

<b>Meeting title:</b>	Public Trust Board	<b>Public Trust Board Paper M</b>
<b>Date of the meeting:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	
<b>Title:</b>	R&I Quarterly Trust Board Report	
<b>Report presented by:</b>	Prof Nigel Brunskill, Director of R&I	
<b>Report written by:</b>	Prof Nigel Brunskill, Director of R&I	

<b>Action – this paper is for:</b>	Decision/Approval		Assurance	x	Update	x
<b>Where this report has been discussed previously</b>	N/A					

<b>To your knowledge, does the report provide assurance or mitigate any significant risks? If yes, please detail which</b>
No

<b>Impact assessment</b>
<p>The report highlights the delivery and performance of R&amp;I at UHL, progress of important research, engagement activities and newsworthy items.</p> <p>These elements have a largely positive impact on staff and patients and highlight efforts around engagement in research. Good research outcomes have had a positive impact on reputation.</p>

**Purpose of the Report**

To give assurance around UHL R&I activity and performance

**Recommendation**

To receive updates and to be assured

# UHL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION QUARTERLY TRUST BOARD REPORT November 2025

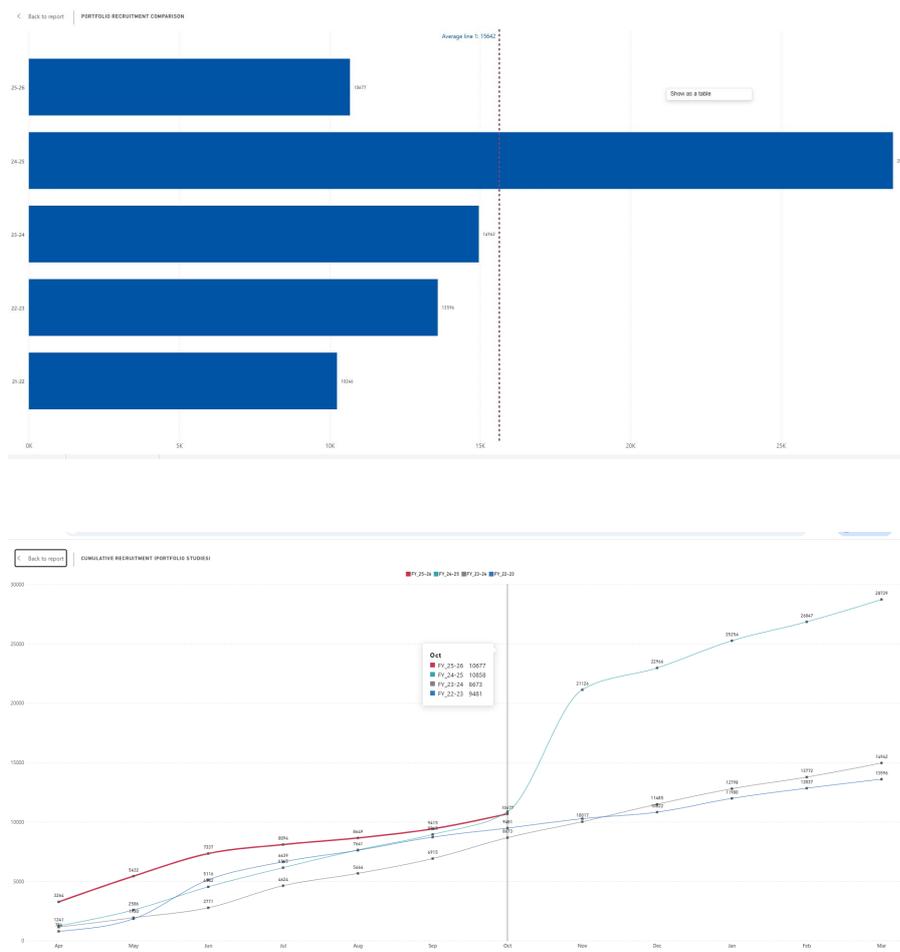
## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report describes UHL R&I activities, performance and delivery in the last few months.

## 2. RESEARCH PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERY

### 2.1 Recruitment and performance into CRN Portfolio Studies

This is a key performance metric and current recruitment remains healthy. Participant recruitment in 2024/25 was >28,000. This was our best ever non-Covid year and the high participant recruitment was largely driven by a single high recruiting study which opened in October 2024, but has now completed recruitment. The current 25/26 research activity dashboard is provided below. Extrapolating forwards would predict recruitment of circa 20,000 participants in 2025/26.



**Figure 1: Current and comparative UHL research study recruitment metrics up to early October 2025.**

## 2.2 Research study approval at UHL

Recruitment into clinical trials depends to a large extent on the number of clinical trials open to recruitment in the Trust. So far in 2025/26, 145 new studies have been approved to open at UHL (Figure 2).

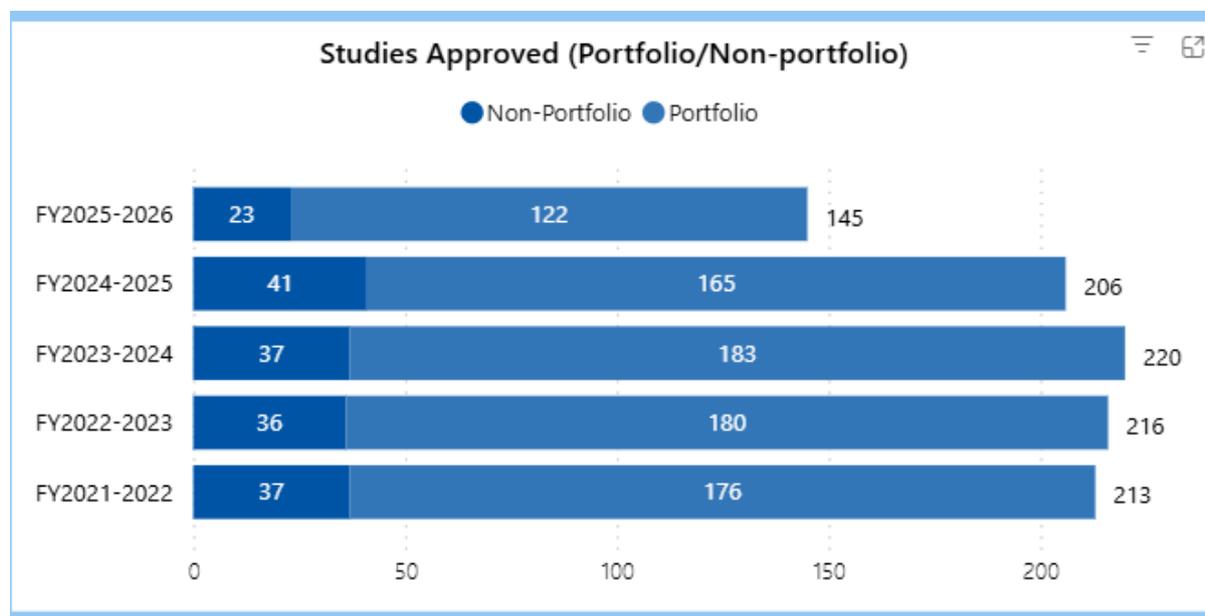
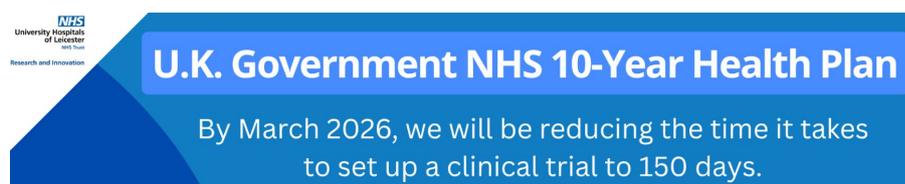


Figure 2. Study approval at UHL by year

## 2.3 Performance against national commercial research delivery targets



There is an increased level of scrutiny over delivery performance and the NHS 10 year plan defines a 150 day set up time for clinical trials. These new metrics include

- 60 days for HRA approval
- 60 days for set up in Trusts
- 30 days to recruit first patient

A deep dive into process in the R&I Office has taken place. The current UHL performance is shown in Figure 3. Overall numbers are satisfactory although recruitment to time and target requires some additional work.

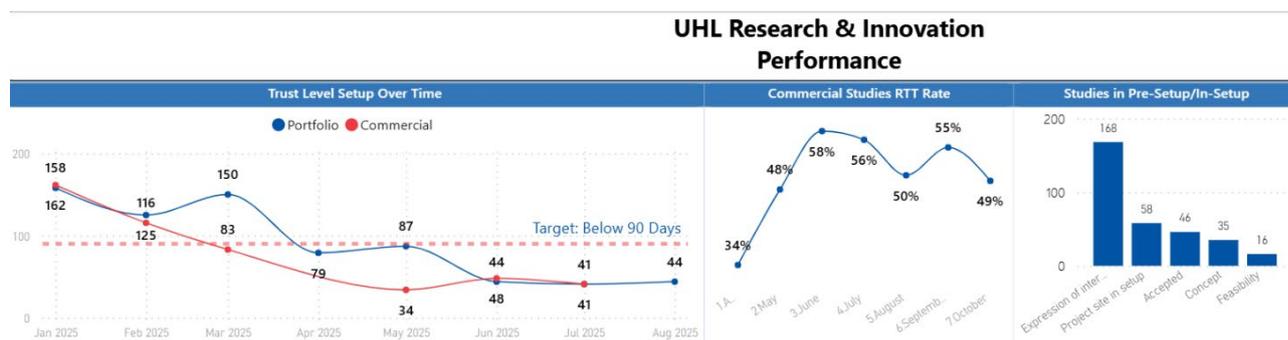


Figure 3. Current UHL performance against national delivery metrics

### 3. RESEARCH FINANCES

#### 3.1 UHL and the national perspective

UHL has been very successful in obtaining external funding for research activities. Comparison of research income by NHS Trusts is shown in Table 1. UHL is in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

Trust	Research income 22/23 (£k)	Research income 23/24 (£k)	Research income 24/25 (£k)	Increase / Decrease (£k)
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust	£69,755	£85,283	£98,776	↑ £13,493
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	£64,512	£74,864	£82,753	↑ £7,889
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	£54,031	£50,337	£61,738	↑ £11,401
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	£62,131	£61,734	£55,844	↓ -£5,890
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	£43,086	£47,736	£55,603	↑ £7,867
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	£54,298	£57,498	£55,265	↓ -£2,233
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	£42,582	£46,484	£55,141	↑ £8,657
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	£45,101	£49,832	£39,171	↓ -£10,661
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	£68,417	£42,268	£39,804	↓ -£2,464
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	£20,435	£23,135	£23,778	⇒ £643
NHS University Hospitals of Liverpool Group	£24,091	£27,085	£22,502	↓ -£4,583
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	£39,146	£37,457	Awaiting data	Awaiting data

Table 1. Research income in English NHS Trusts by year

#### 3.2 Current UHL Research finance position

As at month 7, the current actual to date position, April to October 25, is a deficit £239k. The year-to-date performance against budget is deficit of £771k. This is largely due pay budgets not being reflective of recent pay awards and by commercial income, which is activity driven and results in some variability from month to month whereas expenditure has a more consistent profile.

	Budget	Budget Year to Date	Actual To Date	Year to Date Budget Surplus/(Deficit)
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Income	56.16	32.76	33.11	0.355
Pay	(24.37)	(14.22)	(14.63)	(0.415)
Non Pay	(30.88)	(18.01)	(18.72)	(0.710)
Total	0.910	0.531	(0.239)	(0.771)

Table 2. UHL research finances to October 2025.

### **3.3 Indicative Research Delivery Network Budget for 2026/27**

The RDN research infrastructure budget funds a large research delivery team at UHL. Allocations are based on 3 components:

- 50% of the budget is calculated from historic allocation. This provides a basic level of stability.
- 30% is based on the research activity the NHS Trust has conducted over the previous 3 year period.
- 20% of the budget will be based on performance against a set of key performance indicators. These will align with government priorities.

The indicative UHL allocation for 26/27 is £5.117M. This represents an increase of £463k and is the highest in the East Midlands.

## **4. DEVELOPING NEW RESEARCH AREAS**

The NIHR Leicester Clinical Research Facility (CRF) is developing new research areas in collaboration with colleagues in neurology, mental health and clinical genetics in collaboration with Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT).

- The HD Clarity study will sample cerebrospinal fluid from patients with Huntington's Disease (HD) to identify biomarkers of disease and targets for new treatment interventions.
- **The Trust Board will be joined by Juliette Verheyden NIHR, Leicester CRF Manager, and Dr Reza Kaini, Consultant Neuropsychiatrist and his research team from LPT. To discuss HD Clarity and our collaborative research into HD.**

## **5. R&I AWARDS AND OTHER NEWS**

### **5.1 BRC Excellence Awards**

- A very successful BRC Excellence Awards evening was held at the Grand Hotel in Leicester on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025. This event provided an opportunity to bring together researchers, clinical staff and support colleagues to share exceptional achievements leading to Leicester's success.

### **5.2 2025 UHL Recognition Awards**

- The Glenfield Hospital Tuberculosis Research Team has won the Excellence in Research category at the 2025 UHL Recognition Awards.



**Winners at the BRC Excellence Awards**



**TB Research Team receiving award at UHL Recognition awards**

- Dr Enya Daynes, Clinical Academic Physiotherapist has been awarded a prestigious Asthma + Lung UK Junior Fellowship.
- Dr Kayesha Coley, a Research Associate has been awarded a prestigious Royal Society Career Development Fellowship to lead ground-breaking research into the genomics of bronchiectasis.

### **5.3 British Heart Foundation Leicester Centre of Research Excellence**

The BHF Leicester Centre of Research Excellence was officially declared open on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025 at a special event held by the University. Some £3 million for the centre has come from the BHF's highly competitive Research Excellence Award scheme, match funded by the University and with additional support from the University Hospitals of Leicester.

Prof Nigel Brunskill  
November 2025