



## UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

### Minutes of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Executive Committee

Held online 14 August 2025, 14.30-16.30

**Present:** Elaine Mulcahy (Director, UKHACC), Richard Smith (Chair, UKHACC), Emma Radcliffe (GP), Rose Gallagher (RCN), Sandy Mather (ICS), Jill Belch (RCPE), Jacob Kranowski (RCPsych), Ranee Thakar (RCOG)

**Apologies for absence:** Juliet Dobson (BMJ), Eleanor Roaf (FPH), Rodney Morton (FNF), Chris Banks (Treasurer)

#### Summary of actions:

- UKHACC to produce a response to the Scottish Government climate change plan
- Strategy for recruiting new members to be discussed at the strategy meeting > Future agenda
- Exit interview questionnaires to be conducted with outgoing trustees after the council meeting in September > Future agenda
- RS to draft a letter to MHRA and SIGN > Done
- EM to follow up with speakers at the September council meeting to confirm attendance > Done
- RS to draft a paper on how we respond to the Gaza conflict for the next exec committee meeting in order to make a decision whether to take it to the council > Done
- Explore workshops for trustees on how to respond to difficult decisions > Future agenda
- EM to notify election candidates of appointment as UKHACC trustees > Done
- EM to notify members that no trustee election will be held due to the number of nominations received > Done
- Concern around low nominations to be discussed at the strategic planning meeting > Future agenda
- Discuss what to do regarding celebratory drinks when the chair switches over > In progress
- Seek insurance quotes for higher amounts of director and professional liability insurance > Done
- Ask the fundraising committee to review and advise on the insurance quotes > Paper on Sep agenda
- Inform members of the 3.5% subscriptions increase in 2026 > Council agenda
- Update the subscriptions fee information on the UKHACC website and new member information pack > Carry forward
- EM to share the letter to NICE to UKHACC members with a call for signatures > Amended version on Sep exec agenda
- RS/EM to send the letter to Wes Streeting > Done
- ERad and JK to share contact details, date of birth and ID to EM for Just Giving set up > Done

- EM to share the fundraising regulator code of conduct for trustees to review ahead of next meeting of exec committee > Done
- EM to submit the Lancet Countdown policy priorities and indicators to LC > Done
- EM to notify common seas plastic pollution campaign of our support for the campaign > Done
- RS to follow up with non-profit organisations contacted about joining UKHACC > Done

#### Carried forward from previous meetings

- ERoa to feedback on discussions at FPH regarding potential registrar projects
- EM to reach out to RCPsych and ACPUK to ask if any of the registrar projects might map to learning outcomes in their specialties
- RS to investigate potential working with James Lind Alliance
- EM to share Climate and Health Scorecard questions with trustees when available, and also ensure that Intensive Care Society is on their list of organisations to send the survey to
- EM to draft exit feedback questionnaire for leaving members following the 2025/6 renewal campaign
- ERoa to update on ADPH strategic planning following September meeting
- EM to investigate process for donations through CAF

### **1. Welcome from the Chair**

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

### **2. Conflicts of interest**

No Conflicts of interest were declared.

### **3. Minute from the July meeting**

The minute from the July meeting was accepted.

The following actions were discussed and/or carried forward from the previous meeting

- The final set of accounts has been submitted to the charity commission
- Engaging Networks has confirmed that we will be able to send communications to Scottish and Welsh election candidates once they have been announced.
- JB confirmed there were no plans for Scottish Colleges to hold hustings. EM to ask BMA Scotland if they are holding a hustings. RG confirmed RCN does not plan to hold a hustings in Scotland.
- Call for consultation on Scottish Government climate plans is open. UKHACC should produce a response
- We have not had anyone from the membership to come forward for the recruitment committee. ERad and JB have offered to be involved. It was agreed to pause this and include it as part of strategy discussions
- RS has a date to meet with the King's assistant in September.
- SM has been in contact with BMJ regarding an interview piece on the new chair appointment
- Exit interviews are to be conducted with leaving trustees.

- RS/EM to write a letter to MHRA and SIGN. The European Medicine Consortium has made progress on sustainability.
- EM to chase up people speaking at council meeting in September to confirm

#### Actions:

- UKHACC to produce a response to the Scottish Government climate change plan
- Strategy for recruiting new members to be discussed at the strategy meeting along with risks of existing members leaving due to de-prioritisation of climate action
- Exit interview questionnaires to be conducted with outgoing trustees after the council meeting in September
- RS to draft a letter to MHRA and SIGN
- EM to follow up with speakers at the September council meeting to confirm attendance

### **4. Risk register**

The risk register has been updated to reflect comments at the previous meeting. An amendment was made to correct a measurement. It was agreed we should review it quarterly in future.

There was a discussion about the challenges in organisations to keep sustainability on the priority list. The increasing likelihood of members de-prioritising sustainability should be considered at the next review of the risk register.

### **5. Statement on conflict in Gaza**

At a previous meeting of trustees, it was discussed whether UKHACC should issue a statement on the conflict and humanitarian crisis in Gaza. It was agreed at that meeting that such a statement would not fall within our charitable purpose, but we could make the case about the impacts of war and conflict on human health and the environment through the publication of a blog. It was agreed the intern, Petra Todd, should be tasked with writing this. Petra has informed us that she feels uncomfortable in producing such a blog without specifically issuing a statement on the Gaza conflict. Petra joined the meeting to express her views and seek guidance on taking this forward.

#### Points noted in the presentation were:

- The death toll is in excess of 62,000 and the situation is desperate
- A group of Royal Colleges has written to David Lammy calling for a ceasefire
- RCPCH has been criticised for not calling out genocide
- Hospitals and doctors have been targeted by IDF
- There is a health crisis of starvation
- UK Aid workers have been killed
- The military destruction is devastating the environment
- An organisation dedicated to health should not stay silent.

#### Points noted were:

- If we talk about Gaza we also need to talk about genocide in Sudan where more people have been killed and is being ignored by the government.
- Not sure UKHACC is the right place to do something
- RCOG/RCPCH statement was about women and girls - a general statement that this kind of atrocity is happening in many different parts of the world. RCOG had a statement from a clinician at their congress on What happens when health systems fail - Gaza was an example with direct involvement by the clinician delivering the presentation.
- RCOG has written to the PM on Gaza condemning the situation. It was reviewed by legal teams to ensure it was within the charitable purpose.

- We need to raise our head above the parapet and decide if we are going to say something about atrocities happening around the world.
- Health and climate change is our core purpose. We are a small organisation with little resource and there is concern that we would be challenged for going outside our charitable purpose
- We are a small organisation, but anything is better than nothing. Fundamentally it must fit with the purpose of UKHACC. There may be a route through the UN SDGs - action in Gaza is prohibiting SDGs.
- Conflict is very impactful on health and climate change and a position on armed conflict is something UKHACC could develop
- Stages of response to armed conflict: 1) No response, 2) general balanced statement, 3) calling out who is responsible.
- This is not part of our charitable purpose and we are also an alliance of healthcare organisations. Our members have not been calling on us to make a statement. We have a council meeting in September and it is not something our members have asked us to do
- The angle we can take is the impacts of conflict on health and the environment
- Trustees have discussed twice before and agreed it is beyond our remit to comment on a specific war
- Making a statement outside our core purpose places us at risk of a complaint to the charity commission
- If we were to do this we would need to have legal advice
- It could explore a statement on conflict and climate change and health and call out those disproportionately causing it. This would need to be done in consultation with our members.
- We could take this to UKHACC council to discuss
- Another option would be to be ready in responsive mode if any of our members bring this to us.
- It would be helpful for trustees to have a workshop to build confidence on how to respond to such decisions
- We need to consider what is the impact of a statement or letter from us. Is it really going to make a difference politically balanced against the risk to our own organisation.

#### Actions:

- EM/RS to draft paper on how we respond to the Gaza conflict for the next exec committee meeting in order to make a decision whether to take it to the council.
- Explore workshops for trustees on how to respond to difficult decisions

## **6. July Director's report**

The July Director's report was shared prior to the meeting and approved.

## **7. Budget**

The July budget update was presented. Everything is on track and no issues to report.  
Put a note to explain Policy Officer over budget

## **8. Nominations for trustee elections**

Two nominations for UKHACC trustees were received following our call for nominations.  
These are:

- Sandy Robertson, Royal College of Emergency Medicine
- Andrew Mackenzie, The Physiological Society

As only two nominations were received, trustees agreed there is no requirement to hold an election. Both candidates are to be notified and invited to the council meeting in September.

Trustees expressed disappointed at the low number of nominations and UKHACC needs to reflect on this at the next strategy meeting

Action:

- EM to notify election candidates of appointment as UKHACC trustees
- EM to notify members that no trustee election will be held due to the number of nominations received.
- Concern of low nominations to be discussed at the strategic planning meeting

## **9. Drinks after AGM**

Trustees were asked to consider whether a short drinks reception should be held after the AGM on 18 September for people attending in person to say goodbye to RS and welcome the new Chairs. The cost of doing this would be £252+VAT (5-6pm). There is also a charge of £136+VAT for teas, coffees, water and biscuits at the start of the meeting.

EM will not be attending the AGM in person. It was agreed it would be good to celebrate and might be easier to catch people while they are still there. But might not have the best impact.

Actions:

- Make a decision what to do regarding celebratory drinks when the chair switches over.

## **10. Insurance quotes**

At the previous meeting of trustees it was agreed we should get basic information on insurance costs for content on our website and other messaging from people representing UKHACC. Quotes from two companies were provided for review prior to the meeting and discussed. It was agreed trustees were not in a position make a judgement and this should be taken to the fundraising committee.

Quotes for higher amounts of director and professional liability also be requested.

Actions:

- Seek insurance quotes for higher amounts of director and professional liability insurance
- Ask the fundraising committee to review and advise on the insurance quotes

## **11. 2026 subscription fees**

Trustees considered options for inflationary subscription fee increases for the calendar year January-December 2026. 2%, 3.5% and 5% increases were considered. Comparative fee increases were considered to help inform the decision, these varied from 4-8%. Inflation is currently running above 2%. It was agreed that a 3.5% subscriptions increase should be applied in the 2026 subscriptions

Actions

- Inform members of the 3.5% subscriptions increase in 2026
- Update the subscriptions fee information on the UKHACC website and new member information pack

## **12. Letter to NICE and Wes Streeting**

Following previous discussions, RS has collaborated with the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and Sustainable Healthcare Coalition to produce a letter to send to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. This letter will be signed by RS, EM and the Directors of CSH and SHC.

A letter to NICE to be shared with members of UKHACC with a call for signatures has also been finalised.

Trustees approved the letters.

Once the letter is finalised with signatures, it was agreed we should ask BMJ to publish a piece and to ask an MP to ask a question about it.

Actions:

- EM to share the letter to NICE to UKHACC members with a call for signatures
- RS/EM to send the letter to Wes Streeting

### **13. Fundraising set up process**

Just Giving

In order to set up a Just Giving page, the contact details, date of birth and ID of two trustees are required. ERad and JK offered to provide details.

Fundraising regulator

In order to proceed with fundraising we need to register with the fundraising regulator. Signing up requires confirmation that trustees have read and agree with the regulator's code of conduct. It was agreed that trustees would review the code and indicate agreement for minuting at the next meeting

Actions:

- ERad and JK to share contact details, date of birth and ID to EM for Just Giving set up
- EM to share the fundraising regulator code of conduct for trustees to review ahead of next meeting of exec committee

### **14. Lancet Countdown UK policy brief**

We have been asked to lead on the production of the 2025 UK policy brief for the Lancet Countdown. The BMA and UK Kidney Association have asked to join the working group involved in producing the brief (following an invitation sent to the comms/policy leads). The timelines and guidance for producing the reports are very tight. This includes the focus on the priority areas covered in the brief: at least two must focus on mitigation, one must focus on fossil fuel phase out. The proposed focus areas and indicators for UKHACC were shared with trustees for approval. The deadline for submission to LC is 15 August. RG offered to provide a nursing perspective.

Actions:

- EM to submit the Lancet Countdown policy priorities and indicators to LC

### **15. GCHA COACH Fellowship**

GCHA has advertised the Global COACH Fellowship, a course hosted by the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University, co-sponsored by the GCHA and others. The fellowship is designed to empower health professionals and their community partners to lead climate-health solutions by building skills in community organising, strategic storytelling, and health equity leadership. Applications close on 12 September. Please share through your organisations.

EM/JB/RG expressed an interest and agreed to review the criteria to identify if it is something we could apply for.

Actions:

- EM/JB/RG to review criteria for COACH fellowship and decide whether appropriate to submit a UKHACC application

## **16. Scottish Government Election manifesto**

The final designed Scottish election manifesto was shared prior to the meeting. This will be shared with all UKHACC members along with a communications pack. The manifesto will be shared with all of the main Scottish parties ahead of party conference season which will commence after recess.

We will also aim to share it with election candidates once these have been announced.

Actions:

- EM to share Scottish manifesto with UKHACC members
- EM to share Scottish manifesto with leaders of Scottish parties

## **17. Welsh Government Election manifesto**

The text of the Welsh election manifesto has been finalised, taking account of feedback received from a number of UKHACC membership organisations. Trustees were asked to approve the text. It will now be sent to the graphic designer.

Actions:

- EM to send final text of Welsh manifesto to graphic designer

## **18. Common Seas plastic pollution campaign**

We received a request from the Common Seas plastic pollution campaign to get involved. It was agreed our involvement would need to be limited due to resource constraints but we can support through dissemination of information.

Actions:

- EM to notify common seas plastic pollution campaign of our support for the campaign

## **19. Potential members**

Richard has written to the new President of the Royal College of Radiologists to congratulate them on the role and ask if they are interested in joining.

RS to follow up with non-profit organisations.

## **20. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held online at 14.30-16.30 Thursday 11 September 2025.

EM will be on sick leave from 26-29 August.