

GOSH Hospital signs a five-year contract with Ain Shams University Hospital

World news story

UK Great Ormond Street Hospital signs a five-year contract with Ain Shams University Hospital



The world-famous Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) for children, part of the UK National Health Service (NHS), has signed a new contract with Ain Shams University Hospital, one of the largest educational medical institutions in Africa and the Middle East.

The contract, which has been made possible through funding by CIB Foundation, sets up an ambitious five-year programme between GOSH & Ain Shams. The two hospitals will work together to share expertise and promote development on critical healthcare functions, including Intensive Care, and Haematology & Oncology. They will develop and commence a comprehensive clinical education-training programme in these areas. A key part of the partnership will be a visiting consultant programme of GOSH consultants and other professionals visiting ASU across these specialties in addition to a wide range of other clinical specialities, allowing the sharing of expertise and best practice. The partnership will also provide an opportunity for medical observerships from Ain Shams to visit GOSH in London.

Charge d’Affaires of the British Embassy in Egypt, Mr Neerav Patel, said:

We are very proud to have supported the creation of this healthcare partnership. Great Ormond Street Hospital and Ain Shams are outstanding institutions. This further deepens the excellent cooperation between our countries, and underlines the UK’s commitment to partner and support the Egyptian government’s healthcare agenda.

Scottish teenagers each to get access to pot of money over the next nine years

Hundreds of thousands of teenagers in Scotland are set to benefit for the first time from money in Child Trust Funds (CTFs) that has been waiting for them since they were young children.

Since 2002, around 6.3 million CTF accounts have been set up across the UK, roughly 4.5 million by parents or guardians and a further 1.8 million set up by HMRC where parents or guardians did not open an account. In Scotland there are approximately 447,000 accounts.

This means some children do not know there are accounts in their name, so are unaware their money is waiting for them.

From 1 September 2020, the oldest children will turn 18 and be able to access their money.

If a parent or guardian is unsure of where their child's CTF account is held they can also use this tool.

For those who do not have the identifying information required to access the tool, HMRC will provide alternative, non-digital routes to finding a CTF provider upon request.

HMRC and The Share Foundation are also working together to help children in need of further support.

HMRC will send details of the CTF provider by post within three weeks of receiving their request.

Economic Secretary to the Treasury, John Glen, said:

We want to make sure all young people can access the money which has been set aside for them, to invest in their future and continue a savings habit, as they turn 18.

If you're unsure if you have an account or where it may be, it's easy to track down your provider online.

UK Government Minister for Scotland, Minister Duguid, said:

This will be a welcome boost for many Scottish young people, particularly welcome in what has been a difficult year for many. I encourage all young people aged between 16 – 18 years in Scotland to check if they have a dormant Child Trust Fund. This money, provided by UK Government, is rightly yours. It only takes a few minutes of your time to check your eligibility online.

The accounts were set up to encourage positive financial habits and a saving culture among the young account holders. HMRC is working with the Money and Pension Service (MaPS) and the CTF providers to continue to provide financial education to the beneficiaries.

CTFs were originally set up for children born between 1st September 2002 and 2nd January 2011, with a live Child Benefit claim.

Parents and guardians received a voucher to deposit in a Child Trust Fund (CTF) account on behalf of the child. At 16 years, the child can choose to operate their account or have their parent continue to operate it, but they cannot withdraw the funds.

At 18 years of age, the CTF account matures and the child is able to withdraw money from the fund or move it to a different savings account. Over 700,000 accounts will mature each year.

The accounts are not held by HMRC, but by a number of CTF providers who are financial services firms. Anyone can pay into the account, with an annual limit of £9,000 and there's no tax to pay on the CTF savings interest or profit.

Notes for Editors

Parents and guardians who adopted a child or were given parental responsibility through a court will be contacted with further information.

Where there is no person with parental responsibility available to manage the CTF, the account is managed on the child's behalf by a charity – [The Share Foundation](#).

A postal address will be provided for people who are unable to access the digital tool to request details of their CTF provider from HMRC.

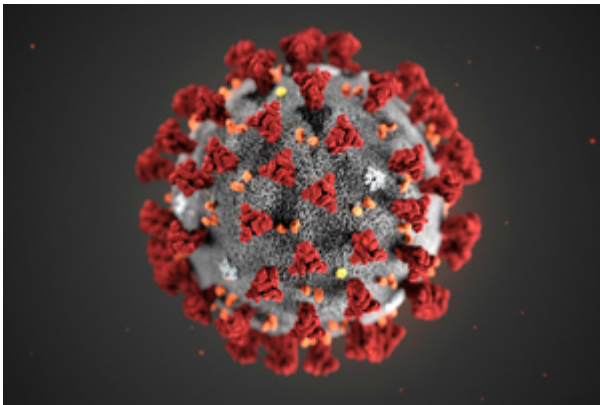
We have recognised that the online form that we provided for customers to trace their CTF requires a level of identity verification that many 16 to 18 year olds will not have so have made changes to allow them to access the form with just their National Insurance number.

As we cannot verify the customer's identity to the same extent with the new system, we cannot give out confidential information, so the customer will need to give their national insurance number.

10,000 people now signed up to COVID-19 immunity study

Press release

A nationwide effort led by PHE to find out whether people who had COVID-19 can get infected again has now recruited 10,000 health workers from across the NHS.



A nationwide effort led by Public Health England (PHE) to solve the mystery of whether people who had COVID-19 can get infected again hit a key recruitment milestone today, Wednesday 19 August 2020.

10,000 health workers from across the NHS have now signed up to take part in PHE's 'SIREN' (SARS-CoV-2 Immunity & REinfection EvaluationN) study, which is exploring whether specific COVID-19 antibodies provide immunity.

Scientists do not yet know if people who have been infected in the past are protected from becoming sick again, or how long any protection lasts.

Professor Susan Hopkins from Public Health England, said:

Every day we learn more and more about the impacts of becoming infected with COVID-19, but we don't know if you can get it again, if you can pass it on, or if you develop immunity. We urgently need to find out the answers to these questions as rapidly as possible.

I can't overstate how grateful we are to the ten thousand NHS doctors, nurses, cleaners and porters who have signed up so far to help improve our knowledge about this new infection.

Lord Bethell, Health Minister said:

Understanding our body's response to COVID-19 is a critical step in beating this horrible virus. That's why this clinical study, one of the largest in the world, is so important. It will help us understand the mystery of our antibody response to COVID-19.

The study will follow participants for at least 12 months, with regular blood and swab tests and will also explore how factors like ethnicity, age or gender affect the chances of infection and the extent of any immunity. Preliminary results are expected before the winter.

All 4 nations from across the UK will eventually be involved. Recruitment in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is due to begin in the coming weeks.

Health care workers should contact their research and development team at their NHS trust to sign up.

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[Pause to prisoner early release scheme](#)

The temporary release of low risk prisoners, which was one of the first steps taken as part of a wider strategy to protect the NHS and reduce the virus' impact on the prison estate, will be paused at the end of August.

The scheme, introduced in April, allowed for the early release of stringently assessed low-risk prisoners who were within two months of their release date – freeing up space across the estate so that all prisons could effectively control the spread of the virus by quarantining new arrivals, isolating those with symptoms and shielding vulnerable offenders. This was based on advice from Public Health England and was necessary to protect life and avoid thousands of prisoners becoming infected, overwhelming local NHS services.

Further decisive action has also proven successful in limiting infections among the thousands who live and work in prisons, including restricting movements between jails to avoid prisoners and staff becoming infected with the virus, an increase in staff testing; and creating over 1,000 additional spaces.

Taken together, these measures have meant the pandemic has been thwarted from taking hold in the prison estate; prevented local health services from becoming overwhelmed; and saved thousands of lives.

With the virus in prisons under control, we no longer need to continue the temporary release of prisoners. Throughout the pandemic our response has been based on public health advice and this decision will be kept under constant review over the coming weeks and months.

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Robert Buckland QC MP, said:

This has been an unprecedented situation but thanks to the hard work and dedication of our staff we have stopped coronavirus taking hold in prisons, which means we can now pause the early release scheme.

We continue to keep this decision under review, but independent public health experts have judged our approach effective and we continue to do all we can to help the NHS and prevent our staff and prisoners from being at risk.

Public protection has remained the number one priority throughout the pandemic. Only those prisoners who were low-risk and who passed the stringent criteria were granted temporary release.

No high-risk offenders, including those convicted of violent or sexual offences or those who posed a risk to national security – were considered for release.

Current cases will continue to be worked through, with releases being made until Thursday 27 August 2020.

[Teenagers to get access to Child Trust Funds for first time](#)

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