



UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

Minutes of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Executive Committee

Held online 8 May 2025, 14.30-16.30

Present: Juliet Dobson (BMJ), Elaine Mulcahy (Director, UKHACC), Eleanor Roaf (FPH), Richard Smith (Chair, UKHACC), Jill Belch (RCPE), Chris Banks (Treasurer), Ranee Thakar (RCOG)

Apologies for absence: Rodney Morton (FNF), Emma Radcliffe (GP), Rose Gallagher (RCN), Jacob Kranowski (RCPsych), Sandy Mather (ICS)

Summary of actions:

- CB to complete conflicts of interest > In progress
- Suggested projects for registrars to work to be discussed at the next meeting
- 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 too
- EM to draft exit feedback questionnaire for leaving members following the 2025/6 renewal campaign
- Risk register to be updated to reflect risk of net zero becoming too political, causing organisations to pull back from speaking out > Done
- RS to reach out to renal specialists to present their work on influencing industry at our council meeting in September > Done
- ERad and JD to review the adaptation report and make a recommendation for approval to the trustees > Done
- EM to draft a question for MPs/MSP/Peer to ask
- EM to agree to join the Healthy Places green paper working group > Done
- RS to share his correspondence with the BBC with trustees > Done
- Trustees invited to write reviews of books relevant to climate change
- RT to contact Royal College of Midwives about joining
- EM to approach Terry Kemple and David Pencheon to ask if they would join the interview panel > Done
- EM to organise initial meeting of interview panel to discuss interview format, questions and available dates > In progress

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 April meeting

The minute from the April meeting was accepted.

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

- EM and CB have a meeting scheduled next week to talk through finances and will also aim to get the conflicts of interest statement completed
- The CCC seventh carbon budget was reviewed to identify if AI was considered. No reference to AI was found so we recommend putting a position statement on AI on hold for now
- Suggested projects for registrar posts in progress and will share at the next meeting
- It was agreed the survey for leaving members should be completed after the next round of membership renewals

4. Risk register

The risk register was discussed.

Points noted were:

- Concern about organisations pulling back from net zero because it is becoming too political to be added to the risk register
- Mitigation actions include UKHACC speaking on areas we have authority because of our expertise.
- Net zero is political but we also know there are more and more businesses working towards net zero
- We represent over 1m health professionals, health is a respected profession and we cannot bow back from it. Important for UKHACC to be a respected voice that people can point to
- Focusing on issues/health threats rather than specifically using 'net zero' phrase may be an option
- Current focus on many organisations working towards net zero is an opportunity and should capitalise on this

Actions:

- Risk register to be updated to reflect risk of net zero becoming too political, causing organisations to pull back from speaking out

5. April Director's report

The April Director's report was shared prior to the meeting. Points noted were:

- The letter to Wes Streeting was sent with 30 signatures. We have also responded to the consultation on the future of the North Sea
- We had a good response (20) to our survey on food policy in our membership organisations, which was circulated via the comms/policy group and member emails. Work is now underway to develop the How To guide using these insights.
- RS updated that at the monthly meeting with Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and Sustainable Healthcare Coalition, there was discussion about how renal physicians are going to industry to say they want to practice renal medicine more sustainably. Trustees discussed if UKHACC should be thinking more about influencing businesses. As a practical step, we are already planning on having three people from different specialities at our September council meeting to share what they are doing, It was agreed we should also invite kidney specialists to talk about what they are doing to influence industry.

Action:

- RS to reach out to renal specialists to present their work on influencing industry at our council meeting in September

6. Budget

The April budget update was presented. Points noted were:

- We are currently running at £6,000 surplus.

7. Response from Buckingham Palace

We received a response to our letter to the King from his Assistant Private Secretary, which said they would be very interested to meet with us to discuss our ten year anniversary. We have followed it up to arrange a time to meet.

8. Update on meeting with NICE

RS and Fiona Adshead (SHC) spoke at a clinical meeting at NICE. RS shared a summary of the meeting with trustees over email. RS and FA will write to the NICE CMO to ask what happened at a subsequent meeting at NICE where sustainability was being discussed.

Fiona Adshead has since been at a meeting with a group of people, including NICE, which discussed what more organisations can do to introduce environmental assessments. Pharmaceutical companies are in favour of introducing environmental assessments.

Points noted were:

- Specific recommendations for the health sector have come out of the CCC adaptation report.
- NHS getting to net zero - NICE must be part of this

9. Adaptation policy report

The final draft of the adaptation policy report has been circulated to the working group for approval. Two trustees are also asked to review the report and make a recommendation to the executive committee for approval. The deadline for approval is 16 May. ERad and JD have agreed to be reviewers.

Once reviewed, the reviewers should email other trustees to make their recommendation.

Other points noted:

- Peers for the Planet have offered to help get a peer to ask a question
- ER has a connection to Azfal Khan MP who we should approach to ask a question in the House of Commons
- JB will ask Mark Rusco in Holyrood to ask a question there

Actions:

- ERad and JD to review the adaptation report and make a recommendation for approval to the trustees
- EM to draft a question for MPs/MSP/Peer to ask

10. GCHA risk management and strategic planning update

Risk management

GCHA held an emergency meeting of the board of directors in April following some indications the Trump administration would remove tax exemption status from non-profit organisations. The announcement did not transpire, however GCHA has recognised the need for contingency planning in light of the changed political situation in the US. GCHA is registered in the US but has only got one staff member (the director) based there. A number of risk management steps are now being implemented. These are summarised below

1. **Meet with Fiscal Sponsor (Social Good Fund)**
2. **Write Risk Management Plan**
3. **Develop Document Retention Policy & Digital Security Policy:** Implementing both of these is advised as the most important first step.
4. **Cease travel of international GCHA personnel into or via the US for GCHA purposes.**
5. **Travel precautions for my travel to international meetings.**
6. **Research alternatives to the US for the GCHA headquarters.**

Strategic planning

EM has been attending a series of three 90 minute GCHA strategic planning sessions to set the direction for the next five years. The last of these will take place on Wednesday 14 May. The strategic plan to come out of this will be shared once it is finalised.

11. DEFRA access to nature green paper

EM has been invited to participate in a group informing the 'Healthy Places' chapter of DEFRA's 'Access to Nature' green paper. DEFRA expects to publish the green paper in Autumn 2025 for open consultation. Membership of the WG would involve inputting to the content of the green paper which will then be put out for wider consultation. Other organisations represented in the WG are Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, National Academy of Social Prescribing, Wildlife Trust, Mind, Mental Health Foundation, and others.

Points noted:

- Bring part of producing the report may reduce capacity to criticise
- There are more advantages to be part of it than not part of it

Actions:

- EM to agree to join the Healthy Places green paper working group

12. BBC Complaint

RS recently wrote a letter of complaint to the BBC following their decision to cancel Evan Davis series of podcasts on heat pumps saying it was too political and a conflict of interest for the BBC. JB and RS complained and received the same response saying the BBC can't focus on a programme that only represents one response:

Trustees were encouraged to make a complaint. JB is going to complain to Ofcom RS replied to their email saying it didn't make sense and is waiting for a response to his second message.

Actions:

- RS to share his correspondence with the BBC with trustees

13. Climate book section on our website

RS suggested a section on our website reviews of books relevant to climate change. There are a lot of powerful books related to climate change. It might be a good idea to accumulate reviews of books related to climate change.

Points noted:

- In the last BMJ climate issues they had a piece about why reviews are valuable
- The Source (1960s) had a huge effect on people's sympathies to Palestine. Books do influence people's views
- It was agreed this would be a valuable resources

Actions:

- Trustees invited to write reviews of books relevant to climate change

14. Potential members

- DiabetesUK and Asthma+Lung UK have been contacted regarding joining
- Trustees were encouraged to look through the list of potential members and reach out to any contacts
- RT said she would reach out to the Royal College of Midwives

15. New chair appointment process

We have had two applications for the next Chair of UKHACC. Trustees discussed the process for interviewing and decision making.

Points noted:

- A selection committee/interview panel to consist of: two trustees, director, one ambassadors, one former trustee
- CB and JD/JB agreed to be on the panel (JD/JB will need to check availability)
- It was agreed to ask ambassador David Pencheon and former trustee Terry Kemple
- It was agreed the candidates should be asked to do a presentation

Actions:

- EM to approach Terry Kemple and David Pencheon to ask if they would join the interview panel
- EM to organise initial meeting of interview panel to discuss interview format, questions and available dates

16. Any other business

EM will be on holiday from 28 May until 9 June.

17. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held online at 14.30-16.30 Thursday 19 June 2025.