

Organisational membership of Health Services Research UK – FAQ

What is Health Services Research UK?

- Health Services Research UK (HSR UK) is a self-supporting membership organisation dedicated to the promotion of health services research in policy and practice. The collective voice of UK health services research, we connect researchers with health service leaders, managers and clinicians to drive improvement and innovation in the NHS. We have three main aims:
 - **We convene and connect producers and users of health services research** in the UK, and build links internationally, across Europe and globally
 - We support **evidence-based policy and practice in the NHS**, helping to mobilise health services research, build capacity and make an impact
 - We Influence policy leaders and funders to **improve the profile and landscape of health services research**, enabling it to thrive and develop
- HSR UK has existed for over two decades, and was until quite recently hosted by Universities UK. In 2019, we became an independent charity in our own right registered with the Charity Commission (no 1182643), and we also moved our office base to the Nuffield Trust in central London.
- These are exciting times for HSR UK – we are expanding our membership, our range of activities, our annual conference and programme of other meetings, and our work on shaping and influencing health research policy and strategy in the UK. We hope you will want to join us in this endeavour!

Who runs HSR UK and what does it do?

- HSR UK's membership consists of organisations which have an interest or involvement in health services research – many are university departments, centres or units; some are NHS or care organisations; others include think-tanks, research funders, consultancies and third sector organisations. We think one of our strengths is the diversity of our organisational membership.
- HSR UK is governed by a board which is appointed by its members at its annual members' meeting. The current chair of the board of HSR UK is Professor Kieran Walshe from the University of Manchester; the deputy chair is Professor Judith Smith from the University of Birmingham; and the immediate past chair is Professor Naomi Fulop from University College London. Full details of our board are on our website at <https://hsruk.org/about/hsruk-board>.

- HSR UK organises an annual research conference in early July each year – which with around 400+ people attending and a wide range of plenary sessions, paper and poster presentations, invited and submitted sessions, etc. is the largest and most diverse health services research meeting in the UK.
- We provide at our conference and elsewhere support and signposting to opportunities for career development and training for researchers – including advice on research funding and publication.
- We organise and facilitate other meetings and seminars throughout the year, and work with a range of stakeholders to promote and support health services research – engaging for example with research funders, government departments, NHS organisations and others to that end. We advocate for health services research and seek to build links and relationships between research, policy and practice communities.
- We have international links and some collaborations with similar organisations in Europe and across the world – for example AcademyHealth in the USA; the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research; the Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand; HSR Europe; and the European Union funded TO-REACH project which is setting the health services research agenda for the Horizon Europe research programme.
- We produce a monthly e-newsletter about health services research which brings together information about events, publications, opportunities, research calls, jobs and fellowships and much more. It is emailed directly to over 4,000 people working in or with an interest in health services research.
- Members also have access to our mentoring program, which pairs early and mid-career researchers with experienced researchers and practitioners from a range of health and care services research backgrounds.
- We also offer members the opportunity to participate in discussions of important issues to the HSR community, for example as part of the Research Ethics, Governance and Information Governance consultation we ran in May and June 2021.

What does it cost for organisations to join HSR UK, and what do they get from it?

- The annual membership fee for all organisations is £565 for the membership year which runs from January to December. This cost does not vary by organisational size or type. We deliberately keep the cost of organisational membership as low as possible to encourage organisations such as university departments/centres, think tanks, NHS trusts and national bodies, third sector organisations and others to join.
- We want organisations to join HSR UK because they believe in its central purpose and objectives, and want to share in and contribute to its work to support and promote health services research in the United Kingdom. But we also think that there are some important benefits to organisations from joining:
 - You will receive our **regular e-newsletter**, which is sent direct to both named senior/lead and nominated admin contacts in your organisation and which you can then forward on to your staff
 - You can **contribute items free of charge to our e-newsletter** (such as notices about research calls, information on new projects, details of reports or publications, notice of meetings and events, information on job opportunities and PhD and other fellowships/studentships, information on teaching programmes and courses etc.)
 - You get a **discounted organisational member rate for HSR UK's annual conference** for all people employed/affiliated with your organisation who attend the conference – and similarly for other HSR UK seminars/meetings, where there is an attendance charge, there is a discounted organisational members rate.
 - You can have your **events/job opportunities etc. profiled via the HSR UK twitter account**,

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c/o Nuffield Trust, 59 New Cavendish St, Marylebone, London W1G 7LP.**

and have a designated organisational twitter account regularly retweeted by the HSR UK twitter account

- You will be **informed and consulted by HSR UK's board** on matters of common concern and collective interest to the health services research community and you will have the opportunity to contribute to an official HSR UK response where appropriate – e.g. to DHSC/NIHR/other consultations.
- You have **the opportunity to nominate future members of the HSR UK board** and to take part in our annual members meeting.
- You will have the opportunity to **take part in an HSR UK convened network for directors, heads and leads of organisations** involved in health services research.
- You can put the **HSR UK membership logo on your website** and other materials, and we welcome organisations displaying their membership of HSR UK in this way. We publish a list of member organisations on the HSR UK website.

How do I find out more about HSR UK?

- You can find lots of information about HSR UK on our website at www.hsruk.org. If you have specific questions please feel free to contact our staff at info@hsruk.org.
- If it would be helpful, our chair Professor Kieran Walshe always welcomes contacts from current and potential members – you can reach him at kieran.walshe@manchester.ac.uk.

How do we join HSR UK?

- Complete the membership form on our website and we will raise a pro-forma invoice which can either be paid direct by BACS or via a purchase order from your organisation. Existing members will receive a pro-forma invoice for renewal sent to both their registered lead and admin contact points.

HSR UK

December 2021