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Media statement

Statement from Kirsty Matthews, Interim Chief executive, Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust and James Scott, Chief Executive of the Royal United Hospital Bath.

The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust (the Min) and the Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust (the RUH) say that more time and information is needed before a decision can be made about a whether to pursue a possible merger between the two organisations.

The Trust Board of the Min met on Monday 6th July and the Trust Board of RUH met today (8th July) to discuss the potential for merger. Both Boards were impressed by the commitment shown by clinical and managerial staff who have been working together to plan a merger that will improve care for patients and value for the tax payer. However, the process of merger is complicated and both Boards felt that it was important to take time to understand all of the risks and issues in more detail prior to reaching a final decision on whether to proceed.

Kirsty Matthews, Interim CEO of the Min said "We are all committed to working together to make sure that a decision on whether to merge is taken as quickly as possible. In the meantime I am grateful to the staff of the Min who continue to put their efforts into providing excellent care for our patients."

ENDS

Note to editors: As part of the financial recovery plan for the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust, the Trust Board decided earlier this year to seek an NHS partner with which to merge and the RUH was named as the preferred partner.

Press contact:

RNHRD

Emma Mooney 01225 465941 ext 211, emma.mooney@rnhrd.nhs.uk

RUH

Helen Robinson-Gordon 01225 825849 Helen.robinson-gordon@ruh.nhs.uk

