

Questions & Answers

1. **What is reconstitution?**

Reconstitution is the process which King's College Hospital Charity has followed to become an independent charity. NHS charities like King's College Hospital Charity were set up to receive and manage money given by the public to support healthcare. At the moment, NHS charities must work within both charity legislation (regulated by the Charity Commission) and NHS legislation. This creates unnecessary burdens for these charities. In March 2014, the Department of Health announced that they would create a process that would allow NHS charities to become independent from the Department of Health and be regulated only by the Charity Commission instead.

2. **Why has King's College Hospital Charity changed its status?**

The change confirms our independence and we believe will better enable us to deliver on our mission. In practice, there are some important benefits for NHS charities that become independent:

- Independence removes the bureaucracy that comes from having to report to both the Charity Commission and the Department of Health
- It allows charities to limit the liability of its trustees – in other words: the trustees' personal assets cannot be used to pay for any debts the organisation may incur
- It excludes charities from having to comply with complex procurement regulations, which are required of any bodies linked with government but are often disproportionate for the size and activity of many charities
- It gives charities the authority to select and appoint their own trustees, instead of these being appointed by the Secretary of State.

3. **What has changed?**

We've made some small administrative changes – for example, we have become a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with number 09987908. We also have a new Charity registration number 1165593. However, in reality, very little has changed. Our name and purpose stay the same. Our primary beneficiaries remain the patients of King's College Hospital Foundation Trust and we remain as committed as ever to enhancing services and facilities, improving the working environment for staff, and supporting research for the ultimate benefit of patients. We continue to work with King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and other partners to achieve that aim.

4. **What does the change mean for staff at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust or grant holders?**

There is no change for staff at King's College Hospital Trust or for grant holders. All existing grants have transferred to the new charity. We continue to grant funds to projects that meet our criteria and which aim to enhance services and facilities, improve the working environment for staff, and support research for the ultimate benefit of patients.

5. **What does the change mean for donors?**

We are extremely grateful for the support we receive from donors and nothing has changed in the way they donate to the Charity or how the funds are spent. Money donated continues to be used to enhance services and facilities, improve the working environment for staff, and support research for the ultimate benefit of patients.

6. What does the change mean for partners?

All partners that credit the Charity on, for example, websites, printed promotional materials or invoices, and use our charity registration number, should reflect the change. Our new charity registration number is 1165593. Partners should make sure that our details are updated as soon as is reasonably possible. Partners acting on our behalf should get in touch with communications@gsttcharity.org.uk to discuss the crediting that is required.

7. What does the change mean for the public?

There is no change for the public and people whose health and wellbeing we work to improve. Our primary beneficiaries remain the patients of King's College Hospital Foundation Trust and we remain as committed as ever to enhancing services and facilities, improving the working environment for staff, and supporting research for the ultimate benefit of patients. We continue to work with King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and other partners to achieve that aim.

Details of the work we support are available at <http://www.supportkings.org.uk/>.