

BETTER TOGETHER



Royal Devon  
University Healthcare  
NHS Foundation Trust



# Consultant Information Pack

Fixed Term Consultant in Rheumatology

## JOB TITLE

Consultant Rheumatologist

## DATE OF VACANCY

[31/10/2025]

## BASE

Nightingale Hospital Exeter

## LENGTH OF CONTRACT

12 months fixed term

# A Warm Welcome

Hi, I'm Adrian Harris, Chief Medical Officer at the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. Thank you for the interest you have shown in working with us at what is an exciting time for our organisation. We are one of the largest healthcare Trusts in the country and we have ambitions to be a clinically-led, digitally-enabled teaching organisation.

Our Trust is a special place to work. We foster creativity, innovation and a personal approach to high-quality patient care. We are proud of our Rheumatology Department, which is nationally recognised for its multidisciplinary specialist clinical care and research activity. We are committed to further developing this successful and cohesive team and want to bring the very best clinicians to Devon.

Good luck with your application and I look forward to meeting you soon.



Prof Adrian Harris

*We welcome enquiries for further information and strongly encourage informal visits either in person or virtually so that you can get a feel for what it's like to work with us. A list of contacts is detailed in the final section of this pack*





## Introduction

The Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is seeking to appoint a part time (6 PA) fixed term Consultant to join the department of Rheumatology for its Eastern services, based at the Nightingale Hospital Exeter.

The successful candidate will take responsibility for a cohort of general rheumatology patients under the existing consultant's care, and provide a comprehensive service for the investigation and management of the spectrum of rheumatological disease. There is also excellent opportunity to develop a subspecialty interest such as Connective Tissue Diseases (CTD). Experience in Musculoskeletal ultrasound is desirable but not essential, to help consolidate our Early Arthritis and Giant Cell Arteritis services. There is a responsibility to teach junior medical staff and Health Care Professionals in the Rheumatology team.

Our combined Rheumatology department is friendly, successful and ambitious. The Royal Devon is a Trust which encourages and supports innovation, diversity, digital development and research.

**“Inclusion is one of our core values, and we take pride in having a diverse workforce and a culture that respects everybody.”**

# Highlights of the role

**Research and innovation.** Research active departments deliver better clinical outcomes for patients. We have a large programme of investigator-led and commercial research studies which have been internationally recognised for their programme of multi-site, award-winning research. Research interests are strongly encouraged and supported. We have a multimillion-pound research facility, dedicated research staff and collaborative links with researchers from across the University of Exeter. Funded time for the development of research proposals is available for interested consultants.

**Training and development.** [There will be opportunities to learn MSK or temporal artery ultrasound]

**Service development.** The Royal Devon's core services support a population of more than 615,000 people across more than 2,000 square miles across Devon. The scale of operation brings opportunities to establish and develop innovative new services to better meet the needs of our patients such as harnessing technology to deliver remote patient consultations and disease monitoring.

**Teaching.** The Royal Devon enjoys close ties with the University of Exeter Medical School. We offer funded time for teaching of medical students and junior doctors. We are planning a regular programme of evening educational meetings, which will bring the Eastern and Northern teams together providing opportunities for your CPD.

**Career progression.** The size and structure of our team create opportunities for rapid progression to areas of increased responsibility.

**On-call rotas.** Consultants participate in a 1:6 on call rota Mon to Fri 9-5 to provide urgent support to junior colleagues, ward rounds (usually once a week) referral triage and provide urgent advice to GPs and other specialists. Clinic templates are reduced during on call days.

**Electronic patient record.** We went live with the Epic electronic patient record system across our Eastern services in 2020 and our Northern services in 2022. We are optimising the way we use the system, but we are already seeing huge benefits for our patients. Epic is transforming the way we deliver care across our Trust, allowing teams to share the caseload across Devon and provide care to patients remotely.

**Location.** We are fortunate to be based in the beautiful South West of England, with the cultural city of Exeter, the rolling moors of Exmoor and Dartmoor, and a multitude of stunning beaches on our doorsteps. We have low rates of crime and excellent education - schools and further education colleges are good or outstanding, and Exeter boasts a top Russell group university.

A more comprehensive explanation of all of these elements can be found within this job pack, but if you have any questions then please do get in touch or arrange a visit to come and see us. Contact details are at the back of this pack.



# About Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Our core services support a population of over 615,000 people and cover more than 2,000 square miles across Devon. This makes us one of the largest providers of integrated health care in the UK, and the biggest employer in Devon, with more than 15,000 staff.

We have two acute hospitals, 20 community locations, outpatient clinics and community teams who care for people within their own homes. We also provide primary care and a range of specialist services which extends our reach throughout the South West Peninsula as far as Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

We have a strategy to embrace change, innovation and technology in our ambitions to be a digitally-enabled, clinically-led teaching organisation. We are developing new ways of working and focus our multi-million annual investment programme into new infrastructure, equipment and facilities to ensure we deliver the highest quality care and outcomes. There has never been a better time to join us.

The Royal Devon is committed to supporting the personal and professional development of our consultant staff and in turn improving the care offered to our patients. This might include developing or introducing innovative care models and bringing these to rural patients, teaching the doctors of tomorrow or undertaking award-winning clinical research. Examples include our inflammatory bowel disease research team who were recognised with the national team award for their contribution to the NIHR portfolio, and our recent launch of a world-first national genetic testing service from our labs, which can rapidly test DNA samples of babies and children, so we can provide life-saving treatment.

You'll find more information about the role and the Trust in this pack. Further information is also available on our website [www.royaldevon.nhs.uk](http://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk).





## About the Trust and service structure

The Royal Devon's Board of Directors is chaired by Dame Shan Morgan and is comprised of both executive and non-executive directors. The executive directors manage the day to day operational and financial performance of the Trust.

These consist of the chief executive officer (Sam Higginson), deputy chief executive officer (Chris Tidman), chief medical officer (Adrian Harris), chief nursing officer (Carolyn Mills), chief operating officer (John Palmer), chief finance officer (Angela Hibbard), and chief people officer (Hannah Foster).

Our Rheumatology services are based at the Nightingale Hospital (RD&E) and North Devon District Hospital (NDDH), and sit within the medicine division.

Our Trust wide operational service structure is divided into five care groups, each with a medical director, a care group director and a director of patient care. For Rheumatology, the medical director is Helen Lockett, the care group director is Karen Donaldson and the director of patient care is Nolwenn Luke. All permanent medical staff are members of the Medical Staff Committee which has an elected Chairperson who represents the group at the Trust Management Committee.

**More information about our structure and services can be found on the Trust website at [www.royaldevon.nhs.uk](http://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk)**

## The Department of Rheumatology

[The Rheumatology department moved from the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital site to the repurposed Nightingale Hospital Exeter in February 2022, where we have a spacious new department. There are 2 nursing offices, 6 large outpatient rooms, 2 scanning or treatment rooms, informal work spaces and an 8-bed infusion unit.

The Rheumatology team serves the population of 450,000 of Mid and East Devon with general outpatient clinics at the Nightingale Hospital Exeter and nearby community hospitals. In addition, there are specialist award winning Early Synovitis and Biologic clinics as well as Osteoporosis and Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Clinics. Furthermore, there are Combined Dermatology, Vasculitis (with Renal Physician), Pain Management and Paediatric Clinics.

### Consultant medical staff

[Dr M Cates, Consultant Rheumatologist Clinical Lead

Dr R Mascarenhas, Consultant Rheumatologist  
Governance Lead

Dr R Haigh, Consultant Rheumatologist

Dr S Earl, Consultant Rheumatologist and Paediatric /  
Young Adult lead

Dr R Rabbitts, Consultant Rheumatologist and  
Metabolic Bone Medicine lead

Dr R Crowder, Consultant Rheumatologist]



## PROFESSIONS ALLIED TO MEDICINE

Consultants at the Trust have access to an amazing team of specialised support including:

- Two Staff Grade Rheumatologists
- Two Specialist Registrars as part of the South West Rheumatology Rotation (Taunton, Barnstaple, Exeter, Torbay, Plymouth & Truro), are attached to the team full time, working with the consultants
- One F1 doctor, a community-facing F2 doctor, and a GPST2 working between GP and Rheumatology clinics
- Clinical Lead Physiotherapist Rheumatology & Hydrotherapy and Senior Occupational Therapist
- Lead Specialist Nurse, four specialist nurses and an infusion nurse
- Three Senior Healthcare Support Workers
- Radiographers and Musculoskeletal Radiologists within Medical Imaging provide excellent diagnostic and interventional imaging service with CT, MRI and ultrasound.

Rheumatology is well supported by various specialist teams who are able to provide hand, foot, hip, knee, shoulder, elbow and spinal surgery.

## Departmental meetings

The Rheumatology multidisciplinary team work closely together and formal communication with nurse specialists, designated occupational and physiotherapists is maintained through weekly MDT meetings.

## Administration and secretarial support

You will undertake administrative work associated with your clinical and other professional work. Adequate time and facilities for clinical administration, including appropriate office space, secretarial support and access to a personal computer, software and internet access, will be available.

Office space and parking are available at Osprey House which is a two-minute walk from the Nightingale Hospital. |



## Supporting professional activities

You will participate in a variety of professional activities (SPA) to support your personal clinical practice and the overall work of the department and Trust. All full-time consultants receive 1.5 core SPA sessions for generic non-clinical work. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Appraisals, job planning and revalidation
- Personal and professional development, including service development
- Professional administration, including related correspondence
- Clinical supervision of junior staff and other educational activities
- Governance and quality improvement activities
- Departmental, divisional and other clinical or managerial meetings

Further details are published in the job planning policy.

## Continuing professional development

The Trust supports the requirements for continuing professional development (CPD) as laid down by the [Royal College of Physicians] and is committed to providing time and financial support for these activities.

## Revalidation

The Trust has the required arrangements in place, as laid down by the [Royal College of Physicians], to ensure that all doctors have an annual appraisal with a trained appraiser, and supports doctors going through the revalidation process.

## Research

Investigator-led and clinical trial research has a prominent place in the Royal Devon. Patients are given the opportunity to participate in a wide number of studies.

The University of Exeter Medical School has an excellent research reputation from basic biomedical research through to patient-centred research. The group is supported by the University of Exeter and NIHR biomedical research centre and currently provides research training to three PhD students and two visiting fellows. |

The Research, Innovation, Learning and Development (RILD) building on the RD&E Wonford site is a £27.5m development which consists of the Wellcome Wolfson Centre for Medical Research, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), Exeter Clinical Research Facility and a new Post Graduate Education Centre. The RILD is now home to a number of the Medical School's laboratory-based research teams, comprising both clinical research areas and class two and three medical research laboratories, complete with offices, meeting rooms and write-up areas.

Active assistance in the planning and design of research projects is available from the Research and Development Support Unit based on the RD&E Wonford hospital site. The Trust has an active academic strategy to facilitate research, development and teaching.

Candidates who wish to pursue a research interest alongside their clinical work will be strongly encouraged.

## University of Exeter Medical School

The University of Exeter is high-ranking in both UK and global standings and is a member of the Russell Group of leading research-based institutions. It has ambitious plans for the future and has invested heavily in its facilities in recent years.

The Medical School's cutting-edge research is driven by important clinical questions. It focuses on

translational and applied research in areas of greatest health burden and greatest opportunity for scientific advance, principally: diabetes, cardiovascular risk and ageing; neurological disorders and mental health; environment and human health; and health services research. It spans basic through clinical science to clinical trials and health policy.

UEMS delivers two highly-regarded and innovative undergraduate degrees: the BSc in Medical Sciences and Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (BMBS). In addition, the Medical School offers a range of postgraduate programmes and courses. The curriculum reflects today's evolving models of care and patient experience in acute, primary and community care settings.

Building on the excellent educational reputation of the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry and using problem-based learning in small groups, the BMBS programme reflects the belief that doctors need to adopt a socially accountable approach to their work and to understand the human and societal impact of disease as well as the community-wide context of contemporary healthcare provision.

UEMS graduates will be both capable and confident, whether they are clinicians, managers, educators or researchers and will be committed to life-long scholarship. Years one and two of the BMBS programme are based at the St Luke's Campus in Exeter and lay the scientific foundations for the future years of the course. There is clinical contact from year one and students begin acquisition of a range of

transferable skills, learning science within a clinical context.

UEMS students spend years three and four of their programme at the Royal Devon and Exeter (Wonford) Hospital and North Devon District Hospital, as well as at the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro and in their surrounding general practices and community health environments.

All members of the Rheumatology team are involved in the delivery of the University of Exeter Medical School's Undergraduate Programme. We mainly teach students in year 3 throughout their 'continuing clinical care' pathway and host a rotating year 5 student throughout the academic year. A significant contribution is also made to plenary lectures, small group teaching, examining and curriculum development.

In addition to monthly postgraduate education & audit meetings within the Rheumatology team, there are bi-monthly regional CPD meetings which form part of the Peninsula Specialist Training Programme.

The consultants in the Rheumatology Department are all involved in teaching students. The postholder is encouraged to develop interests in education and training and there are many opportunities to develop these interests both locally and more widely. |



## Outline job plan

This is a 6 PA one-year fixed term maternity cover post.

A provisional outline job plan is included but is subject to modification. The individual job plan and detailed timetable will be discussed with the successful candidate. Special interests will be accommodated where they are compatible with service requirements.

The supporting professional activities (SPAs) allocation within the provisional job plan is an illustrative guide and will be finalised following individual agreement with successful candidate. A minimum of 1.5 SPAs will be provided within a full time contract, for a consultant's personal development. Further discussion on supporting professional activities will depend on the Trust's requirements and the individual's particular expertise.

## ON-CALL ROTA

[There is no regular on-call commitment but, by arrangements, consultants are available to offer specialist advice out of hours as necessary.

Nominal commitment (this will vary with the type of post):

Type of Work	No. of PAs
Out-patient clinics/ ward round	3
Administration/ management	1.5
Core SPA	1
A+G	0.5
Total	6

## COVER FOR COLLEAGUES

In addition to providing emergency cover for the absent consultant colleague, it is expected that the consultant(s) providing cover will also provide clinical supervision to junior staff caring for inpatients and day cases.



## Provisional timetable

[The timetable below is illustrative of a typical week.

	AM		PM	
Monday	Rheumatology clinic	1 PA	Clinical admin / A+G SPA	0.5 PA 0.5PA
Tuesday	MDT meeting, clinical admin, radiology meeting	1 PA	Clinic or 1 in 5 ward round	1 PA
Wednesday				
Thursday	Rapid access clinic, SPA	0.5 PA 0.5PA	General Clinic or osteoporosis clinic	1 PA
Friday				

# Person specification

Applicants must demonstrate on the application form that they fulfil all essential criteria to be considered for shortlisting. Appointment is subject to pre-employment checks, including occupational health, DBS checks and a minimum of three satisfactory references, including one from your current Responsible Officer.

Requirement	Essential attributes	Desirable attributes
<b>Qualifications and training</b>		
Professional qualifications	Primary Medical Qualification (MBBS or equivalent). Applicants must have completed specialist training in rheumatology prior to taking up the appointment.	An appropriate higher degree or qualification (MD, PhD or equivalent).  Qualification in Teaching and Learning.
Professional training and memberships	Full GMC registration and license to practice. Entry on Specialist Register for rheumatology via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCT (proposed CCT date must be within 6 months of interview date)</li> <li>• CESR</li> <li>• European Community Rights</li> </ul> Membership of Royal College of physicians or equivalent qualification.	
<b>Clinical experience</b>		
Employment	Evidence of completion of a comprehensive broad-based training programme at specialty registrar level (or equivalent).  or  Clear demonstration of equivalent experience, with a minimum of six years at a level comparable with or senior to specialty registrar.  Evidence of training in rheumatology  Career progression consistent with personal circumstances.	
Clinical knowledge and skills	Demonstrates ability to fulfil Rheumatology duties at a consultant level. Able to take full and independent responsibility for clinical care of patients and provide an expert clinical opinion on a range of problems.  Demonstrates a clear, logical approach to clinical problems and an appropriate level of clinical knowledge.  Able to prioritise clinical need.  Caring approach to patients.	Demonstrates awareness of breadth of clinical issues  Clinical feedback from colleagues and patients
<b>Non-clinical skills</b>		

Requirement	Essential attributes	Desirable attributes
Teaching	Evidence of previous teaching and training experience.  Willingness and ability to contribute to departmental and Trust teaching programmes.	Defined educational roles or qualifications.  Evidence of teaching of undergraduates, junior doctors and multi-professional groups.
Management of change and quality improvement	Demonstrates clear understanding of quality improvement and clinical governance within the NHS.  Demonstrates willingness to implement evidence-based practice.  Evidence of effective personal contributions to clinical audit, governance, and risk reduction.	Evidence of innovative development and implementation of guidance.  Evidence of involving patients in practice development.
Innovation, research, publications and presentations	Understanding of the principles of scientific method and interpretation of medical literature.  Demonstrates a critical and enquiring approach to knowledge acquisition.  Demonstrates understanding of the research governance framework.	Recent evidence of relevant research, presentations or publications.
Management and leadership experience	Demonstrates familiarity with and understanding of NHS structures, management and current political issues, including an awareness of national strategic plan and constraints.  Demonstrates willingness to lead clinical teams and develop an effective specialist clinical service.	Experience of formal leadership roles or training.
Communication and personal skills	Good spoken and written English language skills.  Communicates effectively with patients, relatives, colleagues, GPs, nurses, allied health professionals and outside agencies.  Evidence of ability to work with multi-professional teams and to establish good professional relationships.	Evidence of patient and colleague feedback.  Excellent presentation skills, engages audience.
<b>Other requirements</b>		
Motivation and management of personal practice	Punctual and reliable.  Good personal organizational and prioritization skills, achieve deadlines.  Takes responsibility for personal practice and is able to cope well with stressful situations.  Commitment to continuing medical education and professional development.  Flexible and adaptable attitude.	Demonstrates initiative in personal practice.  Willingness to undertake additional professional responsibilities at local level.
Commitment to post	Demonstrates enthusiasm for Devon as a place to live and work.	

## Main conditions of service



Appointment is to the NHS Consultant Contract (2003) under the current Terms and Conditions of Service for Hospital Medical and Dental Staff (England and Wales) and the Conditions of Service determined by the General Whitley Council for the Health Services (Great Britain). These are nationally agreed and may be amended or modified from time to time by either national agreement or local negotiation with the BMA local negotiating committee.

The employer is the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. The appointee will be professionally accountable to the Chief Medical Officer and managerially accountable to the Chief Executive Officer.

The postholder is required to have full registration with a licence to practice with the General Medical Council and to ensure that such registration is maintained for the duration of the appointment.

## Salary scale

This is as described in the Medical and Dental Terms and Conditions, in line with the Consultant Contract (2003). The current full-time salary scale ranges from £109,725 to £145,478 with eight thresholds. The on-call supplement is category A/B\* and attracts a supplement of 3%/5%/8%\* of basic salary. |

## Length of contract

This is a fixed term contract for 12 months

## Leave

Annual leave entitlement is as described in Schedule 18 of the Terms and Conditions of Service: Consultant (England) 2003. Further details are available in the Senior Medical Staff Leave Policy.

Locum cover for leave will not normally be provided. It is expected that consultants within the department will coordinate leave to ensure that an appropriate level of service (emergency, urgent and routine) is maintained.

## Domicile

Consultants are expected to reside within a reasonable distance of the main acute hospital to which they are affiliated, normally within 10 miles or 30 minutes. Exceptions must be agreed with the medical director or chief executive.

### Duty to be contactable.

Subject to the provisions in Schedule 8, consultants must ensure that there are clear and effective arrangements so that the employing organisation can contact a post holder immediately at any time during a period when a post holder is on-call.

## Indemnity

The post-holder is not contractually obliged to subscribe to a professional defence organisation but should ensure that they have adequate defence cover for non-NHS work.

## Mentoring

New consultants will have access to mentoring and are encouraged to take advantage of this facility. This will be arranged following discussion and mutual agreement between the individual and the medical director.

## Professional performance

The Trust expects all doctors to work within the guidelines of the GMC Guide to Good Medical Practice. You will work with clinical and managerial colleagues to deliver high quality clinical care, within the management structure of the Trust and are expected to follow Trust policies and procedures, both statutory and local, including participation in the WHO surgical checklist.

You will be expected to take part in personal clinical audit, training, quality assessment and other professional activities, including continuing medical education, annual appraisal, job planning and revalidation. It is expected that you will participate in multi-source feedback from both colleagues and patients. You will undertake administrative work associated with management of your clinical and professional practice.

You will be responsible for leadership of junior doctors within the specialty as agreed in your job plan and will be accountable for the effective and efficient use of any resources under your control.

You will also participate in activities that contribute to the performance of the department and the Trust as a whole, including clinical and academic meetings, service development and educational activities. Service developments that require additional resources must have prior agreement from the Trust.

## Reporting concerns

The Trust is committed to providing safe and effective care for patients. There is an agreed procedure that enables staff to report “quickly and confidentially, concerns about the conduct, performance or health of medical colleagues”, as recommended by the chief medical officer (December 1996).

All medical staff practising in the Trust must ensure that they are familiar with the procedure and apply it if necessary.

## Serious untoward incidents

It is expected that you will report all risks, incidents and near misses in accordance with the Trust governance structure. You will be required, on occasion, to lead or assist with investigation of incidents and implementation of risk-reducing measures to safeguard patients, visitors and staff. You must comply with the Duty of Candour legislation.

## Research and audit

Audit is supported by the clinical audit and effectiveness department and we encourage all levels of staff to undertake quality improvement projects. Research within the Trust is managed in accordance with the requirements of the Research Governance Framework. You must observe all reporting requirement systems and duties of action put in place by the Trust to deliver research governance.

## Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

The Trust is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and you will be required to act at all times to protect patients. The appointees may have substantial access to children under the provisions of Joint Circular No HC (88) 9 HOC 8.88 WHC (88) 10. Please be advised that, in the event that your appointment is recommended, you will be asked to complete a form disclosing any convictions, bind-over orders or cautions and to give permission in writing for a DBS check to be carried out. Refusal to do so could prevent further consideration of the application.

## Rehabilitation of offenders

Attention is drawn to the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 as amended by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) Order 1986, which allow convictions that are spent to be disclosed for this purpose by the police and to be taken into account in deciding whether to engage an applicant.

This post is not protected by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, 1974. You must disclose all information about all convictions (if any) in a court of law, no matter when they occurred. This information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## Health and safety

Employees are required to take reasonable care to avoid injury or accident while carrying out their duties, in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, various statutory regulations, Trust and departmental guidelines, policies and procedures. This will be supported by provision of appropriate training and specialist advice.

## Infection prevention and control

The Trust is committed to reducing hospital-acquired infections. All staff are expected to ensure that infection risks are minimised in line with national and Trust policies and best practice. They are supported in this by the infection prevention and control team.

## Our approach to inclusion and diversity

Inclusion is fundamental to our approach to organisational development, culture, service improvement, and public and patient engagement.

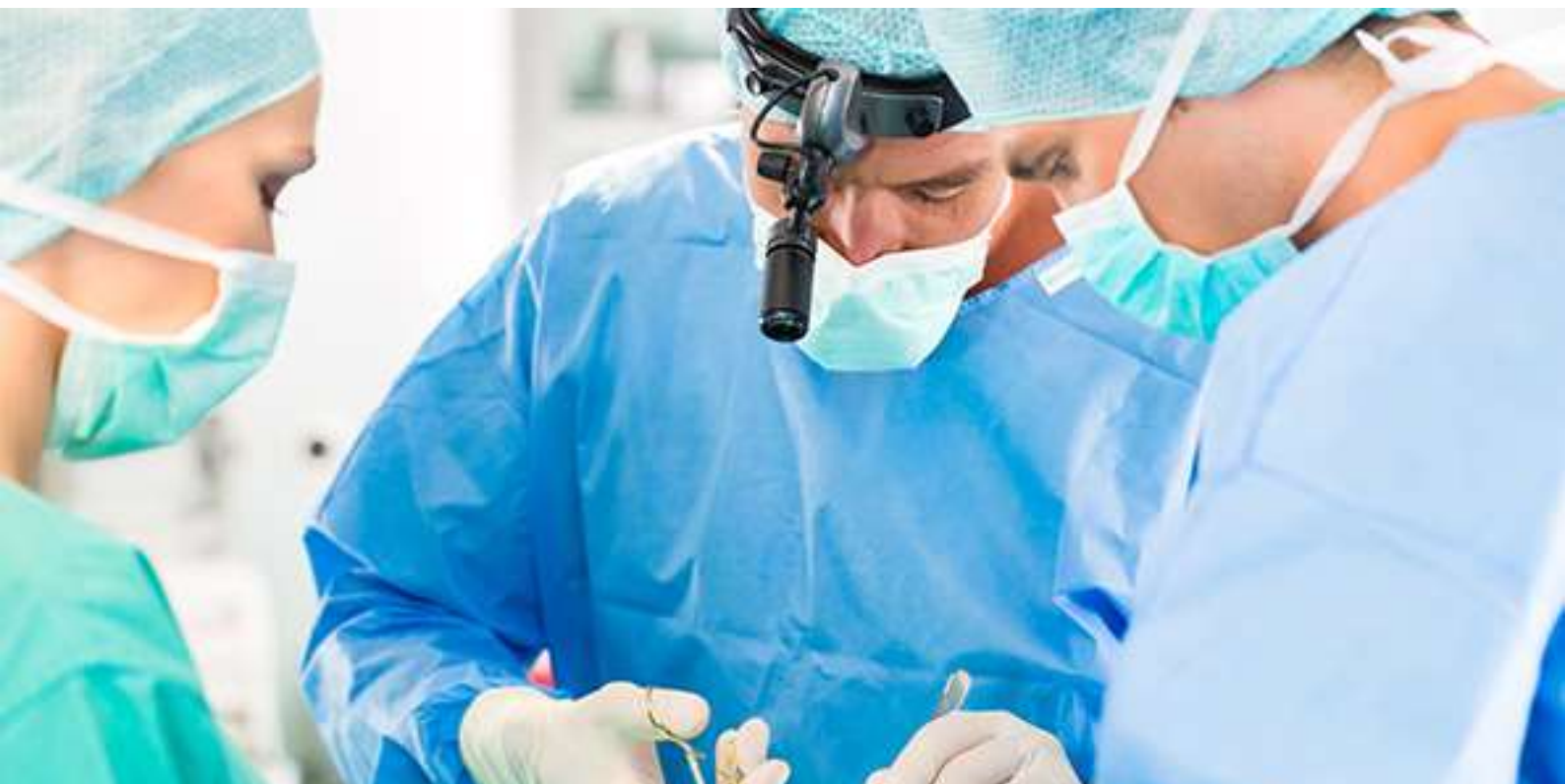
It is one of our core values and we have an inclusion lead to provide strategic oversight to the inclusion agenda. Our inclusion steering group is chaired by our interim CEO, Sam Higginson, and reports its progress to the Board of Directors.

Our aim is to create a positive sense of belonging for everyone, regardless of their background or identity, and to value visible and invisible differences, so everybody is respected and valued, and everyone feels comfortable bringing their whole selves to work and able to reach their full potential.

We have staff inclusion champions who provide information to colleagues and promote inclusion opportunities. We also have a range of networks which colleagues can join, including:

- Disability network
- LGBTQ+ network
- Ethnic minority network
- Neurodiversity Network

Once colleagues join us, we can share with them more information, including how to join any of these groups.







## Living in Devon

Devon offers a quality of life few other English counties can match. Where else will you find such a unique landscape that encompasses over 450 miles of dramatic coastline, rugged moorland and gently winding rivers?

Interspersed with vibrant market towns, chocolate-box villages and sleepy hamlets, it is easy to see why we are consistently voted as one of the top places to live in the country.

Devon's outdoor lifestyle is its biggest draw. This natural playground is unsurpassed with over a third of the county designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. You'll have over 5,000 km of footpaths and 250km of off-road cycle paths to explore, not to mention endless opportunities to surf along the vast stretch of Atlantic coastline or paddleboard across tidal estuaries.

There are good transport links to the rest of Devon, including the M5 and regular trains to Exeter with its art galleries, museum and theatres. Your taste buds will find plenty to savour here too - Devon is rightly proud of the farmers and producers who make the South West one of the best regions in the UK to enjoy locally produced food and drink. Northern Devon also benefits from an excellent range of community, private schools and colleges for further education.

Whether you fancy surfing or fishing, cycling or climbing, fine dining or hearty pub fare, the county really does have it all.

**“Devon didn’t just top our rankings, it blew away the competition. Simply put, it has everything.”**

The Telegraph:  
England's 48 counties  
ranked from best to worst

## Vibrant cities

A thriving, forward-looking city, Exeter is home to the world-leading Met Office, boasts the UK's first leisure centre built to ultra-energy-efficient Passivhaus standard and has one of the top 20 universities in the country.

At the very heart of the city is Exeter Cathedral, an architectural gem surrounded by cobbled streets and beautiful old buildings, many of them shops and eateries. In the compact city centre, you can stroll alongside parts of the ancient Roman wall, visit the remains of Rougemont Castle or explore the depths of Exeter's historic Underground Passages. Exeter Phoenix Arts Centre and the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), add to the cultural mix, plus you'll have performance venues such as the Northcott Theatre, the Barnfield Theatre and Corn Exchange close to the city centre.

The main shopping area provides a wide range of leading High Street brands alongside an eclectic mix of independent shops, many to be found in the narrow thoroughfares off Cathedral Close and the High Street. Nearby Fore Street is a haven for all things vintage and retro. Exeter also has a historic quayside, a great spot to sit and watch the world go by at one of the many cafes and restaurants with al fresco dining.

## Friendly market towns

You'll find an array of historic towns across North Devon and Torridge such as Okehampton, famed for its easy access to stunning Dartmoor. Heading towards North Devon, you'll also have delights such as the charming harbour town of Ilfracombe and the riverside port of Bideford.

## Great for families

Outstanding Ofsted-rated primary schools, high-ranking secondaries and proximity to two leading universities are some of the biggest draws to Devon, making this a desired destination for families. Whether you have young children or teenagers in tow, the sheer quality of education and extra-curricular activities available are guaranteed to impress.

## Living and travelling

Housing wise, housing stock is diverse, with everything from thatched moorland cottages to Georgian townhouses and contemporary builds. Time and distance are different here, too. Many residents in this – the fourth largest county in the UK – are happy to travel up to an hour or more for work. This means there's a great deal of choice when it comes to finding somewhere to live.

Transport links are also good. The county has more than 8,000 miles of road – the largest road network anywhere in the country, although (it has to be said) many are narrow Devon lanes.

From Exeter's main station, Exeter St David's, there are fast and frequent rail services to Bristol (one hour), London (around two hours to Paddington) and Birmingham (under three hours to Birmingham New Street). Exeter itself has an impressive rail network with no fewer than nine stations serving different parts of the city. There are a number of branch lines providing services to Mid and North Devon, Dartmoor and the Exe Estuary. Exeter International Airport provides flights to numerous destinations throughout the UK, Europe and even North America.

More information about the area  
and help with relocating can be  
found at  
[www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/careers](http://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/careers)



## Contacts

The Trust welcomes informal enquiries.

Contact names are detailed below:

[Dr Matthew Cates, [matthew.cates1@nhs.net](mailto:matthew.cates1@nhs.net)

**Title:** Dr

**Name:** Matthew Cates

**Email:** [matthew.cates1@nhs.net](mailto:matthew.cates1@nhs.net)

### **ROYAL DEVON AND EXETER HOSPITAL**

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### **NIGHTINGALE HOSPITAL, EXETER**

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