



Trustee recruitment pack

A message from our chair of trustees and chief executive

Hello,

Do you want to bring about change and make a real difference to people's lives?

Kidney Research UK has been at the forefront of pioneering research for six decades, investing in talented researchers and funding work that could ultimately lead to a cure. Our work has resulted in vital breakthroughs in the diagnosis, treatment, and care of those affected, changing the future for many kidney patients.

We have made remarkable progress but there is still much to do. The number of people living with kidney failure continues to rise and we must go further to drive innovation and increase investment in renal research. Of course, like so many other charities and organisations we are doing this important work during challenging times.

We have adapted well to the changing world, and we are finding exciting new ways to reach our goals.

We know we must rise to the challenge for kidney patients everywhere and we remain determined to grow our income so we can deliver more impact.

Our trustees play a vital role in the governance of Kidney Research UK, which enables and accelerates the impact that we have as an organisation for our patient community. Working closely with your fellow Trustees, the chief executive and wider leadership team, you will be part of a team that guides and oversees the delivery of Kidney Research UK's strategic priorities. We have a number of trustees who are due to retire from their roles during the next 12 months, and we are looking for new trustees to join our board and be part of this exciting transformation.

If this sounds like you and you think you could make a difference, we'd encourage you to review the role description below and apply to join our dedicated board of trustees.

With best wishes

Sandra Currie Matthew Newcombe-Ellis



Sandra Currie OBE
Chief executive
Kidney Research UK



Matthew Newcombe-Ellis
Chair of trustees

Who are we?

Kidney Research UK is the leading charity in the UK focused on funding research into the prevention, treatment and management of kidney disease.

We work with clinicians and scientists across the UK, funding and facilitating research into all areas of kidney disease and we collaborate with partners across the public, private and third sectors. We lobby governments and decision makers to change policy and practice to ensure that the estimated 7.2 million people living with kidney disease in the UK have access to the most effective care and treatment, and to make kidney disease a priority.

We are committed to equality, inclusivity, and diversity as an organisation, and we encourage applications that enable us to continue with this focus.

Most importantly, we also work closely with patients, ensuring their voice is heard and is at the centre of everything we do, from deciding which research to invest in to how we plan our priorities.

Our strategy at a glance.

Kidney Research UK

Our vision: The day when everyone lives free from kidney disease.

Our goals to achieve this vision:



1 Prevent more people from developing kidney disease.

By 2030: new interventions reducing the risk of kidney disease in more people.



2 Protect those living with kidney disease from kidney failure.

By 2030: more people being diagnosed earlier, enabling better access to treatments protecting them from kidney failure.



3 In the meantime, Transform treatments for people with kidney failure.

By 2030: more people with kidney failure living well, with better long-term outcomes.



Our actions to achieve these goals:



Accelerate discovery

Step up UK kidney research for faster progress.



Make it count

Translate research into interventions delivered to patients as quickly as possible.



Our enablers will make it all possible:



Community

This is a team effort across and beyond the kidney community.



Influence

Our voice is a powerful lever for change.



Excellence

We must be at our best to achieve what we've set out to do.

Our executive team



Sandra Currie, chief executive

Sandra began her career in nursing as a ward sister in a secure mental health unit in Glasgow, following this she spent many years in the voluntary sector including 15 years as Fundraising Director for a major cancer charity.

She joined Kidney Research as CEO in 2012 and has significantly raised the profile of the charity increasing its influence to increase income to enable more research. Sandra is a prominent figure in the renal community and has built key relationships with clinical staff, researchers, patients and professionals involved in renal care.

She was awarded an OBE in 2025 in recognition of Services to People Affected by Kidney Disease.



Lucy Sreeves, chief income and engagement officer

Lucy started her career working for a creative agency and had the opportunity to work with a number of high-profile brands and charities, including Tesco, Reed and Maserati.

She then moved 'client side' and has been working in the charity sector for over 13 years, namely Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, The RSPB and Alzheimer's Research UK before joining Kidney Research UK in 2018.



Mike Bishop, chief operating officer

Mark started his career in finance working for Ernst & Young before moving into the e-commerce sector. Mike joined Kidney Research UK in 2025 at a pivotal point in its growth and development. He brings significant experience of business operations, driving forward excellence, strategic growth as well as business and financial transformation.



David Crosby, chief research officer

David joined Kidney Research in 2025, prior to this he was at Cancer Research UK where he held the position of Head of Prevention and Early Detection.

He developed and implemented new strategies and programmes of research investments aiming to accelerate progress towards earlier detection and cancer prevention. He trained as a pharmacologist, completing a PhD studying cell signalling platelets, and also time in academia lecturing in clinical pharmacology.

Our trustees



Matthew Newcombe-Ellis, chair

Matt has a background in investment banking, focusing on mergers and acquisitions, and is a director of a biotech company. He joined us from Prostate Cancer Research, where he was chair for six years.



Ben Digby, vice chair and chair of nominations and governance committee

Ben is responsible for UK government relations at HSBC and was a kidney patient as a child and young adult. Ben will be stepping down as trustee in the coming year.



Lisa Chan, chair of finance and remuneration committee

Lisa has over 25 years' experience in corporate and investment banking and an extensive career in risk management. She has a family member affected by kidney disease and is passionate about kidney research.



Professor Sir John Cunningham

John is a Professor of nephrology at UCL Medical School and the Royal Free Hospital. His work in research includes trying to understand why kidney patients are so prone to heart disease and fractures.



Professor Caroline Savage

Caroline is a physician scientist and as Professor of nephrology at University of Birmingham, she led a renal research team focusing on vasculitis and related kidney disorders. Caroline will be stepping down as trustee in the coming year.

Our trustees



Angela Watt

Angela worked as a renal nurse for two decades and has first-hand family experience of the effect of kidney disease. She is passionate about getting patients actively involved in research. Angela will be stepping down as trustee in the coming year.



Professor Moin Saleem

Moin is a Professor of paediatric renal medicine at the University of Bristol and Bristol Royal Hospital for Children. He is also the Founder and chief scientific adviser at Purespring Therapeutics.



Professor Simon Davies

Simon is Professor of nephrology and dialysis medicine at Keele University and an honorary consultant nephrologist at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire.

'Having completed six years with this charity, it's been amazing to see how much good work has been done by you all in helping us deliver new research and care for kidney patients across the country.'

David Hughes, trustee 2018 - 2024

Our trustees

'It's been a tremendous privilege to be part of the board for the past six years. The charity has undergone such amazing changes in this relatively short period and I have no doubt it will continue to evolve.'

Jill Norman, trustee 2018 - 2024



Ian Dodd

Ian is a commercial accountant with over 30 years' experience across a variety of sectors mainly within the travel industry but also with time in financial services, manufacturing, leisure, and utilities.



Claire Sharpe

Claire is a consultant nephrologist at King's College Hospital and a dean of education at the University of Nottingham. She played a key role in the formation of the UK Kidney Association and her research has focused on how fibrosis causes kidney failure.



John E Milad

John has dedicated 14 years of his professional life to making dialysis more accessible to patients, as a co-founder, investor and, until recently, CEO of Quanta Dialysis Technologies.



Tejal Amin

Tejal is an associate partner at a large professional services firm specialising in leading, designing and executing large-scale change and transformation programmes. She has been involved with the charity for a number of years.

Role description



Summary

As a member of the board of trustees you will be responsible for setting the strategic aims, objectives, and direction of the charity. You will use your knowledge, skills, and experience to ensure we achieve our charitable objectives and represents the interests of all stakeholders.



Key accountabilities

- Set and maintain the vision, mission, and values
- To ensure Kidney Research UK complies at all times with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- To maintain proper financial control and ensure Kidney Research UK applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objectives, as defined in the governing documents
- To ensure accountability
- To support the operational management of the charity
- To maintain effective board performance
- To promote and act in the best interests of the charity at all times

Person specification

Attributes	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge/ Qualifications	Excellent record of personal achievement in your field	
Experience	Ability to read and understand detailed information and bring a pragmatic approach to discussion	• Experience of working or volunteering within a not-for-profit organisation • Governance, ideally within a not-for-profit organisation • Lived experience of kidney disease
Skills and Attributes	Good communication and interpersonal skills	• Appreciation of the nature of risk management at board level • Ability to galvanise external relationships and build support for Kidney Research UK

We look to have patient representation on our board and we strongly encourage candidates who have lived experience of kidney disease to apply.

In this recruitment round we are particularly looking for applicants with expertise in one or more of the following:

- Data and AI
- Primary care
- Basic science
- Access to high net worth networks or people of influence who can make a difference to Kidney Research UK, to support our strategic focus on realising the potential of major individual donors

Successful candidates will be expected to bring their experience to the board and be a key volunteer on one of our board sub-committees.

Person specification

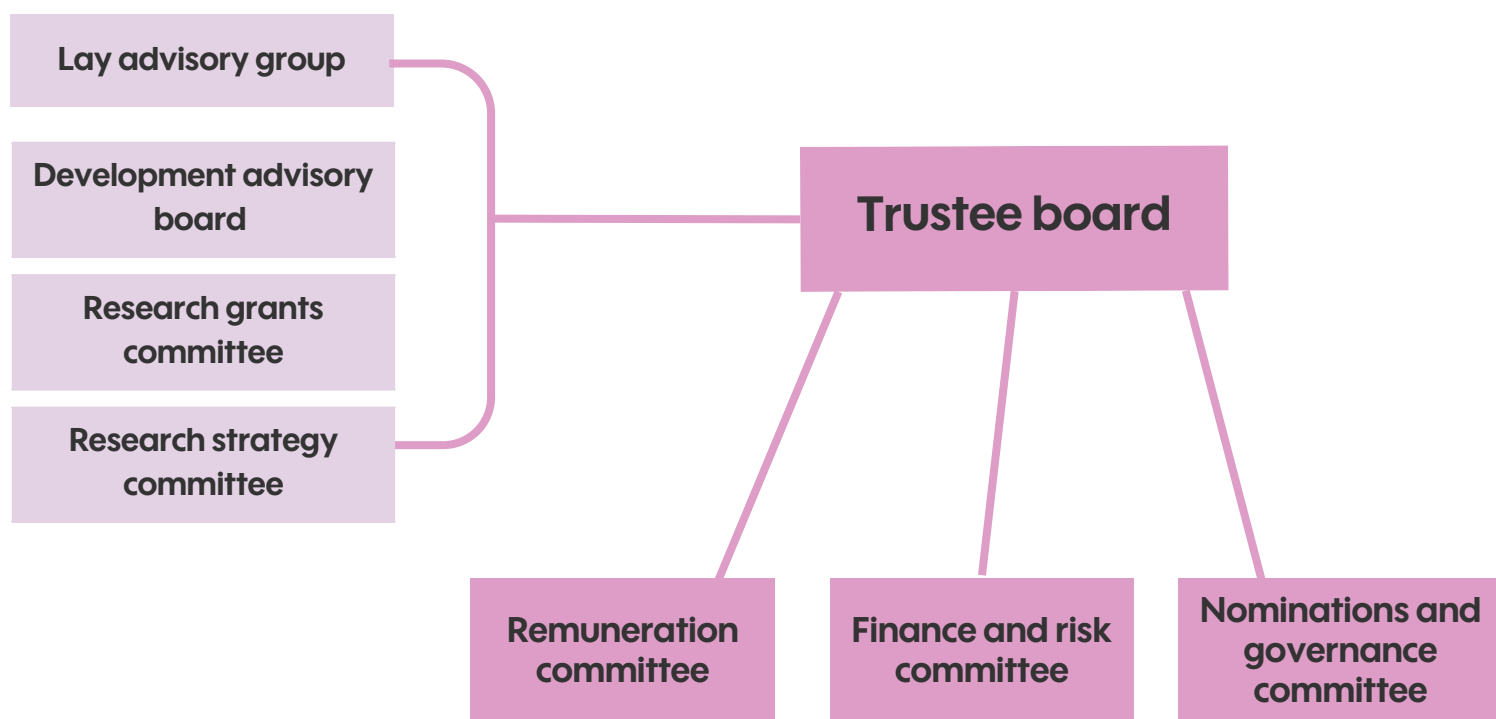


In addition to the above, you should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience you have to help the board reach sound decisions. This involves scrutinising board papers, leading discussions, focusing on key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives and other issues in which the trustee has special expertise.

There are opportunities for all trustees to join sub committees of the main board during their tenure.

A trustee is required to act reasonably and prudently in all matters relating to Kidney Research UK and must always bear the interest of the charity in mind.

Board and sub-committee structure



Terms of Appointment

Remuneration

The role of trustee is unremunerated although reasonable out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.



Time commitment

Preparing for board and committee meetings as well as any necessary ad hoc unplanned events that inevitably crop up, requires time and effort in addition to the formally planned events noted below. Trustees are also encouraged to take on a role in one of the board's subcommittees if appropriate.

- Four in-person quarterly trustee board meetings a year
- Subcommittee meeting where appropriate
- Annual in-person trustee development/strategy meeting (where possible, these will be held alongside quarterly board meetings)
- Attend charity events across the UK, where appropriate

Terms

Trustees serve an initial three-year term and are eligible for re-appointment for an additional consecutive term of three years.

On appointment to any role, a trustee's tenure may, during the first year of their second term, be extended by one year. Individuals appointed to a trustee role may serve a maximum tenure of seven years.

Any extension is agreed on appointment.

Board meetings 2025/26

**24 March 2026,
Peterborough**

26 June 2026, London

**September 2026,
Date TBC**

17 December 2026, London

To be considered for the role

Read our impact report

[Tap here to read our 2025/26 Annual Report.](#)

Completed expressions of interest should be submitted via the link on our website.

If you have any queries about the appointment process, or wish to have an informal discussion, please send an email to emmawoollard@kidneyresearchuk.org who will make arrangements for this.

To express an interest in the role please submit:

- An up-to-date CV
- A supporting statement that outlines your motivation for applying
- Details of your availability around the dates provided in the indicative timetable



Up until 31 December 2025	Closing date for applications
12 December 2025	Opportunity for applicants to have an informal discussion with the chief executive
January and February 2026	Formal interviews
March - June 2026 Start dates are varied dependant on the skills of the successful applicants and the departure date of the existing trustees they are replacing.	Start dates



Kidney disease ends here.