

Candidate pack

Chair



Bowel Cancer UK
Beating bowel cancer together

Welcome

Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in becoming our next Chair at Bowel Cancer UK, the UK's leading bowel cancer charity.

Bowel cancer is the UK's fourth most common cancer and the second biggest cancer killer. 46 people die from bowel cancer every day. We're working to fight this because it doesn't need to be this way. The disease is treatable and curable, especially if diagnosed early. Nearly everyone diagnosed at the earliest stage will survive.

Not only is our vision a future where nobody dies of the disease; we're also determined, every day, to save lives and improve the quality of life for everyone affected by bowel cancer. We work nationally to provide information and support; we campaign for change; we support and fund research, and we raise awareness and understanding of bowel cancer.

We already punch well above our weight in terms of our profile and influence. Yet we know this isn't enough to achieve our aims, so we remain on a journey of significant growth and change. This has already seen us gain in strength and scale ever since Bowel Cancer UK and Beating Bowel Cancer joined forces in 2018.

Now one year into our ambitious five-year strategy On a Mission we're more committed than ever to extending our reach and impact. To help us steer the course, and achieve our vision, we are looking for a new Chair to succeed Richard Anderson as he reaches the end of his tenure. You will be leading an exceptionally talented and committed Board and working with our Chief Executive to seize the opportunities and handle the inevitable growing pains inherent in change and expansion. Outside the organisation, you will be a trusted and persuasive ambassador with policy makers, opinion formers and partners.

The successful candidate will share our powerful drive to beat bowel cancer and empathise with the issues ahead for an organisation like ours. You needn't be from the cancer sector to play your part as Chair; however, you will understand the complexities of leading and overseeing a medium sized charity in a competitive space and it's likely that you will have a connection, personally or professionally, with what we're trying to do.

We're looking for a successful and commercially astute senior leader who understands this role and what it means to chair a growing organisation. An intuitive understanding of good governance will also be essential, along with an accessible and personally flexible style. We're focused on our mission, yet we're also a warm and collegiate team working together. Someone 'low ego' who builds rapport and works through relationships will be the best fit for us.

If you think you bring what we are looking for, we hope you will read on to find out more.

Board of Trustees
Bowel Cancer UK



About us

We're the UK's leading bowel cancer charity. We're determined to save lives and improve the quality of life of everyone affected by bowel cancer by championing early diagnosis and access to best treatment and care. We work towards this by:

- **Supporting and funding targeted research**
The major advances in saving lives from bowel cancer in the past 20 years have all come through research. Through strategic investment in targeted research, we will deliver improvements in bowel cancer survival in our lifetime. [Learn more about our research.](#)
- **Providing expert information and support to patients and their families**
We provide expert information and support for everyone affected by bowel cancer. Our [online forum](#) is a place for people to talk about their experiences, share their knowledge and support each other. Our website has lots of high quality information about bowel cancer and we publish [a range of helpful booklets.](#)
- **Educating the public and professionals about the disease**
We run [training, workshops and study days for healthcare professionals.](#) We also have a dedicated team of volunteers who give [free awareness talks](#) to workplaces and community groups across the UK, spreading the word about symptoms, risk factors and bowel cancer screening.
- **Campaigning for early diagnosis and access to best treatment and care**
We campaign for early diagnosis and access to best treatment and care across the UK. We're leading change for younger bowel cancer patients, campaigning to improve survival and quality of life for those with advanced bowel cancer and working to improve early diagnosis by ensuring people are getting the right test at the right time. [Read more about our campaigns.](#)

We have come a long way 1987, when the Britta Dolan Memorial fund was founded. Since then, we've achieved so much thanks to the support of our wonderful community. We've merged two charities to become a stronger presence, grown the support we can offer, invested in research and campaigned in parliament, all workings towards a future where nobody dies of bowel cancer.



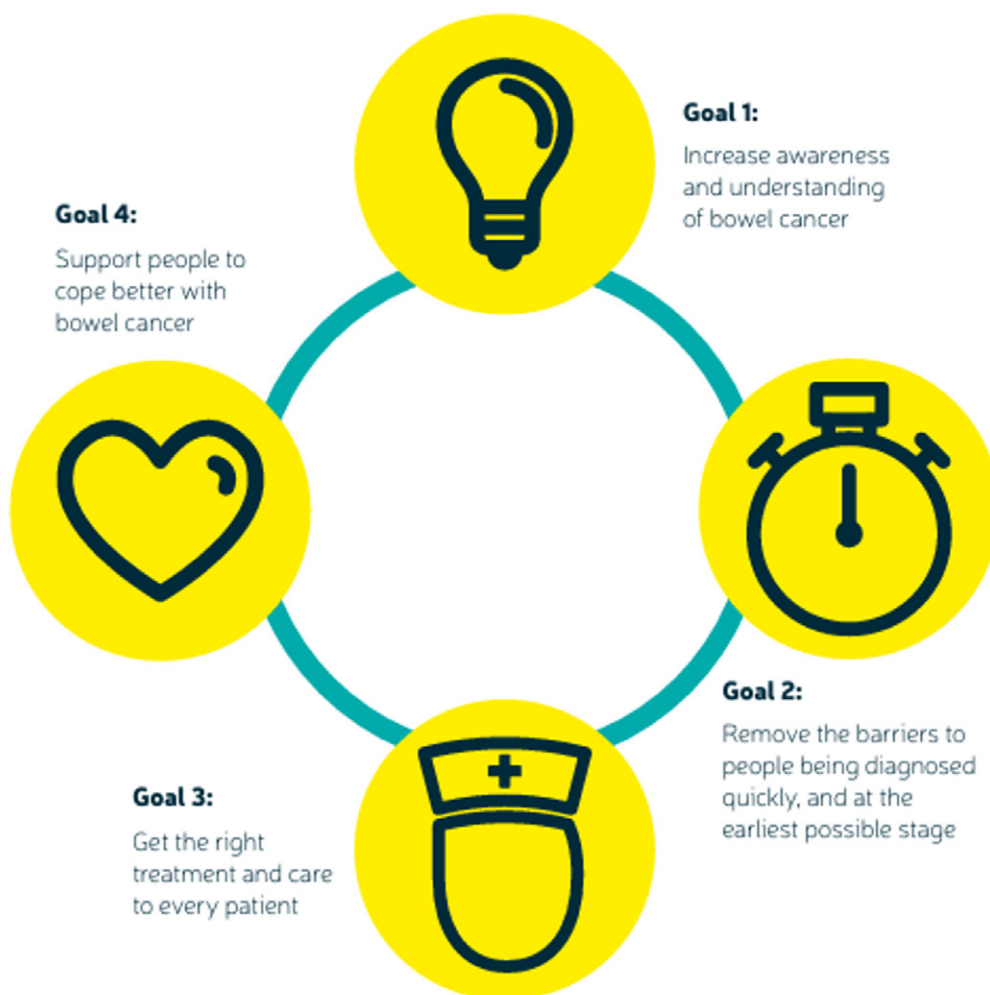
On a mission: our 2023-2028 Strategy

We launched our new five-year strategy in 2023, looking to take a major step towards a future where nobody dies of bowel cancer.

Simply put, to see more people surviving and thriving beyond bowel cancer, we must diagnose people at the earliest stages. It's a stark reality that too many people in the UK are diagnosed too late; fewer than 4 in 10 people are diagnosed at the early stages (stages 1 and 2), and almost half of people are diagnosed at the later stages (stage 3 and 4).

We consulted with patients, volunteers, clinicians and researchers to develop an ambitious plan that puts early diagnosis at its heart, while ensuring we continue to support anyone affected by bowel cancer. The resulting strategy, **On a mission: making sure bowel cancer is diagnosed early to save lives**, sets out a roadmap for five years from 2023 to 2028.

There are four goals that form the building blocks of our new strategy:



To read our strategy and find out more about our goals, as well as how we plan to achieve them [please click here](#).

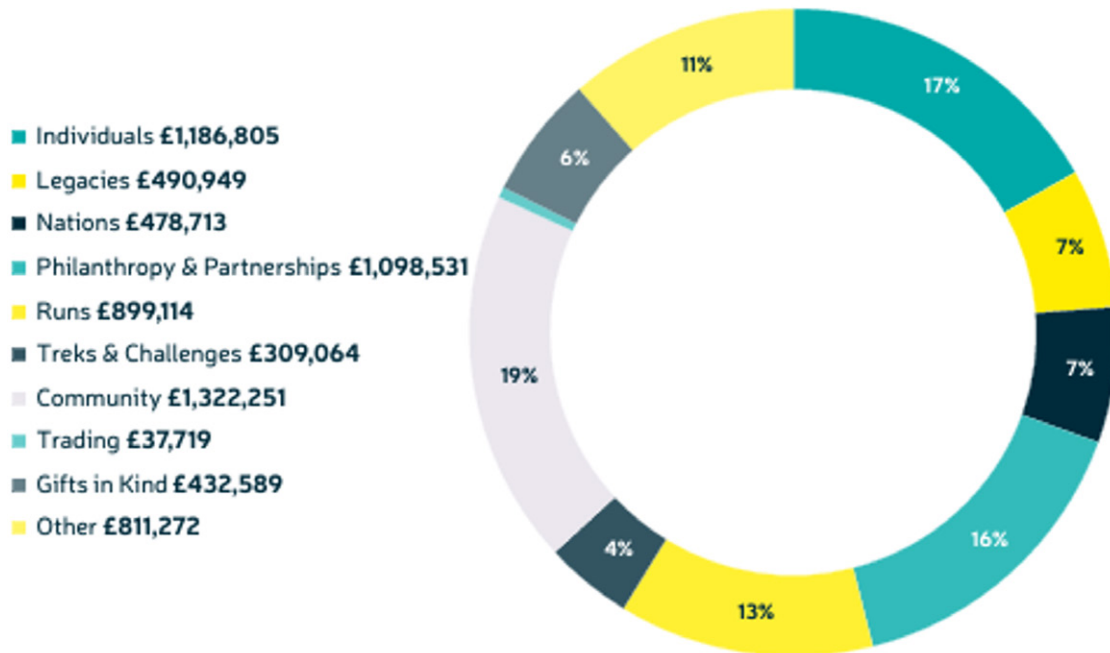
Our Finances in 2023

For the first time in our history, donations of money, goods and services exceeded £7 million in 2023. This was almost £800,000 higher than in 2022.

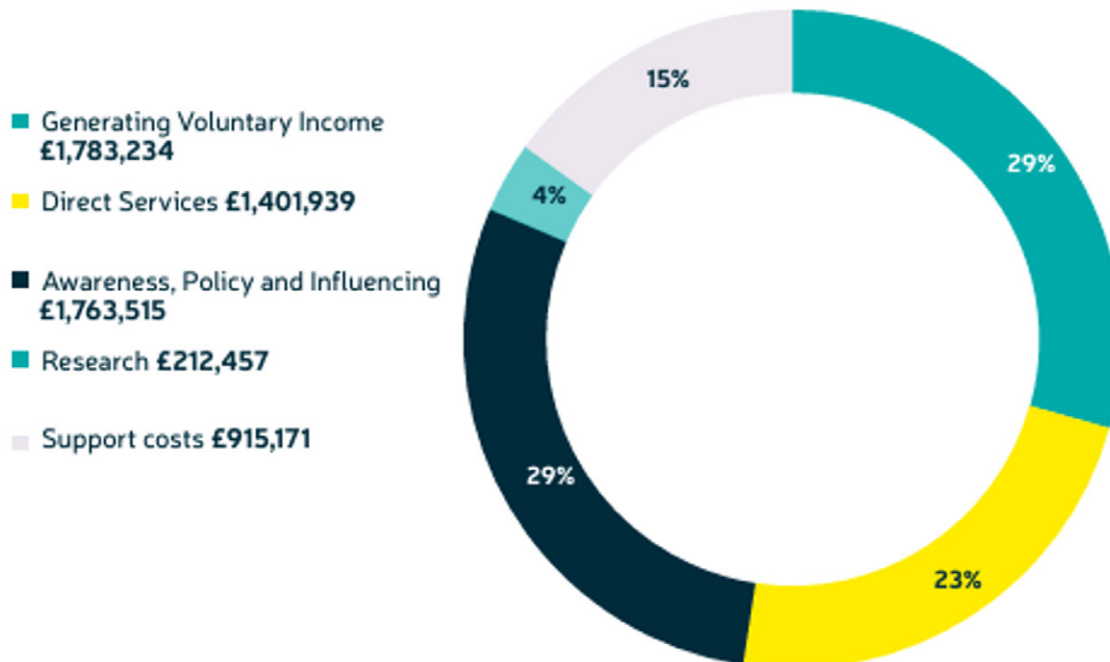
This rise in income has only been made possible by the generosity of our community and partners who have given in so many ways across the UK. These included, but are not limited to, a rise in legacy income, a record-breaking London Marathon total and funding from the Bowelbabe Fund for Cancer Research UK for our roadshow and GP education programme.

Our expenditure was £6,076,316, of which £3,377,911 was spent on direct charitable activities – an increase of £727,591 (23%) compared to the prior year as we rolled out new and expanded services including awareness roadshows, GP education, Ask the Nurse support services, and enhanced support for the bowel cancer community in each of the UK nations.

Where our money comes from



How we spend our money



Our Board

Equipped with knowledge, determination and guidance, our Board supports and drives our organisation forward to reaching our goal of saving lives and improving the quality of life for all those affected by bowel cancer.

We have a brilliant Board at Bowel Cancer UK, which currently includes:

- Mr Richard Anderson (Chair)
- Ms Lorraine Lander (Treasurer)
- Dr Kate Brown (Vice Chair)
- Mr Ben Butler
- Mr Stephen Fenwick
- Ms Alison Hill
- Dr Alastair McKinlay
- Mr Duncan Rudkin
- Dr Diana Tait
- Mr Owen Watson
- Ms Angie Wiles
- Mr Paul Latham
- Ms Husna Grimes
- Mr Tim Kerr

To read about our Trustees [please click here](#).

Bowel Cancer UK also benefits greatly from the expertise provided by our [Medical Advisory Board](#), and our [Scientific Advisory Board](#).



Main responsibilities of the role

Role title Chair

Role purpose The Chair provides strategic leadership to the Board of Trustees, working with and guiding the Chief Executive, collectively ensuring the delivery of the organisation's vision, mission, and charitable objectives.

Strategic leadership and promoting Bowel Cancer UK

- **Set the vision and strategic direction:** Establish the vision and strategic direction for a high-profile national organisation.
- **Offer leadership:** Provide leadership to the organisation and Board, ensuring clear strategic direction and impactful investment and resource deployment.
- **Create a positive culture:** Collaborate with the Executive to foster a positive organisational culture, role model, champion, and hold others accountable for behaviours that reflect our ethos.
- **Represent externally:** Be available to represent the Bowel Cancer UK with partners and key stakeholders, including the Department for Health and Social Care, NHS, partner organisations in the cancer sector, and opinion formers.
- **Champion diversity, equity, and inclusion:** Lead Bowel Cancer UK's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in access to bowel cancer diagnosis and support and within the organisation itself.

Effective governance and compliance

- **Promote good governance:** Uphold and regularly review good governance practices and the highest standards of performance and propriety.
- **Ensure compliance:** Ensure compliance with statutory requirements and that the organisation pursues its objectives as defined in its Articles of Association.
- **Set risk appetite:** Define the risk appetite of the Board and ensure major risks and opportunities are regularly reviewed and addressed.
- **Board development:** Develop the culture, knowledge, and capability of the Board, ensuring ongoing development and conducting annual appraisals with Board members.
- **Impact measurement:** Ensure that the impact of Bowel Cancer UK's activities is measured and reported effectively.
- **Stakeholder feedback:** Ensure that the charity gathers and incorporates feedback from key stakeholders to continually improve organisational strategies and operations.
- **Succession Planning:** Ensure effective succession planning for the Board and senior leadership roles.
- **Advocacy and Policy Influence:** Where possible, influence public policy and advocate for the needs and interests of those affected by bowel cancer.
- **Innovation:** Promote innovation within BCUK to stay ahead in the field of bowel cancer research and patient support.

Managing Board business

- **Chair board meetings:** Lead Board meetings to ensure high-quality, inclusive debate and well-informed, timely decision-making in the best interests of Bowel Cancer UK.
- **Engage trustees:** Ensure Trustees are fully engaged, contribute effectively, and take collective ownership of decisions made.
- **Plan agendas:** Work with the Chief Executive to plan agendas and meetings, ensuring decisions are implemented and monitored.
- **Work with Committee Chairs:** Collaborate closely with Committee Chairs to ensure their delegated remits are met.
- **Foster positive relationships:** Cultivate positive and constructive relationships among individual Trustees and between Trustees and the Executive.

Working with the Chief Executive

- **Line manage the Chief Executive:** Support and hold the Chief Executive accountable for achieving agreed strategic objectives, ensuring that they continues to develop in the role.
- **Maintain regular contact:** Maintain regular, open communication with the Chief Executive, providing a sounding board and overview of emerging priorities.
- **Support executive team:** Offer guidance and support to the Executive team as needed.

Person specification

Part One

Knowledge and experience

- Clear and intuitive understanding of the Chair role in delivering effective strategic leadership to a growing, changing organisation.
- Knowledgeable about Board development, with experience of promoting the development of Board diversity and effectiveness.
- Understands the principles of good governance and effective financial oversight and is able to apply this in the context of respective Board and Executive roles.
- Experience of engaging with external stakeholders to unlock funding and support.
- Credible track record as an inspirational, engaged and connected strategic leader, underpinned by experience gained as a non-executive.
- Insight into the cancer sector, personally or professionally, would be an asset and also support our next Chair's credibility with those we seek to influence (for example, you may bring experience in funding, public health or public policy.)
- Experience of promoting and supporting the development of diversity, equality, and inclusion in organisations or across sectors.

Part Two

Skills and abilities

- Highly effective skills in positioning, persuading and influencing.
- An excellent and engaging communicator with advanced interpersonal skills.
- Able to see the bigger picture and to think strategically.
- Able to lead a diverse board, reconciling differing perspectives and achieving progress.
- Exceptional chairing skills; able to facilitate discussion and debate amongst an accomplished group of Board members.

Part Three

Leadership style and behaviours

- Strategic vision and financial acumen.
- 'Low ego' style; high capacity for self-reflection and is emotionally intelligent.
- Personally flexible and adaptable.
- Undisputed personal stature, presence, and integrity, sound judgement.
- Fosters group and collective accountability and a good role model who sets the tone for the organisation.
- Deep commitment to the mission and values of Bowel Cancer UK.



Terms of appointment

Time Commitment

This role requires around 2-3 days per month, which includes quarterly Board meetings, quarterly sub-committee meetings, and a strategic away day per year.

Remuneration

This role is offered on a voluntary basis. Reasonable expenses incurred in the course of carrying out the role will be reimbursed by the organisation.

Location

Board meetings currently take place in person either at the Bowel Cancer UK office (in Kennington, London) or at a nearby location in London.

Term of Appointment

Trustees are appointed for an initial term of three years which may be renewable for a second term subject to Board agreement.

How to apply

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

- Your CV (no more than three sides).
- A covering letter that sets out your motivation for the role and describes the specific experience you can bring to the appointment.

We would also be grateful if you would complete the Equality and Diversity monitoring form on the online application process. This form is for monitoring purposes only and is not treated as part of your application.

Deadline for applications is Friday 6th December 2024.

Recruitment timetable

Closing date:	Friday 6th December 2024
Preliminary interviews:	w/c 16th December 2024 and 6th January 2025
Final Panel interviews:	likely to be 27th January 2025, subject to confirmation.