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Media statement

Statement from Kirsty Matthews, Interim Chief Executive, Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust and James Scott, Chief Executive of the Royal United Hospital Bath.

The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust (The Min) and the Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust (the RUH) have begun discussions about pursuing a possible merger of the two organisations.

Over the next month due diligence will be carried out, and there will be further discussion between the Trusts as they consider the implications and benefits of becoming a single organisation. A decision as to whether a merger will go ahead is expected in early July following meetings of each of the Trust Boards.

The priority for our organisations is to ensure that the high quality services offered to patients at both hospitals continue to develop and grow.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

As part of the financial recovery plan for the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust, the Trust Board decided earlier this year to seek an NHS partner with which to merge.