

THE FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE



OF

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF
LONDON

PROPOSAL TO AMEND STANDING ORDERS TO INCLUDE LEGALLY QUALIFIED CORONERS

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Registered Charity No 1119599

Proposed changes to Standing Orders to be considered at the 2023 AGM to allow legally qualified coroners to become members of FFLM

1. Since the coming into force of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, coroners have to be legally qualified rather than either medically or legally qualified. The inevitable effect of this is that more recently appointed coroners are not eligible to join the FFLM, unless they have a preceding medical qualification prior to their legal qualification.
2. There is currently not an academic home for coroners and FFLM could play a very important role in that respect.
3. It is proposed that legally qualified coroners be eligible for membership on the basis of equivalent qualification as currently exists for forensic pathologists, forensic psychiatrists and forensic odontologists.
4. The academic qualification is a Qualifying Law Degree. Also, at least five years of experience as a lawyer registered with an appropriate body is required before an individual is eligible for appointment as a coroner.
5. This should also apply to Procurators Fiscal and Procurators Fiscal Deputes in Scotland.
6. It is not proposed that legally qualified coroners become Affiliates.

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