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**Communications Department**

Royal United Hospital  
Combe Park  
Bath  
BA1 3NG

Tel: 01225 826230 / 821459  
Mobile: 07557 756658 (office hours)

[Ruh-tr.communicationteam@nhs.net](mailto:Ruh-tr.communicationteam@nhs.net)

[www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

<https://twitter.com/RUHBath>

## **Farewell to RUH chief executive**

Staff at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (RUH) have been thanked and praised for their work, before and during the coronavirus pandemic, by their CEO James Scott, who's retiring after near 13 years in the role.

He had planned to retire at the end of March, but stayed on to support his "fantastic staff" during COVID-19.

Mr Scott said in a staff message: "It has been an absolute privilege to be the Chief Executive here for the past 13 years. We have had some really challenging times, but we've also had some fantastic successes – and throughout all this the thing that has stood out for me more than anything else has been your dedication to our patients and to our community. I'm immensely proud of all you have achieved and all that you will achieve in the future."

Mr Scott, who'll be 60 this year and has spent 36 years in the NHS, has overseen major improvements at the RUH during his time as CEO, including the achievement of Foundation Trust status in 2014 and securing the future of the services of the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases in 2015.

Significant developments during his time at the RUH include building the Dyson Centre for Neonatal Care in 2011, the new RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre in 2019 and, coming soon, the new Dyson Cancer Centre.

Tributes to Mr Scott were led by Trust Chair Alison Ryan, who said: "James's departure marks the end of an era for all of us at the Trust. He has been a dedicated and passionate CEO – it's been an absolute pleasure to work with him and every single person at the RUH wishes him a long and happy retirement and all the very best for the future."

Deputy CEO Libby Walters said: “We’ve all benefitted massively from James’s leadership for 13 years but in particular over the last two months, as the Trust responded to the unprecedented challenges that the coronavirus crisis presented.

“So, thank you again James for everything you have done for the RUH, it’s been a privilege and a pleasure working with you. Your strong leadership has been an inspiration to so many of us.”

## Ends

### Notes to Editor:

The World Health Organization has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Our nurses and midwives are a big part of the RUH family and throughout the year we are celebrating the work they do, going above and beyond every day to give our patients compassionate care.

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit\\_for\\_the\\_future](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future)

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)