

Trustee

Candidate Pack 2026



Bowel Cancer UK
Beating bowel cancer together

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Welcome from our Chair

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Trustee of Bowel Cancer UK.

As Chair, it is both a profound responsibility and a great privilege to help guide this charity at a time when our work has never been more vital. Every year, almost 44,000 people across the UK hear the life-changing words “you have bowel cancer,” and behind every diagnosis is a family, a story, and a future that deserves hope. Our mission is clear: to save lives and improve the quality of life for everyone affected by bowel cancer. To do that, we need exceptional people to join us.

We are entering a defining period for the charity. Our strategy places bold focus on early diagnosis, improved treatment and care, accelerating research, and ensuring that every voice—especially those less often heard—shapes our direction.

At the heart of achieving this is strong, confident governance.

As a Trustee, you will join a committed and supportive Board which contributes diverse experience, thoughtful challenge, and deep compassion. You will help guide the long-term vision, resilience, and sustainability of the charity, ensuring that we deliver maximum impact for patients and families today while preparing the organisation for the demands of tomorrow. The Board works closely with our senior leadership team, offering strategic insight, wise stewardship, and encouragement as we continue to grow our national influence.

We are particularly keen to welcome individuals who bring expertise that strengthens our collective capability—we are interested in hearing from candidates with experience in healthcare and clinical settings as well as fundraising and income generation. We are also keen for our Board to represent the UK-wide nature of our work as well as groups disproportionately affected by bowel cancer. Equally important is a collaborative spirit, curiosity, and a desire to champion our values of integrity, kindness, courage, and equity.

This is an exciting moment to join Bowel Cancer UK. We are taking forward our research strategy, developing innovative information and support services, and amplifying our campaigning work so that no-one's symptoms are ignored and no-one's journey is faced alone. With rising public awareness and increasing political attention on the importance of early diagnosis and optimal cancer pathways, we have a genuine opportunity to shape national change.

Becoming a Trustee is a significant commitment—but it is also an extraordinary privilege. You will be part of a passionate, mission-driven community, working to transform outcomes for people affected by the UK's second biggest cancer killer. I hope you will feel inspired, as I do every day, by our patients' stories, the dedication of our teams, and the urgency of our cause.

Thank you once again for considering joining us. I look forward to the possibility of welcoming you to the Board and to our shared mission of saving lives.

Dr Damien Marmion, Bowel Cancer UK Chair





About Bowel Cancer UK

We're the UK's leading bowel cancer charity. We support and fund targeted research, provide expert information and support to patients and their families, educate the public and professionals about the disease, and campaign for early diagnosis and access to best treatment and care.

We currently have 9 Trustees serving on our Board and around 100 staff based in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. We have 140 volunteers without whom we could not deliver our services and our support for people affected by bowel cancer.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we're in a privileged position to be able to address the huge challenges facing bowel cancer patients across the UK. Our community needs us now more than ever. We're building a strong and united team to bring us closer to a world where nobody dies of bowel cancer.

Our vision

A future where nobody dies of bowel cancer.

Our mission

We're determined to save lives and improve the quality of life of everyone affected by bowel cancer by championing early diagnosis and access to best treatment and care.

Our values

We always strive to be patient and family focussed, compassionate and human, expert and evidence-based, ambitious and determined, and welcoming and inclusive.

Our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion

We recognise that our Board is currently under-represented by people from some of the groups that are disproportionately affected by bowel cancer. For example, research shows that:

- Women are more likely than men to be diagnosed with bowel cancer in an emergency setting. These are often at a later stage, when bowel cancer is harder to treat.
- Black people are more likely than white people to be diagnosed in an emergency setting, when bowel cancer is harder to treat.
- People from ethnic minority groups have a lower participation rate in the bowel cancer screening programme than white people.

We're committed to widening the diversity of our Board to reflect a broad and inclusive range of backgrounds and skills, and would welcome applicants who reflect the diverse communities that we serve.

Bowel Cancer UK is an equal opportunities employer, committed to equal opportunities policies. We welcome applications from anyone regardless of disability, ethnicity, heritage, gender, sexuality, socio-economic background or other difference.

We are committed to inclusive working practices, and during the application process we offer to:

- Pay for childcare whilst you are at interviews where these take place in person.
- Pay for your travel costs to and from our office for interviews held in person.
- Make any reasonable provisions – for example, a sign language interpreter if required.
- Provide this document in a Word document format readily available to download.
- Guarantee a first stage interview with Inclusive Boards for disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for the role.

If there is anything else you are concerned about or think we could provide, please let us know.

About the opportunity

We are currently seeking three talented and committed Trustees to join our Board. We are particularly interested in hearing from candidates with experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Professional healthcare (not only medics) with experience in research and caring for bowel cancer patients
- Fundraising / income generation

We are also keen for our Board to reflect more fully the UK-wide nature of our role and work, noting particularly that we don't currently have a Board Member from Wales

Bowel Cancer UK's Trustees are volunteers who lead our charity, set our strategy, and decide how we're run. Our Trustees sit on our charity's Board and will also usually serve on one or more of our Board Committees, depending on skills and interests. These are:

- Governance and Nominations Committee
- Finance and Resources Committee
- Impact Committee
- Marketing and Engagement Committee

Main responsibilities - The duties of a Trustee are as follows:

- Ensuring that the organisation pursues its stated objectives (purposes), as defined in its governing document, by developing, agreeing, and overseeing a long-term strategy;
- Ensuring that the organisation complies with its governing document, articles of association, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations;
- Ensuring that the organisation applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its charitable objectives (ie the charity must not spend money on activities that are not included in its own objectives, however worthwhile or charitable those activities are) for the benefit of the public;
- Ensuring that the organisation defines its goals and evaluates its performance against agreed targets;
- Safeguarding the good name and values of the organisation;
- Ensuring the effective and efficient administration of the organisation, including having appropriate policies and procedures in place;
- Ensuring the financial stability of the organisation;
- Protecting and managing the property of the charity and ensuring the proper investment of the charity's funds.

In addition to the above statutory duties, each Trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the Board of Trustees reach sound decisions. This may involve scrutinising Board papers, leading discussions, focusing on key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, or other issues in which the Trustee has special expertise.

Person specification



Qualifications and experience:

- Demonstrated understanding of the legal duties, responsibilities, and liabilities of trusteeship;
- Understanding of the charity's field of work and the wider environment in which it operates;
- Ability to contribute to effective decision-making at a strategic level;
- Awareness of, and commitment to, equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Knowledge, skills and abilities:

- Strong communication skills, both verbal and written, with the ability to present ideas clearly and confidently;
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team, building positive relationships with fellow trustees, staff, and stakeholders;
- Awareness of financial management and budgeting, and the ability to interpret financial information;
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and demonstrate integrity in decision-making.

Personal qualities:

- Commitment to the mission, vision, and values of the organisation;
- Independent minded, with the courage to challenge constructively and ask difficult questions when required.

Desirable experience:

- Lived experience of bowel cancer (personally or as a carer) or strong alignment with the charity's cause;
- Previous experience serving as a charity Trustee, Governor, or non-executive Director;
- Experience of working within the charity sector.

Additional information

Time commitment:

This role requires 1-2 days per month, which includes quarterly Board meetings, quarterly committee meetings, and a strategic away day per year

Location:

5 x in person meetings per year in London, committee meetings held virtually.

Remuneration:

This role is offered on a voluntary basis. Reasonable expenses incurred in the course of carrying out the role will be reimbursed, including childcare, hotel and meal costs incurred in order to attend Board meetings or other commitments.

Term of office:

3-year term. Renewable for a further 3 years, subject to total trustee term and subject to review of performance.

Conflicts of interest:

All candidates will be asked to declare any conflicts of interest. This will be examined to see if an actual conflict exists.

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and at Bowel Cancer UK we are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults and we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Successful candidates may be subject to either a satisfactory, basic or enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS - UK), (PVG - Scotland) or Access (NI) dependent upon the role. There is no cost to you and will be processed on your behalf.





How to apply

The recruitment process is being undertaken by Inclusive Boards on behalf of Bowel Cancer UK. If you wish to apply for this position, please supply the following by **11.59pm on 08/02/2026**:

- A detailed CV, setting out your career history, with responsibilities and achievements.
- A cover letter (maximum two sides of A4) highlighting your suitability for the role for which you're applying and how you meet the person specification. Please note that the cover letter is an important part of your application and will be assessed.
- Details of two professional referees with a brief statement of their relationship to you and over what period of time they have known you. Referees will not be contacted without your prior consent.

Please also complete our diversity monitoring form found here. The information you provide will stay confidential, will be reviewed and processed separately from the application you make, and is not assessed as part of your application.

If you have questions after reading this pack, please email BCUK@inclusiveboards.co.uk or call 0207 267 8369.

Please visit www.inclusiveboards.co.uk/opportunities to apply online or send your CV and cover letter to BCUK@inclusiveboards.co.uk.

INCLUSIVE BOARDS

About Us

Inclusive Boards is the UK's leading board diversity practice. We have worked alongside over 300 organisations to provide support with Board recruitment, development and governance reviews. We strive to be at the forefront of equity and diversity, and believe that everyone should be represented at Board level. Additionally, we also provide bespoke training sessions on a variety of subjects including personal branding, inclusive recruitment practices and board structures and governance as well as delivering leadership development programmes for underrepresented leaders across a range of sectors.

Contact us today

Improve diversity on your Board, please don't hesitate to contact us via hello@inclusiveboards.co.uk.

To join a Board, sign up to become a candidate via our website and be notified of the latest opportunities as and when they become available.



www.inclusiveboards.co.uk



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