

**Report to the Meeting of the
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust**

Board of Directors

14th April, 2021

Legal and Regulatory Update

For: Information and Assurance

BOD 28/2021
(Agenda item: 18)

Executive Summary

The Reading Room details the regular report to inform the Board of Directors on recent legislation, regulation and compliance guidance issued by bodies such as NHSI, the Care Quality Commission, NHS England, and other relevant bodies where their actions have a consequential impact on the Trust or an awareness of the change/impending change is relevant to the Board of Directors. This report covers the period since the last report to Board and includes any noteworthy contributions covered by health think tanks and a section in the Addendum to this report on learning / 'True for Us' considerations. Understandably, COVID-19 continues to dominate the legal and regulatory landscape and as such this report is once again predominantly absorbed by Coronavirus.

The Update Report is designed to reflect changes in legislation, guidance, the structure of the NHS, and government policy and direction on health and social care. A summation of the change is provided for each item and where relevant, a sense of the Trust's position with regard to the change. **The Board of Directors is asked to consider and note the content of the report and where relevant, members should each be satisfied of their individual and collective assurances that the internal controls in place to deliver compliance against any Trust's obligations are effective. The Appendix should prompt consideration of the need to commission any deep dive ('true for us' review) in order to enhance the level of assurance or to improve the control environment, and/or decisions about the focus of any relevant Board Committee.**

Chairs of Board Committees should consider whether more detailed assurances relevant to their committees, are necessary, utilising this report as a constructive stimulant to inform the composition of meeting agendas and reporting focus as necessary or appropriate.

The Executive team meeting focus will where relevant ensure Executive Directors are aware of the changes related to their portfolios and will take forward any key actions arising from the Legal, Regulatory and Policy Updates. Progress updates on any relevant actions will be reported to the Board of Directors, as pertinent and appropriate either through the report itself or via the relevant Board reports of individual Executives.

The Director of Corporate Affairs will continue to develop or enhance internal control mechanisms to support the Trust in complying and being able to evidence compliance with relevant mandatory frameworks/obligations.

Governance Route/Approval Process

This is a routine report with direct relevance to the Board.

Recommendation

The Board of Directors is invited to consider and note the content of the report and where relevant, members should each be satisfied of their individual and collective assurances that the internal plans and controls in place to deliver compliance against any Trust's obligations are appropriate and effective. Chairs of Board Committees should consider whether more detailed assurances relevant to their committees, are necessary, utilising this report as a constructive stimulant to inform the composition of meeting agendas and reporting focus as necessary or appropriate.

Author and Title: Kerry Rogers, Director of Corporate Affairs &
Company Secretary

Lead Executive Director: Kerry Rogers, Director of Corporate Affairs &
Company Secretary

1. *A risk assessment has been undertaken around the legal issues that this report presents and there are no issues that need to be referred to the Trust Solicitors*
2. **Strategic Objectives/Priorities** – *this report relates to or provides assurance and evidence against aspects of each of the Strategic Objectives/Priorities of the Trust*