

From: Colonel (Retired) JDF Quinn OStJ – Chair QARANC Association
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To all QARANC Association Members,

We are writing as Chair and Chair Designate of the QARANC Association to update you on recent events relating to the formation of the Royal Army Medical Service (RAMS) and its impact on the QARANC Association.

As the majority of you will be aware, Project VICTORIA continues to deliver, and following Royal Assent, the formation of the RAMS took place on 15 November 2024. The 'antecedent' Corps, the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), Royal Army Dental Corps (RADCD) and the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC) now cease to exist and those who were serving at the time of amalgamation are now members of the RAMS.

During this time of transition and change, the QARANC Association has continued to support both serving and former members of their Corps and those eligible in accordance with the extant 'objects'. In addition they have been keen to advise and have attempted to influence the formation of the new organisation, the RAMS Charity currently being established to afford support in those who serve in or have served in the RAMS or any of the antecedent Corps.

As the Chair and Chair Designate of the QARANC Association we have attended a number of formal and informal meetings relating to the inception and future of the evolving RAMS Charity. We were able to seek advice from the Designate RAMS Trustees on how integration of our Association may or may not be implemented. Despite encouragement by the Designate RAMS Board of Trustees that the former Corps should consider an 'all in' approach and transfer assets and their membership to the RAMS charity, it was felt that this required a more in depth review. It was decided that an option appraisal and subsequent analysis should be undertaken. The QARANC Association Trustees set about developing a number of criteria that would need to be met to fulfil the expectation of an 'all in' approach ranging from not only the all-important views of the existing membership, but also fundamental issues relating to the proposed governance, financial and administrative management policies and practices to be adopted and practiced by the RAMS Charity.

Following much consideration, notably over the last 6 months and whilst respecting the views expressed by our wider membership, the QARANC Association Board of Trustees were unanimous in their decision that it was not, at this moment, in the best interests of our Association and its members to become a fully integrated component of the new RAMS Charity with the consequence of dissolving our existing Charity.

As a result of this decision the QARANC Association Board of Trustees have recommended the following:

- the Charity Commission are approached for permission to amend our Associations 'Objects' to reflect the recent change, in that we no longer have serving QARANC personnel as members.
- that our Association 'endures' for the foreseeable future supporting those in need, hardship or distress, maintaining contact, fostering friendship, and ensuring that the historical role of military nursing and heritage is preserved.
- that professional advice is sought as required to ensure compliancy with any future requests from the RAMS Charity.

We acknowledge that a number of challenges lie ahead – the loss of our serving personnel as members (in that they are no longer QARANC) is an issue, we hope to review with haste through a comprehensive assessment of our membership criteria. This will enable those still serving who wish to retain their former contact with the Association to continue to do so and hopefully increase membership categories so enable more to benefit from some aspects of our purpose such as maintaining contact and fostering mutual friendship.

Despite the Trustees believing that the climate and conditions are not right at this time, they are firmly committed to assisting and supporting the RAMS Charity whilst it evolves and will, of course, review their decision regarding our Association on a regular basis. It is important that the wealth of knowledge from those who are currently appointed as Trustees, or who have played a part in developing our Association to what it is today, are able to proffer their experience and expertise if so requested to enable the RAMS Charity to develop into a highly respected and successful organisation of benefit to our serving community and the other beneficiaries it is to support.

It is understood and acknowledged that there has been a lot of angst and uncertainty over recent months regarding the future of our Association, however it was important to remain professional and ensure all the facts were available before committing to and sharing their proposed pathway. The Trustees believe that the QARANC Association can continue to deliver as required over the coming years whilst assisting the ongoing development of the RAMS Charity.

For the QARANC Association to continue to enjoy its current profile, status and success please remember that all aspects of your contributions, whether that be undertaking a role within one of the branches, visiting fellow members, enjoying social events, submitting or reading articles in The Gazette or through financial contribution or payment of membership fees, all are very much needed and appreciated and gives our Association the special place it has in our hearts. We must not forget that many have benefited from the Association in the past and it is hoped that many more will benefit in the future.

On behalf of all the Trustees and Administration staff, we offer our thanks for your patience over the recent months. It is hoped that your support will continue in the months and maybe years ahead as we navigate through uncharted territory to achieve our purpose whilst affording guidance and 'friendship' to our colleagues doing likewise in the launch and development of the RAMS Charity.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to have further clarification or information about the QARANC Association and we will do our best to answer them.

Yours 'In Friendship'

