

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

The 35th AGM of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists will be held at 10.35am on Tuesday 23 May 2023 at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham.

Those members who are not registered for Congress but who wish to attend the AGM only are invited to go to the registration desk at 9.30 – 10.00am so that a security pass can be made.

AGENDA

1. To receive the 2022 Trustees' Report
This will be on the College website by 30 April 2023 www.rcophth.ac.uk
2. To receive a report from the President
3. College Officers to receive questions on the work of the College
4. To receive the Financial Statements for 2022 These will be on the College website by 30 April 2023 www.rcophth.ac.uk
5. To re-appoint Sayer Vincent LLP as auditors to the College for the coming year.
6. To approve the proposed increases in annual subscription for 2024.
7. To receive the results of the appointment of College Officers
8. To receive the results of the elections of Council members
9. Any other business

Proposed Subscriptions for 2024

We are asking members to support the Trustees' recommendation to increase the subscription fees for 2024.

As members will know, the economic crisis has been hard on everyone and small organisations like the RCOphth are not immune to the effect of increases in running our services and maintaining our head office.

We continue to carry out our charter and our purpose to serve members and to set the standards of eye care and to support the professional development, training, examinations and education of those who care for ophthalmic patients. These services incur staffing, travel and meeting costs, including supporting members who volunteer in many roles to support this work.

We are also working more closely and widely with the National Clinical Director for Eyecare and bodies like NHS England, Wales and the Scottish equivalent, advocating for stronger investment in the ophthalmic workforce and infrastructure.

We continue to make efficiencies, where we can, to reduce rising inflation and for the long-term sustainability of the College and its services, including finding other income streams to support our work further, but this also may require investment in resources.

For 2022, members were asked to agree an increase in subscriptions of 2.5%, a temperate and reasonable decision given the conditions prevailing at the 2021 AGM. However, in the 12 months to December 2022 the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 10.5%.

This year we are asking for an increase in consultant subscriptions of 6.2% meaning there will still be a gap between inflationary pressures and the increase in subscriptions. We know that this is a tough ask in the midst of a cost of living crisis but this below-inflation increase will enable the College to continue to serve our members and demonstrate our value and purpose.

We have ensured the proposed increases are in-line with other Royal Colleges and as subscriptions remain a tax-deductible expense, the RCOphth hope you are able to support our request at the AGM, at Congress in May 2023.

Kathy Evans
Chief Executive
The Royal College of Ophthalmologists

Review the Membership Subscriptions 2024 table below

Membership Subscriptions 2024

CATEGORY	2022	2023	2024 Option 3 Variable		%
	Fees	Fees	Fees	Variable Increase	
UK Consultants	£560	£581	£620	£39	6.2%
UK Fellows, Members, Diplomates, Affiliates (inc SAS doctors)	£429	£445	£475	£30	6.2%
UK members with gross annual earnings up to £46,000 from medical sources	£359	£368	£385	£17	4.3%
Trainee Affiliates and Trainee Fellows	£359	£368	£385	£17	4.3%
UK Seniors (those retired from all medical practice)	£199	£206	£210	£4	1.6%
Overseas Fellows, Members, Diplomates, Affiliates - Band A countries*	£315	£327	£350	£23	6.5%
Overseas Fellows, Members, Diplomates, Affiliates - Band B, C and D countries*	£247	£256	£275	£19	6.7%
Overseas Seniors (those retired from all medical practice)	£167	£173	£185	£12	6.2%
Associate Member: UK and International Medical Students	£20	£20	£25	Note 1	
Associate Member: UK and International Foundation Doctors	£20	£20	£25	Note 1	
Associate Member: UK and International Allied Health Care Professionals	£70	£70	£80		

*The banding of countries is based on a World Bank classification. Band A countries include those such as Australia, Canada and the USA and are deemed richer than Band B countries as specified by the World Bank.