

NORTHERN IRELAND RHEUMATISM TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Trust Deed, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects include all aspects of education and training, for all medical, nursing and allied health professionals working in the field of rheumatic disease within Northern Ireland.

Activities carried out by the organisation supports medical, nursing and allied health professionals working in the field of rheumatology in Northern Ireland to attend training and educational conferences to benchmark, network, gain knowledge, skills and expertise in the field of rheumatology. The organisation also critically reviews and funds appropriate research projects within the field of rheumatology in Northern Ireland.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

The charity continues to support research and education amongst healthcare professionals who are involved in the care of patients with rheumatic disease within Northern Ireland.

The charity has been able to support the training of medical professionals during this year, through the generous funding received from Novartis and other donors.

Financial review

The company had net expenditure in the year of £8,146 (2022 - £23,541), leaving unrestricted funds of £159,075 (2022 - £167,221) and restricted funds of £9,238 (2022 - £9,238). The unrestricted funds are considered to be essential to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil legal obligations of the charity in the event that current levels of income are not maintained.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

NORTHERN IRELAND RHEUMATISM TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Structure, governance and management

The charity was established by a charitable trust deed on 14 December 1992.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Dr G Wright

Dr A Taggart

Ms A Quinn

Ms H McKeeman

Dr A Cairns

Dr A Bell

Dr E Ball

Mr R Kelly

Dr A Pendleton

Ms J Monaghan

Dr S Roberts

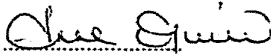
(Resigned 13 September 2023)

The trustees shall elect from among their number the following Honorary Officers in each year at the annual general meeting; Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

There is to be not less than three or more than twelve trustees at any time.

Trustees are appointed at the discretion of existing trustees.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Ms A Quinn

Trustee

Dated: 17.10.24