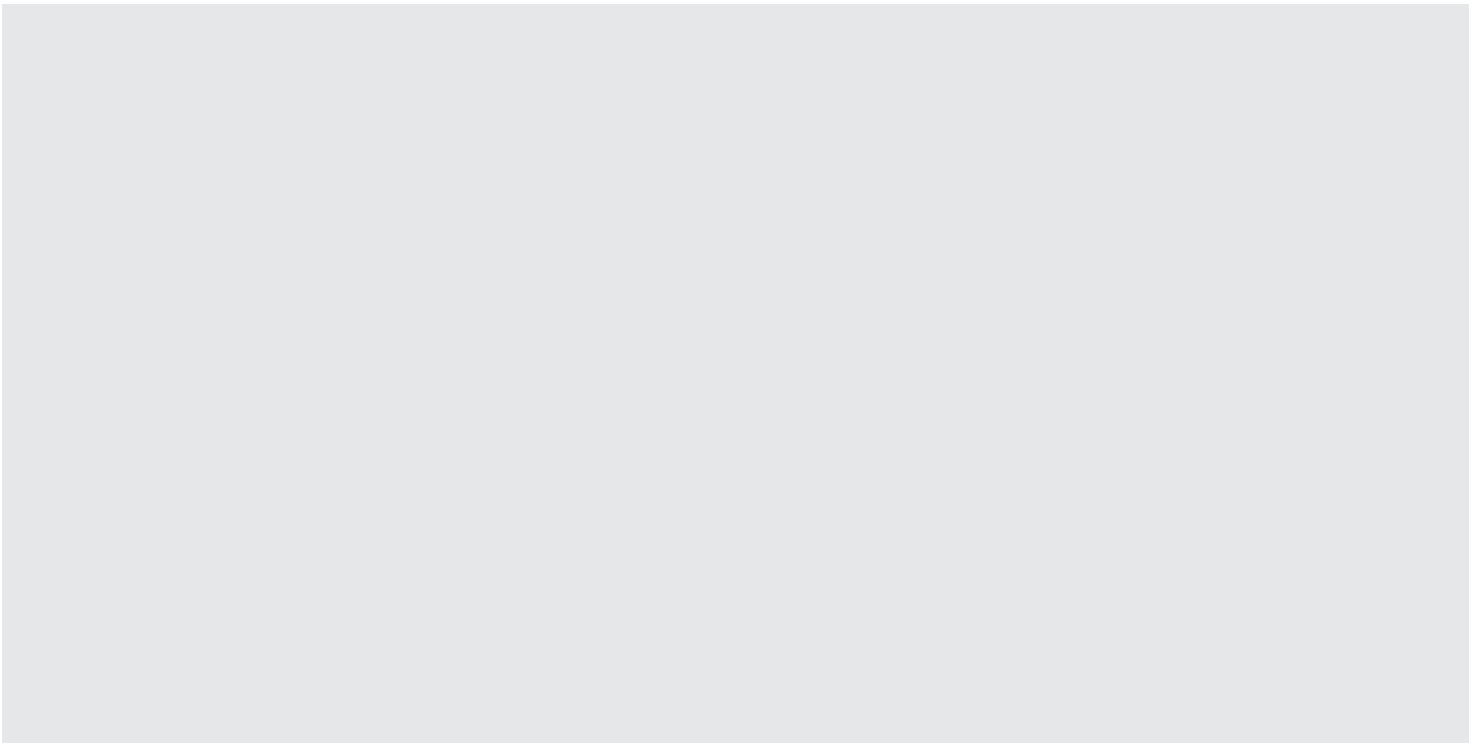


Activate

March 2016

News, views and support for RCN activists



'Nursing associate' consultation response

The RCN has formally responded to Health Education England's (HEE) consultation on plans to create a new nursing support role. It is intended that the role would bridge the gap between unregulated health care assistants and registered nurses, and provide a route into nursing through work-based education.

The current workforce crisis means that health and social care providers across the UK are struggling to recruit registered nurses to fill vacant posts.

The RCN has for many years been supportive of health care support workers (HCSWs) being enabled to develop and progress within an education and career framework that would offer the choice of a route into registered nursing.

Patients are being let down by long-term staffing problems, the RCN has stressed, after new data revealed more than 10,000 nursing vacancies in the NHS last December.

A BBC investigation found nearly 10 per cent of trusts are actively recruiting from abroad due to staff shortages, with 10,000 nursing vacancies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

RCN Chief Executive Janet Davies said: "Nursing posts are often the first target when savings need to be made, leading the NHS to find itself dangerously short and having to spend more on agency staff and recruitment of nurses from other countries.

"Time and again, failing to train enough staff is the Achilles' heel of the NHS. The consequences are felt by nurses working under

Be part of the debate at RCN Congress 2016

The bi-annual RCN Joint Representatives Conference took place in Liverpool earlier this month.

RCN safety reps, learning reps and stewards from across the UK came together to celebrate trade

VIEWS

Defending industrial action



Challenging times



How do you turn more than 100 subjects, ranging from the legalisation of drugs to awareness of domestic abuse, into four days of inspiring discussion? That was the challenge facing Agenda Committee members as they put their heads together to shape the debating timetable for this year's RCN Congress

For new committee members Anthony McGeown, Maureen Dolan and Cat Forsyth, it was an eye opener – two days of heated but good natured discussion about items submitted by boards, branches and forums, with passionate arguments about which should stay or go. The end result was an agenda they all

Centenary special

The RCN is looking to produce a centenary special issue of Activate later this year. If you have any stories, memories or insights into your time with the RCN, get in touch and you could be featured in this one-off special. Email activate@rcn.org.uk

This month's Tools of the Trade includes a report from The Work Foundation on the economic implications of six long-term conditions (psoriasis, diabetic macular oedema, asthma, schizophrenia, heart failure and multiple sclerosis) and their impact on employment. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/jjvfst>

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has developed an intervention toolbox for common health problems in the workplace. Read the full report at: <http://tinyurl.com/jxrk>

A new TUC report The Union Effect: