

The RCoA and the General Election 2019

What RCoA's members can do locally to promote our national priorities

The General Election on 12 December is fast approaching and we're focused on ensuring that promoting and protecting the best possible patient care and the wellbeing of our hard working NHS staff remains at the top of every party's agenda. We've set out in our ['Manifesto for a 21st century health service'](#) the RCoA's key priorities for the next Government. Now we need your help to deliver the message in your local area to your Parliamentary candidates in the run up to voting and beyond.

How can you act as a representative of your College during the campaign?

As a registered charity, the RCoA is a non-party political organisation. This means that while we regularly engage with parliamentarians, we cannot endorse a political party or specific candidate. Instead, we offer evidence-based policy solutions to some of the most pressing problems facing the health service, and seek to have political parties or candidates across the political divide adopt our stance. If you plan on representing your College on your doorstep or in a public forum please:

- do say that you are a member of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, which, with a combined membership of 23,000 fellows and members, represents the three specialties of anaesthesia, intensive care and pain medicine
- **don't engage in partisan political activity on behalf of the College** or endorse a specific candidate or party – even if they are in agreement with our manifesto.

Tips for engaging with your MP and party candidates

Your MP and other candidates will use these critical weeks before election day to meet as many constituents as they can and raise their profile. This means that they will be knocking on doors, phoning constituents, or attending events or hustings in your community. If you meet your candidates, please:

- **share our manifesto with them and ask them to publicly commit to our priorities.** You probably won't have long to talk, so we have set out some suggested questions on the next page to help

- **tell them about your experience.** Sharing your local case-studies as they relate to our national 'asks' can powerfully show the positive difference they could make locally if they took action.
- **write a letter inviting them to meet or attend a relevant event.** Keep to one page, emphasising your three headline messages and any short case studies. Remember to attach our manifesto!
- **maintain your new relationship and help us build on it.** After the election, write a thank you or congratulations letter to your new or returning MP and urge them to set up a meeting with the College. Please also follow-up on any commitments they make to you in person or in writing.
- **ask them to promote our manifesto on social media** and to [retweet the following Tweet](#)

Some questions you might like to ask your local candidates

- Well-supported, motivated, NHS staff can improve the quality of patient care, outcomes and safety. Will you commit to publishing a national morale and welfare strategy for NHS staff?
- Modern infrastructure is needed to support the long-term sustainability of the NHS. Will you make the case for an ambitious, ring-fenced, NHS capital-spending fund?
- A well planned workforce will be vital to maintaining NHS staffing levels. Will you make the case for the Medical Training Initiative, a supportive immigration environment and the additional investment needed to grow the NHS' domestic workforce?
- By looking 15–20 years ahead, we can plan services around demographic trends and demand. Will you consider establishing an independent Office for Health and Care Sustainability to support the long-term planning of our health system?

Feedback to us

We'd love to hear what responses you received, which messaging worked best, and to discuss how we can support you to raise the profile of anaesthesia in your community. Please contact advocacy@rcoa.ac.uk

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