



## **ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR NEURO-DISABILITY (RHN) CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

### **THE RHN'S LEGAL STATUS**

The RHN is a charity

The RHN's governing constitution is a royal charter and byelaws

The RHN board delegates functions to the Executive and Committees as set out in the committee terms of reference and schedule of delegations

The RHN assurance framework shows how it ensures it complies with its legal duties

The RHN has a limited company

The RHN is registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and NHS improvement

### **THE CHARITY**

The RHN is registered with the Charity Commission under the name "Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability", Charity no 205907.

Details of the registration and the RHN's annual returns are on the [Charity Commission website](#).

The charity was founded at a meeting held on 31 July 1854. The charity was called "The Royal Hospital for the permanent care and comfort of those who by disease, accident or deformity are hopelessly disqualified for the duties of life" and came to be called, more briefly, The Hospital for Incurables. The first meeting set out the charitable objects of the new charity. The meeting also decided how the charity was to be run and immediately set about fundraising.

The first fundraising brochure, in 1854, contained a copy of its charitable objects from that first meeting.

### **Name**

Over the years the RHN has been known by different names. In 1995 the Royal Charter was amended to change the name to the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability.

### **Charitable Objects**

The objects of the charity remain as they did in 1854 ie

"To give permanent relief to such persons as are hopelessly disqualified for the duties of life by disease, accident, or deformity, and this shall be carried out on the broad principle of Christian kindness and liberality, in the hope of uniting all the good for the good of all who really need it."

The RHN has updated and redefined the way it would carry out those charitable objects. In November 2015 the RHN submitted its activities to the Charity Commission as follows:

“The Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability is an independent, national, not-for-profit medical charity. It is not part of the NHS. It seeks through the provisions of specialist services and research to enable people with profound or complex disabilities resulting from damage to the brain or other areas of the nervous system, to enjoy an optimal quality of life through enhanced independence.”

The RHN also administers a number a smaller related charitable funds:

#### **The Chaplain's Stipend Fund**

This is a trust fund set up by the Rt Hon Sir Massey Lopes Bt to generate income to contribute towards the cost of chaplaincy services available at the RHN.

#### **The Patient Amenities Fund**

This is a restricted fund i.e. it can only be used for restricted purposes

#### **The John Howard Convalescent Home (“The John Howard Trust”)**

This was a holiday home which was sold and the funds invested. This is a restricted fund ie it can only be used for restricted purposes. We use the investment returns but the capital remains invested.

### **ROYAL CHARTER AND BYELAWS**

The way the RHN is governed is set out in its Royal Charter and the Byelaws which are annexed to the Royal Charter.

The RHN obtained its first Royal Charter in 1919. It is amended from time to time and the latest Royal Charter and Byelaws, dated 2011.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE**

The RHN is governed by Governors (usually referred to as Trustees) who in turn elect a Board of Management from among their number at the Annual General Meeting. The Board then elects a Chairman.

There must be a minimum of twelve Board Members who hold office for a period of four years. They may not hold office for longer than two consecutive terms of four years, unless the Board decides there are exceptional circumstances.

There are also a number of honorary positions. The holders of honorary posts do not participate in the governance of the RHN.

The Board is a non-executive body which has four meetings a year. It sets the strategic direction of the RHN.

### **DELEGATIONS AND ASSURANCE**

The RHN board delegates functions to the Executive and Committees as set out in the committee terms of reference and schedule of delegations

The Board delegates the day to day running of the RHN to the Chief Executive. He is responsible for carrying out the functions of the RHN according to the strategy set by the Board and within the budget which the Board sets annually.

The Chief Executive is assisted in this by the executive team which meets every week.

The Board also holds the Executive to account for implementing the strategy and for complying with all the laws and regulatory requirements applying to the RHN. It does this through committees of the board. Committees of the Board are chaired by Trustees who also usually comprise the majority of the committee membership. The Board can also co-opt non-trustees to the committees.

The major Board committees are the Audit and Risk Committee, Finance, Nominations and Remuneration Committee and the Patient Safety and Quality Committee.

There is another level of sub committees which report to the Board Committees and are staffed by the executive. These committees do the work which provides the Board committees with information and assurance. The structure of these committees can be seen in the RHN assurance framework which shows how the Board ensures it complies with its legal duties

## **RHN'S LIMITED COMPANY**

The RHN has a limited company, Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability Services Ltd which is registered at [Companies House](#): Company No. 04570542

Its function is to ensure that the charity benefits from certain income generating activities.

## **OTHER REGULATORS**

As a private charitable hospital, the RHN is regulated by a number of different bodies. As well as the Charity Commission the RHN is registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and NHS improvement.

You can see the details of the RHN's registrations with these bodies and, where published, the latest annual returns and reports as follows:

### [CQC](#)

[NHS Improvement](#) (which incorporates Monitor) is responsible for overseeing foundation trusts and NHS trusts, as well as independent providers that provide NHS-funded care to assure the NHS that they are financially sustainable.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The RHN Staff Pension and Life Assurance Scheme Trust deed and rules is available on request from the Director of Finance.