



## **Annual Governance Statement from the Chief Executive Officer**

### **Scope of Responsibility**

As Chief Executive Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the Group's policies, aims and objectives, whilst meeting financial responsibilities, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me. I am also responsible for ensuring that the Group is administered prudently and economically and that resources are applied efficiently and effectively.

I have overall responsibility for ensuring arrangements are in place for the effective management of risk. The Board collectively and individually has a role to ensure that robust systems of internal control and management are in place; Clinical Governance and Quality Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee have a particular responsibility to oversee the system of internal control and ensure that there are effective risk management arrangements across the Group. We draw on best governance practice within our governance arrangements, and sources of best practice.

The Executive Board of Directors meetings and sub-committees of the Main Board are a key part of an effective governance structure and it is important to ensure that the Group's organizational governance is compliant with best practice. The Executive Board of Directors considers effectiveness of its processes at every meeting with the aim of being a high performing Executive Board. The Executive Board considers and approves updates to the delegated authorities and Standing Financial Instructions. The sub-committees of the Executive Board reviewed their respective Terms of Reference and also carries out annual effectiveness reviews.

*Ruth Smith*

Ruth Smith  
**Chief Executive Officer**