

The Association of Anaesthetists (Great Britain & Ireland) is seeking to appoint a lay trustee to its Board of Trustees

This is a fantastic opportunity to contribute to a well-respected medical membership organisation helping to shape the future of anaesthesia, influence patient safety, and support anaesthetists at every stage of their careers.

With more than 10,000 members across Great Britain and Ireland and internationally, the Association's mission is to safeguard patients by educating, supporting, and inspiring anaesthetists to deliver the very best care in every healthcare setting.

About the Association

For over 90 years, the Association has been a trusted voice for the anaesthesia community, supporting clinicians through an evolving healthcare landscape.

The Association is registered as a company limited by guarantee and as a charity in both England and Wales and Scotland.

Our work is driven by four strategic priorities: Patient Care and Safety, Education and Research, Advocacy and Support, and Innovation and Growth. These priorities are set out in our ambitious [2024–2029 strategy](#), launched in 2024, which defines the Association's vision, mission, values, and long-term direction.

Our core values are at the heart of everything we do:

- **Committed:** We are a respected and independent organisation, committed to speaking up and speaking out on behalf of our members and the anaesthesia community
- **Trusted:** For over 90 years, we have helped to set standards, share knowledge, and support thousands of people in a vital profession. Our expertise matters to our members and globally
- **Innovative:** We look forward, not back. We care about the future of anaesthesia and actively help shape its future on behalf of our members by listening, responding, and innovating
- **Connected:** We are a dynamic, diverse, and inclusive community. We exist because of, and on behalf of, our members

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the overall governance and strategic leadership of the charity, overseeing organisational strategy, annual business plans, and financial stewardship. Working closely with the Chief Executive Officer and senior leadership team, the board ensures the Association continues to deliver impact for members, patients, and the wider healthcare community.

For further information on the charity see the latest [Foundation Statutory Report and Accounts](#).

About the lay trustee role

Lay trustees play a vital role in strengthening the effectiveness, governance, and strategic direction of the Association. They bring valuable external insight, independent challenge, and specialist expertise that have significantly enhanced board discussions and decision-making.

As a lay trustee, you will:

- Help shape the future direction of the Association
- Provide independent oversight and constructive challenge
- Contribute specialist expertise and fresh perspectives
- Support strong governance and strategic decision-making
- Act as a trusted critical friend to the organisation

You will work alongside elected trustees who are practising anaesthetists, fellow lay trustees with expertise in finance and technology, and a highly experienced staff team.

Lay trustees also become members of the Association Council, which acts as an advisory body to the Board.

Who are we looking for?

We are particularly interested in applications from individuals with expertise in areas such as:

- Fundraising
- Marketing and communications
- External affairs

Previous trustee experience is welcome but not essential. We value diversity of thought, background, and lived experience, and encourage applications from individuals who can bring new perspectives to our work.

The full role description is shown below.

Why join us?

This is an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to patient care and the future of healthcare while working with a committed and forward-thinking organisation.

By joining the board, you will help influence a profession that plays a critical role in healthcare systems across the world, supporting clinicians, improving standards, and ultimately helping patients receive safer care. If you are motivated by purpose, collaboration, and strategic impact, we would be delighted to hear from you.

The deadline for applications is **17:00 on Friday 21 August 2026**. Applications are invited via cover letter and CV to the Chief Executive Officer, Nicky de Beer. In your cover letter, please address how you meet the role description and person specification. We accept the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an emerging technology but please state if and how you have used AI in your application. Please send your letter and CV to secretariat@anaesthetists.org.

Following an initial short-listing process interviews will be held via videoconference on the morning of **Thursday 10 September 2026**.

For further information or an informal discussion

Contact Nicky de Beer, Chief Executive Officer via email to: secretariat@anaesthetists.org.

Lay trustee role description

Purpose of role: Lay trustees enhance the knowledge, expertise, judgement, and balance available to the Board of Trustees to ensure a financially sound, healthy, and legally compliant organisation. Their principal assets will be their knowledge and expertise, independence, and the confidence and ability to be a critical friend of the Association.

Responsible to: President (Chair of the Board of Trustees)

Key working relationships

- President
- Other trustees
- Chief Executive Officer, senior management team and staff
- Other members of the Association Council
- Other stakeholder organisations such as the Royal College of Anaesthetists, and charity partners

Term of appointment:

Following a successful interview and satisfactory references, the lay trustee will be appointed for a three-year term commencing from the Annual Members' Meeting in September 2026.

Time commitment

The Board of Trustees meets up to five times a year. The dates for board meetings are set 12 months in advance from October to September. Meetings normally take place on Fridays approximately every 8 weeks as either a half-day or full-day meeting at 21 Portland Place, London or via videoconference, but videoconferencing facilities will be available for all meetings.

Trustees are expected to attend each board meeting and to engage in communication between board meetings with staff and board colleagues as required.

Expenses

This role is voluntary and is unremunerated. Trustees will be reimbursed for their expenses for travel, hotel accommodation and subsistence when attending meetings. Expenses will be paid in accordance with the expenses policy. As this is a voluntary role, trustees are not otherwise compensated for their service.

Training

Training is provided for trustees to enable them to perform their governance duties effectively.

Trustee duties and responsibilities

Please view the Charity Commission guidance CC3 [The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do](#). Trustees of the Association are also directors under company law, and under the Companies Act 2006, there are specific legal duties placed upon company directors. You should familiarise yourself with those legal duties before applying for this role.

Key responsibilities:

Strategic direction and financial oversight.

- Contribute to ensuring that the charity's purpose is carried out and that all activities support its charitable objectives
- Contribute to and agree the strategic direction of the Association and help set its long term priorities
- Oversee risk management, making sure appropriate controls and policies are in place
- Oversee the financial performance of the Association including budgets, reserves and the responsible use of funds
- Help to ensure that the Association's equity, diversity, and inclusion objectives are met

Trustees are also expected to:

- Ensure legal and regulatory compliance, including acting in line with charity law, company law, and the governing document
- Attend meetings of the Board of Trustees on a regular basis and be well prepared by reading relevant papers in advance and participating fully in meetings and decision making
- Act with integrity and independence, always in the best interests of the charity
- Participate in wider Association work, assist with ensuring the charity's purposes and mission are clearly communicated to members and the public
- Undertake training and induction as may be required to carry out the role
- Keep up to date with developments in healthcare, the charity/not-for-profit sector and the role of trustee
- Act as an ambassador for the Association where appropriate

Person specification

We are keen to appoint lay trustees whose values align with ours and have the following key attributes.

Key attributes	Essential	Desirable
Relevant expertise outside the field of anaesthesia, such as in: - Fundraising - Marketing & Communications - External affairs	X	
The ability to challenge constructively and rigorously and to contribute at a strategic level while listening sensitively to the views of others	X	
Commitment to the Association and its objectives	X	
Sound judgement, integrity, and high ethical standards	X	
Excellent communication skills	X	
Willingness to acquire the expertise and knowledge to discharge responsibilities	X	
An understanding and awareness of equity, diversity and inclusion	X	
Ability to attend board sub-committees and working group meetings, conferences and key events run by the Association	X	
Experience of acting as a trustee		X
Informed about the environment in which the charity operates and the issues it faces		X