

# TREASURER (TRUSTEE)

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## WELCOME

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Every 6 minutes someone learns that they are losing their sight. Every five hours, a baby is born with sight problems. In these moments, two profound questions emerge:

- Can this be stopped?
- How do I (or my child) live this life?

Our charity exists to address both questions. We are the only significant national funder with the efficiency, capability, and capacity to increase investment in medical research and social improvement. Together we can mitigate both the prevalence and impact of sight loss. We have a clear ambition – to save sight and to change lives.

We are now seeking a new Treasurer. This is an exciting point for us, and our new Treasurer will be central in enabling us to achieve our ambition.

We have a clear focus and vision, as well as a strong Board and senior leadership team, all of whom are ambitious for the potential impact we can make. We do not want this opportunity to pass us by and that's what makes this such an important and exciting role for the right person.

As a trustee, you will have the opportunity to steer the course of our charity and our sector, shaping our strategies, and advocating for meaningful change. You will be help us be a driving force behind world leading research into sight loss prevention, and transformative initiatives that enhance the quality of life for countless individuals.

If you want to be part of something that will really make a difference, we'd love to hear from you.

*“I extend a heartfelt invitation to those who share our commitment to making a profound difference in the lives of individuals affected by sight loss. Our journey towards a future where eye diseases are prevented and the challenges faced by the visually impaired are overcome requires the collective effort of dedicated individuals. We are seeking trustees who are not only passionate advocates for our cause but also possess the vision, expertise, and dedication to guide and govern our organisation. Your unique perspectives and skills will play a pivotal role in shaping and defining our impact for years to come.”*

**Dr Heather Giles, Chair**

## **ABOUT US**

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Our single, unifying mission is to save sight and change lives.

It is a mission that reflects two urgent questions everyone faces when they receive a diagnosis of sight loss: **‘How do I stop this?’** and **‘How do I live my life?’**

Answering these questions guides our strategy as we progress a five-year plan with solid and lofty aspirations.

Our principal role is as a grant-maker. We award grants to the scientific community that could lead to scientific breakthroughs and treatments to stop eye diseases from progressing. In the future, we believe research can prevent people from losing sight and reverse sight loss. We invest to advance treatments that will cure eye disease and protect and grow the community of world-class scientists, technologists, and data scientists who can deliver tomorrow’s breakthroughs.

We have funded innovations that directly impact people who are blind or partially sighted, from music classes for children to projects that take eye tests into at-risk communities. We invest in programmes, organisations and activities that deliver equity for and with blind and visually impaired people.

## **OUR FINANCES**

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The charity is in a strong position financially, with a high level of reserves that we intend to draw down over the coming years as we focus on investing in sustainable growth and increasing our impact. Compared to many charities, we have well diversified income streams, predictable costs, and are in the fortunate position to hold a sizable portfolio of investments. Our plans for the short and medium term are to invest in our income generation infrastructure, and to significantly increase the amounts of funding we can put to our charitable purpose.

## **ROLE DESCRIPTION**

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As the most senior leaders in our charity, trustees play a pivotal role in guiding our strategic direction, amplifying our impact, and ensuring the fulfilment of our mission to save sight and change lives. You will serve on the main board and will also chair our Finance, Audit, Risk & Resources (FARR) committee.

## **MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES**

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### **Strategic Leadership & Planning**

- Provide leadership and strategic guidance to the charity, aligning efforts with the mission and values of the organisation.
- Collaborate with the board, executive team, and stakeholders to develop and implement long-term strategies that advance the charity's impact and sustainability.

### **Governance**

- Ensure effective governance, decision-making, and compliance with legal and ethical standards.
- Work closely with board members, fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, collaboration and open communication, harnessing different views and opinions.

### **Engagement**

- Represent the charity at public events and networking opportunities to promote our mission and raise awareness about our cause.

### **Evaluation and Accountability**

- Collaborate with the board to evaluate performance, ensuring alignment with the charity's goals and objectives.
- Ensure the charity is accountable to donors and beneficiaries, that is financially robust and sustainable, and that is effective risk management in place.

### **Key Responsibilities of the Treasurer**

- Chair the Finance, Audit, Risk & Resources Committee, ensuring effective scrutiny and oversight.
- Provide strategic financial leadership and ensure that appropriate financial controls and risk management frameworks are in place.
- Ensure compliance with statutory reporting and regulatory requirements in partnership with the executive.
- Act as a trusted advisor to the Chief Financial Officer and offer guidance to fellow trustees on financial matters.

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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### **Specialist experience**

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We are particularly interested in candidates who have:

- A recognised financial qualification (e.g. ACA, ACCA, CIMA or equivalent)
- Experience of senior financial leadership – ideally as a CFO, COO, FD, or equivalent
- A sound understanding of finance, audit, and investment management

### **General attributes**

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#### **Knowledge & experience**

- An understanding of governance, and experience on a committee or board.

#### **Skills & abilities**

- Strategic thinking and the ability to contribute to long-term planning and vision to deliver impact.
- Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to engage diverse audiences.
- Entrepreneurial instincts and a healthy understanding of risk balanced with ambition using sound judgement.

#### **Styles & behaviours**

- High ethical standards and commitment to upholding the charity's values, as well as a passion for advocating on behalf of individuals with, or at risk of, sight loss.
- Collaborative, highly inclusive, fostering trust and valuing difference perspectives.
- Solution-focused, with an ability to see the big picture and be pragmatic.

## **TERMS OF APPOINTMENT**

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### **Remuneration**

This role is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, although reasonable expenses may be claimed.

### **Time commitment**

While the exact time commitment may vary based on the charity's needs and priorities, we anticipate the following general expectations:

- A minimum of four Board meetings per year
- A minimum of four subcommittee meetings per year
- Preparation for meetings, review of materials, and other trustee engagement as appropriate.
- Annual strategy day with full Board and executive team.
- Meetings with members of the executive leadership team as appropriate.
- Representing the charity at high profile events, functions and public engagements to enhance its reputation and partnerships.

### **Location**

At present Board meetings are held in central London. Subcommittee meetings are held remotely.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

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If you have questions about the role and would find it helpful to have an informal conversation, please contact [trustee.recruitment@fightforsight.org.uk](mailto:trustee.recruitment@fightforsight.org.uk) and we will be happy to arrange a call.

To make an application, please send your CV and a supporting statement (max two pages) to [trustee.recruitment@fightforsight.org.uk](mailto:trustee.recruitment@fightforsight.org.uk) outlining your motivation for applying and how you meet the attributes outlined in the personal specification.

We hope you will consider making an application. Together, we can achieve extraordinary things.