



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **WEAK RATING IN COMMISSION ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK DOES NOT REFLECT EXPERTISE AT RNOH**

The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (RNOH) has been awarded a 'weak' rating for 2007/08 in the two categories of quality of care and use of resources.

This is despite undertaking more operations than ever before, achieving a financial surplus, a nil return for MRSA infection and reducing waiting times.

Acting Chief Executive, Rob Hurd, said "We have had problems in the past on the financial front because we carry out very complex orthopaedic operations that are just not done anywhere else, but we are paid for them according to a national tariff that averages costs out.

"Although we did achieve a surplus in 2007/8, we did not manage to dispose of our historic debt in full, which is why we have a weak rating for 'use of resources', but this year we are on course to achieve our target of a £1 million surplus which will mean a better result next year.

"The complex nature of our work and the high demand for the expertise of our clinicians also affects our ability to meet patient access targets. We are determined to increase our capacity to meet the demand for these specialist services and although up to now we have been constrained by our inability to develop our Stanmore site, the good news for the Trust is that our redevelopment proposals for Stanmore have finally been given outline approval by NHS London. We hope shortly to gain Department of Health approval.

"Once that happens we will be able to move swiftly to build a new state-of-the-art hospital which will help resolve our capacity constraints in a more efficient and patient friendly way than we can achieve in the existing old buildings.

"Our clinical expertise has always been of the highest and that remains the case. Unfortunately that is not reflected in the overall annual health check rating."

[Ends]  
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**For further information contact: The Communications Department on 020 8909 5349**

### **NOTES FOR THE EDITOR**

The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust is a world-renowned specialist hospital for the diagnosis and treatment of neuro-musculoskeletal conditions. It provides a range of local, regional, national, and international services to both adults and children for a variety of neuro-musculoskeletal conditions. This ranges from acute spinal injuries, bone tumour and complex joint reconstruction to orthopaedic medicine and specialist rehabilitation for chronic back pain sufferers.