Timeline for Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (the “Hospital”) and Great Ormond Street Hospital Children’s Charity (the ‘Charity’)

The Hospital

For the bulk of its history (1852-1994), the Hospital was officially named ‘The Hospital for Sick Children’. From quite an early stage, it became widely known just by the street name (partly due to its celebrity and partly to distinguish it from the several other children’s hospitals which subsequently opened in London).

‘Great Ormond Street’ wasn’t incorporated into the official title until it became a Trust in 1994, when it became known as ‘Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust’, and in 2012, when it became a ‘NHS Foundation Trust’, it was and remains today to be called, ‘Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust’.

The Charity

The original Hospital was a charitable ‘Voluntary Hospital’, which was legally incorporated as a business with its own Seal of Incorporation in 1914, officially registered under the Companies Act as ‘The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London’. It became part of the National Health Service (‘NHS’) on its formation in 1948 and retained its own board of management as a teaching hospital within the NHS structure.

In the early decades of the NHS, private fundraising was heavily restricted, but the Hospital was allowed to continue receiving legacies. In 1982, the government relaxed restrictions on charitable fundraising by individual hospitals, and the charity function was semi-detached from the Hospital’s administration and given its own managing ‘Special Trustees’ – it became known as ‘The Special Trustees for Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children’.

The Charity then became a completely discrete entity from the Hospital in 1998, and named ‘Great Ormond Hospital Children’s Charity’, with a registered charity number 235825 upon registration with the Charity Commission. 114 existing charity funds intended to support various projects, facilities and causes at the Hospital, and stemming from the days when NHS hospitals were not permitted to supplement their income with fundraising unless for a ringfenced area, were annexed to the Charity as ‘linked’ charities.

On the 3rd December 2014 the Charity was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee, without share capital, as ‘Great Ormond Street Hospital Children’s Charity’, with a registered company number 09338724, and a new registered charity number 1160024 superseded the old one (235825) given to it in 1998. On the 19th of January 2015, the Charity Commission entered this new entity into the Register of Charities.

March 31st 2018 saw the end of the ‘Friends’ charity and ‘Great Ormond Street Hospital Children’s Charity’ (with a registered charity number 235825), which had both continued to run as shell companies - they were both entirely wound up and transferred to ‘Great Ormond Street Hospital Children’s Charity’, registered charity number 1160024.

Today, ‘Great Ormond Street Hospital Children’s Charity’ (registered charity number 1160024) receives all gifts, legacies and donations intended for use by ‘Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust’.

More information on the leadership and governance of the Charity can be found here:


2. https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/09338724