

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF ROYAL UNITED HOSPITAL BATH NHS TRUST

We have audited the financial statements of Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust for the year ended 31 March 2012 under the Audit Commission Act 1998. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the accounting policies directed by the Secretary of State with the consent of the Treasury as relevant to the National Health Service in England. We have also audited the information in the Remuneration Report that is described as having been audited.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust in accordance with Part II of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 45 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by the Audit Commission in March 2010. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and the Trust's Directors' as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Directors and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Trust's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Trust; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

give a true and fair view of the financial position of Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust as at 31 March 2012 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and have been prepared properly in accordance with the accounting policies directed by the Secretary of State with the consent of the Treasury as relevant to the National Health Service in England.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF ROYAL UNITED HOSPITAL BATH NHS TRUST (Continued)

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion:

the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been prepared properly in accordance with the requirements directed by the Secretary of State with the consent of the Treasury as relevant to the National Health Service in England; and
the information given in the annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- in our opinion the governance statement does not reflect compliance with the Department of Health's Guidance;
- we refer the matter to the Secretary of State under section 19 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 because we have a reason to believe that the Trust, or an officer of the Trust, is about to make, or has made, a decision involving unlawful expenditure, or is about to take, or has taken, unlawful action likely to cause a loss or deficiency; or
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Conclusion on the Trust's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

Respective responsibilities of the Trust and auditor

The Trust is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

We are required under Section 5 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 to satisfy ourselves that the Trust has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements, having regard to relevant criteria specified by the Audit Commission.

We report if significant matters have come to my attention which prevent us from concluding that the Trust has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Trust's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF ROYAL UNITED HOSPITAL
BATH NHS TRUST (Continued)**

**Scope of the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the
use of resources**

We have undertaken my audit in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria, published by the Audit Commission in October 2011, as to whether the Trust has proper arrangements for:

- securing financial resilience; and
- challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The Audit Commission has determined these two criteria as those necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Trust put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2012.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether, in all significant respects, the Trust had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

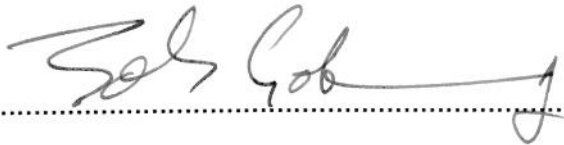
Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria published by the Audit Commission in October 2011, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2012.

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed the work necessary to provide assurance over the Trust's annual quality accounts. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our value for money conclusion.

Signed:



John Golding
Senior Statutory Auditor
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