

APPENDIX 1



Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	Sept	2022	To	31	August	2023

Reference and administration details

Charity name
Other names charity is known by
Registered charity number
Charity's principal address

The Friends of Insch Hospital and Community SCIO
The Friends
SC009720
The Steading
Knockenbaird
Insch,
Aberdeenshire
Postcode AB52 6TN

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Graham Matthews	Chairman		Members
2	Allison Grant	Vice Chairman		Members
3	Jane Reid	Membership Secy.		Members
4	Morris Tait			Members
5	Kerry Smith	Fundraiser		Members
6	Jenny Robertson	Fundraiser		Members
7	Alasdair McCallum			Members
8	Bryan Stuart			Members
9	Iain Fraser	Treasurer		Members
10	Rita Knight			Members
11	Alison McPherson		Resigned April 2023	Members
12	Isobel Moir			Members
13	Julie McWilliam			Members
14	Deirdre Macdonald		Started April 2023	Members
17				
18				

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Constitution

Trustee recruitment and appointment

By election at AGM or co-option by Trustees.

Objectives and activities

Promoting, providing or assisting anything which will improve the general wellbeing, quality of care or environment of patients of Inch Hospital, Medical Practice and the local community, adding value to the health and social care services provided by the statutory and voluntary sectors.

Encouraging and maintaining the interest and involvement of the public in the wellbeing of the community by linking health and social care services with the local population.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

Another year over and we still have no inpatient beds at Inch and Community hospital. As I write this in March 2024, we are almost at 4 yrs since the hospital was temporarily closed. Covid is no longer the threat it was and yet we still have no hospital. At every Trustees meeting we hear tales of local folk who have either been discharged maybe too early to their home for care at home or possibly located to outlying community hospitals. Yes, it's a bed, but often a bed where no friends or relatives can go and visit as there is a lack of suitable public transport often to the actual hospital. We are assured there are plenty beds on a daily basis and there is no bed crisis. (It just might not be where you would necessarily want it,)

During the 2022/23 Year, your Trustees have met with Councillors, NHSG officials, the SHSCP chief exec and officials, The JIB chair and vice chair, your MP's, your MSP's, prospective MP's

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

and even had an online chat with the then minister for health (Michael Mathieson). In 2022 we had the promise and manifesto commitment of an open hospital with beds. A lot has changed since we were told by the minister that the priority spends for NHS Grampian rests with NHS Grampian. There is no new money for capital projects. We have been told that a new hospital at Inch is not a priority for NHSG. The existing hospital remains unused because it does not conform with certain standards for new or refurbished hospitals. Several times we have been told that officials lose sleep over the thought of a fire at Inch hospital. Their undisturbed sleep on that worry means no beds.

Your trustees have met regularly and will continue to do so. It has been confirmed that Inch hospital is not officially closed (that takes local consultation and a decision by the Scot Gov) However it's not available for inpatient beds and will not be unless there is a change of policy to do with buildings so whilst it's not closed it's also not really open and will not be. But we are told we cannot say its permanently closed. However, a new hospital is not a priority and there is in any event no funding to build one. The friends as you know offered to pay for a modular 12 bed unit that would comply with all modern standards. However that was turned down on basis that there was no funding to pay for its heat and light let alone the extra staffing requirements (but they would have applied to the existing hospital as well), where an estimate of cost of heat and light was produced which seemed so high it was challenged, eventually producing a response that those responsible for producing the estimate had no experience of heat and light costs for a modular building (despite the fact it would have to comply with current insulation standards)So that's ok then ! I suspect that even if we offered to fund raise as our forefathers did to build the existing hospital that even the gift of a brand- new build hospital would not be accepted owing to whatever financial or staffing constraints would then apply

As a relative newcomer to the world of dealing with the health service there are times that it has been very frustrating.

However enough of the negative. Your trustees are determined to continue the journey to improve the provision of healthcare and wellness in Inch and community. We have looked into the potential of a community asset transfer and that is something that will be discussed further this year. We have had discussions with NHSG over it (they own the building) AND must acknowledge their assistance and input. We commissioned a report on all that we would need to do if such a plan was to become a possibility. There have been some great ideas as to what the building could be used for going forward. Whether though that is for the Friends or for another community body is perhaps a discussion still to be had.

The Strawberry fair was again a record breaker in term so turn out and profit. Th classic car rally and run showed the demand there is locally for events and it makes a reasonable profit for a morning work. Thanks to those that organize and support these ventures. The tea dances have again proved popular and the intention is to get back to the pre covid days when there were maybe a lot more activities centered around the hospital and organized by the Friends. Health is about a lot more than just beds in a local hospital. In closing Many thanks are due to the Trustees who give up their time every Month, turning out on cold winter nights to do their bit for the hospital and community. Thanks to Harpers for providing their boardroom as a meeting place that's warm and finally a huge thank you to our treasurer (Iain Fraser) for many years who is retiring from the post.

Prediction for the 2023/24 year Hospital will remain closed to inpatient beds

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Overall, Friends reserves have increased by £ 20k to £ 389k during the year;

1. Investments values have started to rise again. They appreciated by £ 11k during the year. The hope is that if we do not need to realise the investments their values will recover.
2. Cash held increased by £ 9k from fundraising and donations.

The savings are being accumulated to help fund a possible future replacement for the hospital which does not meet new building standards.

Details of any deficit

None

Donated facilities and services (if any)

None

Other optional information

None

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	GRAHAM MATTHEWS	IAIN FRASER
Full name(s)	Graham Matthews	Iain Fraser
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chairman	Trustee
Date	20 th March 2024	20 th March 2024