

Meeting: **Health Sector Panel**

Location: **Virtual**

Date: **03 December 2024**

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**Present:**

Shekh Motin (Chair), Finn Maxwell, Tim Kelland, Sinéad McCormack, Veer Parmar, Winifred Sarbah, Sotiris Kyriacou

**Apologies:**

Joshua Ngeresa, Natalie Bennetts, Patrice Adams, Dawn Scrafield, Sailesh Shah, Teresa Au, Saqib Raza, Connie Atugonza, Maddy Kennedy, Kendre Chiles, Mohammed Itsham Khan, Catherine Phillips,

**In Attendance:**

Mel Venes (ACCA), Bridget Foley (ACCA), Petra-Louisa Kuyembah (ACCA)

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**Welcome and Introductions**

Shekh welcomed the group and initiated a brief introduction round. Actions from the previous meeting were reviewed and confirmed as completed.

**Sector Statistics**

Petra presented November 2024 sector statistics:

- Total Health Sector members and associates: 4181
  - Breakdown by subsector:
    - Health: 2587
    - Healthcare/Pharma: 1820
  - Regional Membership:
    - UK Region: 5
    - N/A: 3
    - South West: 272
    - South East: 701
    - North West: 471
    - North East: 395
    - Greater London: 943
    - Isle of Man: 3
    - East of England: 490
    - East & West Midlands: 500
    - Wales: 251
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- Scotland: 153
- Channel Islands: 12

## Chair's Update

The Chair provided an update on sector panel activities:

- Corporate Sector: Positive progress, well-attended committees, and new members.
- Public and Health Sectors: Persistent attendance and commitment issues, prompting plans to trial a new approach and consider stricter participation criteria.
- Recent Health Sector Panel Session: Productive session with positive feedback. Talent management and international recruitment were discussed as key themes. The Chair emphasised leveraging local talent first and suggested the health sector diversify its talent pipeline.

## Business and Sector Insights

### Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration:

The panel emphasised the importance of knowledge sharing and collaboration, highlighting the Four Nations Exchange Programme as a successful initiative.

### Challenges in the Life Sciences Sector:

The panel discussed the significant slowdown in investment, particularly in drug discovery and development. Regulatory hurdles and complexities in bringing new drugs to market were identified as major challenges. Additionally, accessing the NHS for clinical trials and securing reimbursement for new drugs remains a significant hurdle for many companies.

### Financial Pressures in the NHS:

The panel explored the impact of reduced funding, increased demand for services, and workforce challenges on the NHS. These pressures are leading to longer waiting times, delayed treatments, and staff shortages. To address these challenges, the panel emphasised the need for increased funding, efficient resource allocation, and innovative approaches to service delivery.

### The Future of the NHS:

The panel discussed the role of technology, workforce development, and system reform in shaping the future of the NHS. The adoption of technology, such as electronic health records and telemedicine, can improve efficiency and patient care. However, investing in the workforce, including training, recruitment, and retention, is crucial. Additionally, the panel discussed the ongoing reforms within the NHS, including the role of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs).

## Talking Series

Potential topics for the Talking Series were discussed:

- **Artificial Intelligence in the NHS:** Led by Veer Parmar, this topic will explore the practical applications of AI in healthcare.

- **Health Economics:** Led by Sinéad McCormack with support from Shekh Motin, this topic will cover the economic aspects of healthcare.
- **Talent and Recruitment:** Led by Dawn Scrafield and Sotiris Kyriacou, this topic will focus on challenges and opportunities in talent acquisition and retention.

Petra will contact topic leads to finalise content and schedules.

### Relaunch of E-Bulletin

Plans to relaunch the Health Sector E-Bulletin in 2025 were discussed. The E-Bulletin will feature in-depth articles, case studies, interviews, and industry updates. Petra will lead the creation of the first issue.

### Next Steps

The next meeting will take place on 26 February 2025.