Transfers						
At end of year						
Net book value at end of year						
Net book value at end of previous year						

Analysis of investments

(see notes 58 and 59)

Quoted		All Funds Except Political Funds £000	Political Fund £000
	Equities (e.g. Shares)		
	UK	1,072	
	Global	22,849	
	Government Securities (Gilts)		
		5,303	
	Other quoted securities (to be specified)		
	Alternative assets	3,000	
	Property	991	
	Liquid assets	787	
	Total quoted (as Balance Sheet)	34,002	
	Market Value of Quoted Investment	34,002	
Unquoted	Equities		
	Government Securities (Gilts)		
	Mortgages		
	Bank and Building Societies		
	Other unquoted investments (to be specified)		
	Total unquoted (as Balance Sheet)		
	Market Value of Unquoted Investments		

Analysis of investment income (controlling interests)

(see notes 60 and 61)

Does the union, or any constituent part of the union, have a controlling interest in any limited company?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If YES name the relevant companies:

Company name

Company registration number (if not registered in England & Wales, state where registered)

Are the shares which are controlled by the union registered in the names of the union's trustees?

Yes

☐

No

☐

If NO, state the names of the persons in whom the shares controlled by the union are registered.

Company name

Names of shareholders

Summary sheet

(see notes 62 to 73)

	All funds except Political Funds £000	Political Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Income			
From Members	63,224		63,224
From Investments	1,721		1,721
Other Income (including increases by revaluation of assets)	4,091		4,091
Total Income	69,036		69,036
Expenditure (including decreases by revaluation of assets)			
Total Expenditure	62,003		62,003
Funds at beginning of year (including reserves)	64,649		64,649
Funds at end of year (including reserves)	71,682		71,682
Assets			
Fixed Assets			
Investment Assets			34,002
Other Assets			44,744
Total Assets			78,746
Liabilities		Total Liabilities	7,064
Net Assets (Total Assets less Total Liabilities)			71,682

Summary sheet

(see notes 62 to 73)

	All funds except Political Funds £	Political Funds £	Total Funds £
Income			
From Members			
From Investments			
Other Income (including increases by revaluation of assets)			
Total Income			
Expenditure (including decreases by revaluation of assets)			
Total Expenditure			
Funds at beginning of year (including reserves)			
Funds at end of year (including reserves)			
Assets			
	Fixed Assets		
	Investment Assets		
	Other Assets		
	Total Assets		
Liabilities	Total Liabilities		
Net Assets (Total Assets less Total Liabilities)			

(see notes 74 to 80)

Did the union hold any ballots in respect of industrial action during the return period?		No
If Yes How many ballots were held: <input type="text"/>		
For each ballot held please complete the information below:		
Ballot 1		
Number of individual who were entitled to vote in the ballot	<input type="text"/>	
Number of votes cast in the ballot	<input type="text"/>	
Number of Individuals answering "Yes" to the question	<input type="text"/>	1
Number of individuals answering "No" to the question	<input type="text"/>	2
Number of invalid or otherwise spoiled voting papers returned	<input type="text"/>	3
		1-3 should total "Number of votes cast"
Were the number of votes cast in the ballot at least 50% of the number of individuals who were entitled to vote in the ballot	<input type="text"/>	
Does section 226(2B) of the 1992 Act apply in relation to this ballot (see notes 76-80)?	<input type="text"/>	
If yes, were the number of individuals answering "Yes" to the question (or each question) at least 40% of the number of individuals who were entitled to vote in the ballot	<input type="text"/>	
Ballot 2		
Number of individual who were entitled to vote in the ballot	<input type="text"/>	
Number of votes cast in the ballot	<input type="text"/>	
Number of Individuals answering "Yes" to the question	<input type="text"/>	1
Number of individuals answering "No" to the question	<input type="text"/>	2
Number of invalid or otherwise spoiled voting papers returned	<input type="text"/>	3
		1-3 should total "Number of votes cast"
Were the number of votes cast in the ballot at least 50% of the number of individuals who were entitled to vote in the ballot	<input type="text"/>	
Does section 226(2B) of the 1992 Act apply in relation to this ballot (see notes 76-80)?	<input type="text"/>	
If yes, were the number of individuals answering "Yes" to the question (or each question) at least 40% of the number of individuals who were entitled to vote in the ballot	<input type="text"/>	
Ballot 3		
Number of individual who were entitled to vote in the ballot	<input type="text"/>	
Number of votes cast in the ballot	<input type="text"/>	
Number of Individuals answering "Yes" to the question	<input type="text"/>	1
Number of individuals answering "No" to the question	<input type="text"/>	2
Number of invalid or otherwise spoiled voting papers returned	<input type="text"/>	3
		1-3 should total "Number of votes cast"
Were the number of votes cast in the ballot at least 50% of the number of individuals who were entitled to vote in the ballot	<input type="text"/>	
Does section 226(2B) of the 1992 Act apply in relation to this ballot (see notes 76-80)?	<input type="text"/>	
If yes, were the number of individuals answering "Yes" to the question (or each question) at least 40% of the number of individuals who were entitled to vote in the ballot	<input type="text"/>	

Ballot 4

Number of individual who were entitled to vote in the ballot

Number of votes cast in the ballot

Number of Individuals answering "Yes" to the question

1

Number of individuals answering "No" to the question

2

Number of invalid or otherwise spoiled voting papers returned

3

1-3 should total "Number of votes cast"

Were the number of votes cast in the ballot at least 50% of the number of individuals who were entitled to vote in the ballot

Does section 226(2B) of the 1992 Act apply in relation to this ballot (see notes 76-80)?

If yes, were the number of individuals answering "Yes" to the question (or each question) at least 40% of the number of individuals who were entitled to vote in the ballot

Ballot 5

Number of individual who were entitled to vote in the ballot

Number of votes cast in the ballot

Number of Individuals answering "Yes" to the question

1

Number of individuals answering "No" to the question

2

Number of invalid or otherwise spoiled voting papers returned

3

1-3 should total "Number of votes cast"

Were the number of votes cast in the ballot at least 50% of the number of individuals who were entitled to vote in the ballot

Does section 226(2B) of the 1992 Act apply in relation to this ballot (see notes 76-80)?

If yes, were the number of individuals answering "Yes" to the question (or each question) at least 40% of the number of individuals who were entitled to vote in the ballot

Ballot 6

Number of individual who were entitled to vote in the ballot

Number of votes cast in the ballot

Number of Individuals answering "Yes" to the question

1

Number of individuals answering "No" to the question

2

Number of invalid or otherwise spoiled voting papers returned

3

1-3 should total "Number of votes cast"

Were the number of votes cast in the ballot at least 50% of the number of individuals who were entitled to vote in the ballot

Does section 226(2B) of the 1992 Act apply in relation to this ballot (see notes 76-80)?

If yes, were the number of individuals answering "Yes" to the question (or each question) at least 40% of the number of individuals who were entitled to vote in the ballot

Ballots and Industrial Action: If you have 6 or more entries for either of these, please complete the Excel Spreadsheet

(see note 81)

***Categories of Nature of Trade Dispute**

A: terms and conditions of employment, or the physical conditions in which any workers require to work;

B: engagement or non-engagement, or termination or suspension of employment or the duties of employment, of one or more workers;

C: allocation of work or the duties of employment between workers or groups of workers;

D: matters of discipline;

E: a worker's membership or non-membership of a trade union;

F: facilities for officials of trade unions;

G: machinery for negotiation or consultation, and other procedures, relating to any of the above matters, including the recognition by employers or employers' associations of the right of a trade union to represent workers in such negotiation or consultation or in the carrying out of such procedures

Did Union members take industrial action during the return period in response to any inducement on the part of the Union? YES/NO

Yes

If **YES**, for each industrial action taken please complete the information below:

Industrial Action 1

1. please tick the nature of the trade dispute for which industrial action was taken using the categories* below:

A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐

2. Dates of the industrial action taken: 08 January 2024 to 12 January 2024

3. Number of days of industrial action: 5

4. Nature of industrial action. Strike Action

Industrial Action 2

1. please tick the nature of the trade dispute for which industrial action was taken using the categories* below:

A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐

2. Dates of the industrial action taken: 18 January 2024 to 18 January 2024

3. Number of days of industrial action: 1

4. Nature of industrial action. Strike Action

Industrial Action 3

1. please tick the nature of the trade dispute for which industrial action was taken using the categories* below:

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐

2. Dates of the industrial action taken: to

3. Number of days of industrial action:

4. Nature of industrial action.

use a continuation page if necessary

Industrial Action 4

1. please tick the nature of the trade dispute for which industrial action was taken using the categories* below:

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐

2. Dates of the industrial action taken:

to

3. Number of days of industrial action:

4. Nature of industrial action.

Industrial Action 5

1. please tick the nature of the trade dispute for which industrial action was taken using the categories* below:

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐

2. Dates of the industrial action taken:

to

3. Number of days of industrial action:

4. Nature of industrial action.

Industrial Action 6

1. please tick the nature of the trade dispute for which industrial action was taken using the categories* below:

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐

2. Dates of the industrial action taken:

to

3. Number of days of industrial action:

4. Nature of industrial action.

Industrial Action 7

1. please tick the nature of the trade dispute for which industrial action was taken using the categories* below:

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐

2. Dates of the industrial action taken:

to

3. Number of days of industrial action:

4. Nature of industrial action.

Industrial Action 8

1. please tick the nature of the trade dispute for which industrial action was taken using the categories* below:

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐

2. Dates of the industrial action taken:

to

3. Number of days of industrial action:

4. Nature of industrial action.

Ballots & Industrial Action- If you have 6 or more entries for either of these, please complete the Excel Spreadsheet

Notes to the accounts

(see notes 82 and 83)

All notes to the accounts must be entered on or attached to this part of the return.

Please see accompanying RCN Group Annual Report 2024.

Accounting policies



(see notes 84 and 85)

Please see accompanying RCN Group Annual Report 2024.

Signatures to the annual return

(see notes 86 & 87)

Including the accounts and balance sheet contained in the return. Please copy and paste your electronic signature here

Secretary's Signature:		Chairman's Signature:	
			(or other official whose position should be stated)
Name:	Professor Nicola Ranger	Name:	Carmel O'Boyle, Chair of Council
Date:	22 May 2025	Date:	22 May 2025

Checklist

(see notes 88 to 89)

(please tick as appropriate)

Has the return of change of officers been completed? (see Page 2 and Note 12)	Yes	X	No	
Has the list of officers in post been completed? (see Page 2 and Note 12)	Yes	X	No	
Has the return been signed? (see Pages 23 and 25 and Notes 86 and 95)	Yes	X	No	
Has the auditor's report been completed? (see Pages 20 and 21 and Notes 2 and 77)	Yes	X	No	
Is a rule book enclosed? (see Notes 8 and 88)	Yes	X	No	
A member statement is: (see Note 80)	Enclosed	X	To follow	
Has the summary sheet been completed? (see Page 17 and Notes 7 and 62)	Yes	X	To follow	
Has the membership audit certificate been completed? (see Page i to iii and Notes 97 and 103)	Yes	X	No	

Checklist for auditor's report

(see notes 90 and 96)

The checklist below is for guidance. A report is still required either set out overleaf or by way of an attached auditor's report that covers the 1992 Act requirements.

1. In the opinion of the auditors or auditor do the accounts they have audited and which are contained in this return give a true and fair view of the matters to which they related? (See section 36(1) and (2) of the 1992 Act and notes 92 and 93)

Please explain in your report overleaf or attached.

2. Are the auditors or auditor of the opinion that the union has complied with section 28 of the 1992 Act and has:

- a. kept proper accounting records with respect to its transactions and its assets and liabilities; and
- b. established and maintained a satisfactory system of control of its accounting records, its cash holding and all its receipts and remittances. (See section 36(4) of the 1992 Act set out in note 92)

Please explain in your report overleaf or attached

3. Your auditors or auditor must include in their report the following wording:

In our opinion the financial statements:

- **give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate to.**
- **have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the sections 28, 32 and 36 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (consolidation) Act 1992.**

Auditor's report (continued)

Signature(s) of auditor or auditors:	<div>Crowe U.K. LLP</div>	<div></div>
Name(s):	<div>CROWE U.K.LLP</div>	<div></div>
Profession(s) or Calling(s):	<div>Chartered Accountants</div>	<div></div>
Address(es):	<div>55 Ludgate Hill</div>	<div></div>
	<div></div>	<div></div>
	<div></div>	<div></div>
	<div></div>	<div></div>
Postcode	<div>EC4m 7JW</div>	<div></div>
Date	<div>30 May 2025</div>	<div></div>
Contact name for inquiries and telephone number:	<div>Tina Allison</div>	<div>0207 842 7276</div>

N.B. When notes to the account are referred to in the auditor's report a copy of those notes must accompany this return.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal College of Nursing for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the income and expenditure, balance sheet and related notes included within the AR21 as set out on pages 3 to 23 of the AR21. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of The Royal College of Nursing's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its transactions for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1992.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the union in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the officers' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the union's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the officers with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The officers are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Trades Union and Labour Relations Act 1992 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept;

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

- a satisfactory system of control over its accounting records, cash holdings and receipts and remittances has not been maintained; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

Responsibilities of officers

As explained more fully in the statement of officers' responsibility, the officers are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the officers determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

We have been appointed as auditor under section 33 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1992 and report in accordance with section 36 of that Act.

In preparing the financial statements, the officers are responsible for assessing the union's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the officers either intend to liquidate the union or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Details of the extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations are set out below.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the union operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1992 together with the financial reporting standards. We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the union's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the union for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the UK operations were health and safety legislation, employment legislation and taxation legislation.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the officers and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the timing of recognition of income and the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the National Executive about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, reviewing regulatory correspondence and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to union's members as a body. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to union's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the union and the union's members as a body, for our audit work, or for the opinion we have formed.

Crowe U.K. LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP
Statutory Auditor
London

30 May 2025

Membership audit certificate

made in accordance with section 24ZD of the Trade Union and Labour
Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992

(See notes 97 to 103)

At the end of the reportign period proceding the one to which this audit relates was the total membership of the trade union greater than 10,000?

Yes

If "YES" please complete SECTION ONE below or provide the equivalent information on a separate document to be submitted with the completed AR21

If "NO" please complete SECTION TWO below or provide the equivalent information on a separate document to be submitted with the completed AR21

Membership audit certificate

Section one

For a trade union with more than 10,000 members, required by section 24ZB of the 1992 Act to appoint an independent assurer

- 1 In the opinion of the assurer appointed by the trade union was the union's system for compiling and maintaining its register of the names and addresses of its members satisfactory to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the entries in its register were accurate and up-to-date throughout the reporting period?

Yes


- 2 In the opinion of the assurer has he/she obtained the information and explanations necessary for the performance of his/her functions?

Yes

If the answer to **either** questions 1 or 2 above is "NO" the assurer must:

- (a) set out below the assurer's reasons for stating that
- (b) provide a description of the information or explanation requested or required which has not been obtained
- (c) state whether the assurer required that information or those explanations from the union's officers, or officers of any of its branches or sections under section 24ZE of the 1992 Act
- (d) send a copy of this certificate to the Certification Officer as soon as is reasonably practicable after it is provided to the union.

Membership audit certificate (continued)

Signature of assurer	
Name	Simon Hearn
Address	Civica Election Services, 33 Clarendon Road, London N8 0NW
Date	19.02.2025
Contact name and telephone number	Simon Hearn, Managing Director 020 8365 8909

Statement to members of the Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom

Statement to members issued in connection with the union's annual return for the year ended 31 December 2024 as required by section 32A of Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992

Income and expenditure

The total income of the union for the year was £69,036,000. This amount included £63,224,000 received in respect of membership of the union. The union's total expenditure for the year was £62,003,000. This represented a surplus on Union activity of £7,033,000.

The union does not maintain a political fund. The General Fund includes £37,257,000 which is the remainder of a strike fund of £50,000,000 set up by Council in December 2021 to support RCN members taking strike action. The fund is being used to support campaigns and action, undertake consultative and statutory ballots and to provide compensation for loss of earnings during industrial action.

Salary paid to and other benefits provided to the General Secretary

The current General Secretary & Chief Executive was paid £69,140 in respect of her trade union responsibilities. This represents 67.41% of her gross salary of £102,569 for the period 29 May to 31 December 2024. RCN has paid the employer's National Insurance contribution of £9,109 and a pension contribution of £5,531 attributable to the trade union activities. The current General Secretary & Chief Executive was not paid any other benefit.

The former General Secretary & Chief Executive was paid £75,969 in respect of her trade union responsibilities. This represents 67.41% of her gross salary of £112,700 for the period 1 January to 29 May 2024. RCN has paid the employer's National Insurance contribution of £10,061 and a pension contribution of £6,938 attributable to the trade union activities. The former General Secretary & Chief Executive was not paid any other benefit.

Irregularity statement

A member who is concerned that some irregularity may be occurring, or have occurred, in the conduct of the financial affairs of the union may take steps with a view to investigating further, obtaining clarification and, if necessary, securing regularisation of that conduct.

The member may raise any such concern with such one or more of the following as it seems appropriate to raise it with: the officials of the union, the auditor or auditors of the union, the Certification Officer (who is an independent officer appointed by the Secretary of State) and the police.

Where a member believes that the financial affairs of the union have been or are being conducted in breach of the law or in breach of the rules of the union and contemplates bringing civil proceedings against the union or responsible officials or trustees, he should consider obtaining independent legal advice.