



**CANDIDATE PACK FOR  
TRUSTEE WITH EXPERTISE IN FUNDRAISING  
AND ENGAGEMENT**



# WELCOME

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Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in joining our Board of Trustees.

Over 130,000 people in the UK have multiple sclerosis (MS). It's unpredictable, and different for everyone. It's often painful and exhausting, and can cause problems with how we walk, move, see, think and feel. But it doesn't have to be this way.

The MS Society is the UK's largest organisation dedicated to supporting people with MS and those who care about them. We fund world-leading scientists as they search for new treatments. We make sure everyone can access expert information and services to help them live well with MS. We speak up together, to make sure everyone's voice is heard, and rights are protected. We support one another when times are tough and celebrate together when they are good. We make sure no one has to feel alone.

But we know we can deliver more impact for MS communities. We've embarked on an ambitious transformation programme to deepen our engagement and increase our reach, and take us closer to our vision of a world free from the effects of MS. And in 2025, we'll launch a new strategy to get us there.

We're now looking for a Trustee with significant fundraising and engagement expertise to help shape our strategic direction and steer our transformation programme. We want to grow our income, going from good to great on our public fundraising and to diversify our income streams to achieve the financial support we need to realise our ambitions. At all times, we want to keep pace with the MS community's expectations, building enduring relationships with as many people as possible and keeping the needs and priorities of people affected by MS at the heart of everything we do. As a member of our Board, you'll offer the challenge and support we need to help us achieve this.

We're keen to hear from you if you have a successful track record of delivering a step change in income growth across a range of fundraising channels, and the expertise to support our ongoing transformation programme. You'll need to understand the opportunities and challenges faced by the charity sector and be committed to the benefits of an integrated approach to fundraising and engagement. You may be a current Director of Fundraising, a fundraising consultant who is actively engaged across the sector, or a Chief Executive whose roots are in fundraising and engagement. Whoever you are, you will be someone with the highest level of personal integrity and maturity of judgement, with strong analytical skills and the ability to work collaboratively within a diverse Board.

Our Trustees are a critical part of an organisation that is people-centred and forward-thinking. More than ever, it is important that we have the strong strategic leadership and governance required to achieve our vision. If you bring the skills and experience we are looking for and are motivated by our commitment to transform lives and stop MS, I hope you will read on to find out more.

**Sir Paul Curran**  
**Chair of the Board of Trustees**

# THE MS SOCIETY IN 2024

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In December, the Board of Trustees approved our ambitious plans to support the MS community during these challenging times. And transform the way we work so we can achieve more for everyone affected by MS.

We know people with MS have been affected disproportionately by the rising cost of living. We're speaking up to make sure MS stays on the agenda in Westminster, Holyrood, the Senedd and Stormont. And we're helping connect people we don't reach through our local group network.

We're working to make our information, services and support for people with MS and those who care for them more coordinated, personalised and accessible. And we're conducting research to improve our understanding of health inequalities, so we can better support marginalised groups.

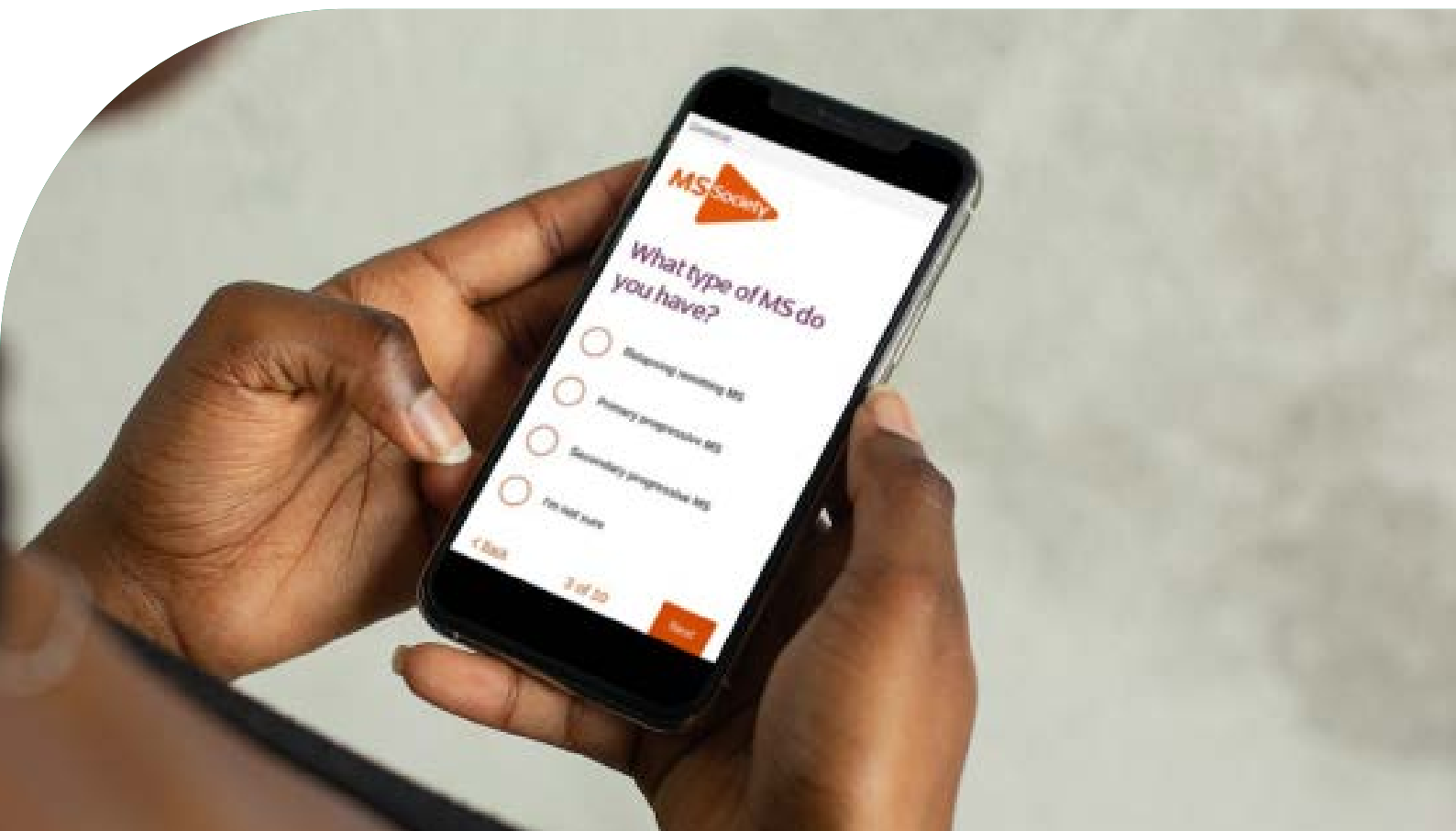
We've launched **Octopus**, our revolutionary, multi-arm, multi-stage drugs trial that transforms the way we test treatments for progressive MS. And we're investing in future breakthroughs by further developing our Early Career Researcher Network.

We're transforming our digital, data and technology capabilities to better understand the MS community. So everyone can access information and support that's tailored to their needs and interests. And we're diversifying how we raise money to accelerate what we can achieve.

We're a complex organisation with ambitious goals. To meet them, we'll have to take bold, calculated risks. And this needs to be balanced by robust Board governance. To make sure it provides effective scrutiny and challenge, the Board of Trustees has reviewed and updated the structure and remit of its expert committees.

All this and more stands before us. It's a huge task. But together, our MS community is a unique and powerful force for positive change. Join us. And together we will stop MS.

To find out more about us, please visit [About us | MS Society](#)



# ABOUT THIS ROLE

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## ROLE PURPOSE

As a trustee, you'll play a critical role in setting our strategic direction, supporting and challenging the Executive Group, and setting and upholding our values and culture. Each year the Board agrees our annual plan, budget and performance targets. It monitors the charity's performance and is responsible for managing risk and our compliance with regulatory and statutory requirements.

We'll expect you to share our values and have – or be prepared to develop – an understanding of MS. And you'll need to be sure you can commit the time and energy it'll take to be an active and effective member of our Board.

## [Meet our Trustees](#)

## WHAT THE ROLE INVOLVES

- Ensuring clear strategic direction, and setting and monitoring our policies, goals and objectives.
- Safeguarding our reputation and promoting our vision and mission.
- Acting as an ambassador for the MS Society and upholding our values.
- Approving our annual business plan, budget and performance targets.
- Approving our annual report & accounts and receiving the auditor's report.
- Protecting our assets, ensuring our funds are invested properly, and administered effectively and efficiently.
- Preparing thoroughly and participating fully in Board meetings
- Using your specific skills, knowledge or experience to help the Board to reach sound decisions.
- Upholding all decisions properly made by the Board.
- Undertaking Board committee and working group responsibilities, as appropriate.
- Keeping up-to-date with charity law, company law and other relevant legislation and regulations.
- Building strong, effective and trusting relationships with fellow Trustees, members of the Executive Group, senior leaders and stakeholders.
- Ensuring the MS Society complies with its constitution (Articles), charity law, company law and other relevant legislation and regulations.
- Maintaining appropriate confidentiality, disclosing any conflicts of interest, and abiding by our Code of Conduct, policies and procedures.

## SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE YOU NEED FOR THIS ROLE

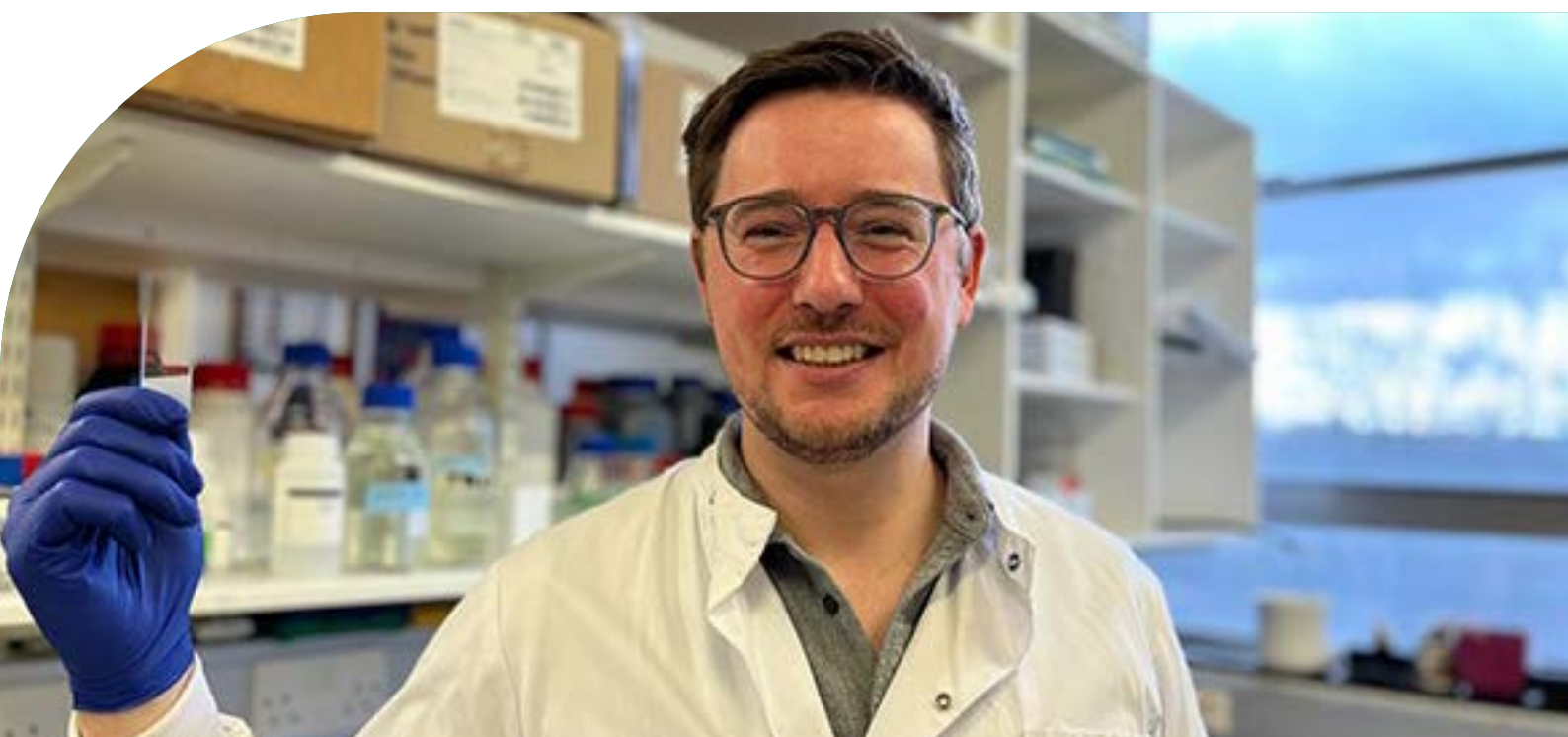
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- Strategic vision and the ability to think creatively.
- The ability to operate effectively as part of a team, and a willingness to offer constructive challenge and support collective decisions.
- The ability to listen to, read and assimilate information quickly and effectively.
- The ability to act corporately and not in the interests of one particular group, and to reach objective and independent decisions.
- An understanding of MS and the effects of living with it, together with an appreciation of the work of the MS Society.
- An understanding and appreciation of the roles of Trustee and Company Director and the desire and ability to take part in committees of the Board, attend all meetings and undertaking associated tasks.
- The ability to communicate with a wide variety of people and organisations, including the ability or potential to speak at public engagements.
- Willingness to promote or engage in fundraising activity according to interests.
- The ability to act as an ambassador for the MS Society.
- Behaviours that demonstrate, model and reinforce the MS Society's values – Bold, Expert, Ambitious, and Together.
- Commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.
- The ability and commitment to devote sufficient time and effort to discharge the responsibilities of the role.

We will also consider diversity of experience when deciding who to appoint and are particularly keen to hear from you if your experience could enrich our Board's understanding of what matters to:

- younger people with MS
- people with advanced MS and the people who care for them
- LGBTQIA+ people
- people with Black, Asian or minority ethnic heritage.

[> Board EDI statement](#)



# TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

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Trustees are appointed to a three-year term, and can be reappointed for one further term, based on their performance in the role. This role is voluntary and unpaid.

We welcome applications from throughout the UK and we don't want finances to be a barrier to anyone thinking of applying to join our Board. We'll book your travel and accommodation to attend meetings and reimburse other out-of-pocket expenses.

## TIME COMMITMENT AND LOCATION OF MEETINGS

Being a Trustee involves:

- Attending four in-person Board meetings during the year (these are daytime meetings during the week)
- Attending expert committee meetings – you'll be asked to join the Board's Strategic Implementation and Finance Committee that also meets four times during the year (usually online, daytime meetings during the week)
- Depending on your skills, experience and availability, you may also be invited to participate in optional working groups (usually online)
- Preparing to attend Board, committee and working group meetings by reading the papers provided
- Attending other events to represent us and connect with our MS community

Overall, it equates to around a day a month.

Board meetings are held in London. Most of our committee and working group meetings take place online. Our London office has been designed with accessibility, inclusivity and flexible working in mind.

## LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

You'll take part in a comprehensive induction programme, including online sessions with the teams who lead on delivering our ambitious strategy. You'll also learn about your responsibilities as a Trustee.

You'll be paired with Trustee and Executive buddies to help you settle in, and you'll have regular check-ins with our Chair and Governance team. You'll have lots of opportunities to connect with the MS community and get involved in the areas of our work that interest you the most.

You'll attend our annual Strategy Development Day. You'll benefit from in-person/online facilitated training and eLearning modules. And you'll have access to our Board Reading Room, where you'll find a comprehensive range of internal and external resources to support you in your role.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Some people are automatically disqualified by law from being a Trustee. For example, anyone who is an undischarged bankrupt, or who has been convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty, unless that conviction is spent. If appointed, you will be required to sign a Trustee Declaration of Eligibility and Responsibility Form.

The role of Trustee is also subject to a disclosure check. As part of your application, you are required to consent to apply for a disclosure check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) or its equivalent.

## HOW TO APPLY

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We hope you will consider making an application. If you have questions about the appointment and would find it helpful to have an informal conversation, please contact [Katy.Giddens@starfishsearch.com](mailto:Katy.Giddens@starfishsearch.com) and we will be happy to arrange a call.

To make an application, please go to <https://starfishsearch.com/jobs/ms-society-trustee/> and click on the 'apply now' button, with the following prepared:

- Your cv or biographical information (no more than three sides please)
- A supporting statement (no more than two sides please) that sets out your motivation for applying for the role and how you can meet the levels of knowledge and experience we are looking for.

Equality, diversity and inclusion are important to us. Please complete the Equality and Diversity monitoring form provided as part of the online application process. This form is for monitoring purposes only and is not treated as part of your application.

<b>Closing date:</b>	Monday 13th May 2024
<b>First stage interviews for selected candidates (with Starfish):</b>	w/c 27th May 2024 & w/c 3rd June 2024
<b>Interviews with MS Society:</b>	Monday 17 June 2024

