**TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY IN COUNCIL**

**THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY (the Society)**

SHEWETH as follows:

1. This petition is submitted pursuant to a resolution of the members of the Society passed at a general meeting of the Society held on 12 May 2025, by which the members duly approved to apply for Royal Charter status.

2. The Society was founded on 31 March 1876, and is the largest network of physiologists in Europe, with academic journals of global reach. It is a registered charity since 27 January 1937 (charity number 211585; company number 00323575) with objects to promote for the benefit of the public the advancement of Physiology and to facilitate the interaction of Physiologists, both at home and abroad and thereby contribute to the progress and understanding of bio-medical and related sciences and the detection, prevention and treatment of disease, disability and malfunction of physical processes in all forms of life.

3. The Society exists to promote the academic discipline of physiology, by raising the standard of physiology research and supporting its members. The Society's activities benefit the public in a variety of charitable ways. Its publications, meetings and educational resources directly benefit people actively involved in physiology such as researchers, teachers, and students. This investment then has a trickle-down effect by improving human health and broadening the public's understanding of how physiology relates to everyday life. The Society's policy work is an essential component of its charitable work and delivers public benefit by promoting health and well-being, fostering innovation, and safeguarding ethical standards within fields such as *in vivo* research and artificial intelligence. Additionally, the Society influences sustainable policies, particularly through its climate change initiatives. These efforts align with the Society's charitable objectives by directly contributing to societal betterment and enhancing the public's quality of life.

4. As part of the Society's charitable mission, its policy work increases the visibility of physiology and the Society among funding organisations, higher education institutions, and government bodies. This is a vital component of the Society's strategy to secure a healthy future for the discipline and to support physiologists in their research and teaching. More information on the specific public benefits offered by the Society is detailed later in this petition.

5. Physiology is the science of life. Research in physiology helps us to understand how the body works in health and how it responds and adapts to the challenges of everyday life; it also helps us to determine what goes wrong in disease, facilitating the development of new treatments and guidelines for maintaining human and animal health. The emphasis on integrating molecular, cellular, systems and whole-body function is what distinguishes physiology from the other life sciences. Importantly it is one of the foundation subjects for every pre-clinical medical student around the world, as well as being a fundamental discovery science, hence the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

6. The Society is committed to the following principles:

    a. to provide leadership in the field of physiology to ensure there is a strong coherent voice for the discipline.
    b. communicate physiology's vital role in addressing global challenges such as lifelong health and climate change and the value of the physiology community in providing solutions for them.
    c. ensuring the activities of the Society are informed by the knowledge, understanding and expertise of the members and enhanced by their participation.

d. empower an inclusive and diverse community of members with networking opportunities and the skills required to fulfil their potential in a global economy.
e. increase the Society's influence, for example by collaborating with like-minded national and international organisations in physiology and other relevant fields.
f. enhancing the membership experience by continuing to provide training and skills-based opportunities for physiologists to enable them to take advantage of new technologies and the developments arising from this.

7. The Society brings together more than 3,000 scientists from over 60 countries, and its members have included over 50 Nobel Prize winners in Physiology or Medicine (more information here: https://www.physoc.org/about-us/excellence-in-physiology/nobel-prize-laureate-members-of-the-physiological-society/), from Ivan Pavlov to Sir Peter Ratcliffe where many laureates have had their primary prize citation published in *The Journal of Physiology*.

8. The Society is an independent and apolitical organisation. The Society is an adhering body of the International Union of Physiological Sciences, member of the Federation of European Physiological Societies, and an organisational member of the Royal Society of Biology. It was one of the first member bodies to sign the Science Council Declaration on Diversity and is committed to promoting a diverse scientific workforce.

9. Since its foundation, the Society's members have made significant contributions to knowledge of biological systems and the treatment of disease. The Society promotes physiology and supports those working in the field by organising world-class scientific conferences, offering grants for research, collaboration, and international travel, and by publishing the latest developments in its leading scientific journals, *The Journal of Physiology* (est. 1878), *Experimental Physiology* (est. 1908) and *Physiological Reports* (est. 2013).

10. The Society also runs events open to the general public on how physiology relates to everyday life, and for students who may be considering physiology as a career. Membership is available for all career stages, from undergraduate level to senior level scientists.

11. The Society is included in the government's list of approved processional organisations and learned societies (as listed here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/professional-bodies-approved-for-tax-relief-list-3/approved-professional-organisations-and-learned-societies#p).

12. To celebrate the Society's distinguished history, it honours and celebrates its outstanding physiologists who have contributed to the advancement of the discipline through their discoveries while leaving a legacy beyond their lifetime with a blue plaque. These blue plaques are erected on the institutions where the physiologist has carried out their seminal work. The blue plaques also raise the profile of the discipline with the public, increase the prestige associated with university departments and demonstrate the legacy of physiologists to potential students. Nineteen blue plaques have been unveiled since the project began in 2021 with the twentieth due to be unveiled at the end of 2024. In 2023 the Society launched a parallel Excellence in Physiology plaque scheme to honour excellence in physiology at institutions that are centres of excellence for physiology in either discovery or leadership. Awarded annually, the inaugural plaque went to the University of Portsmouth's Extreme Environments Laboratory in December 2023 for acquiring and applying physiological knowledge to the preservation of life and function in extreme environments. The second was awarded to Loughborough University in June 2024 for being a centre of excellence for physiology in sport, exercise and health science.

13. As a membership organisation, the Society recognises that promoting and embedding Equity, Diversity and

Inclusion (EDI) is important to create a sense of community and belonging, and to foster a culture of respect, understanding and acceptance. As such is has formed a new EDI Committee to ensure the promotion and integration of matters relating to equality, diversity and inclusion within the Society's membership community and across all external facing activities of the Society. The aim of this work is to champion EDI leading to a physiology community that is better connected and more engaged, with increased participation from those from under-represented backgrounds. This is in line with the Society's strategic priority to grow a larger, more diverse community of members that reflects the full breadth of physiology.

14. Underpinning the vision and purpose of the Society are three strategic pillars: strengthening the community, securing a successful future for physiology, and improving health. In order to deliver this, the Society's activities are grouped into three distinctive but interconnecting strands: public and sector engagement; publishing of research; and educational conferences, and these are outlined below and are typical of a Learned Society.

    a. **Engagement** – the Society's engagement activity includes both supporting the community of physiologists and delivering on charitable activities to utilise physiology to improve health. Through its membership the Society supports the professional development of physiologists with training (for example, in 2023 it launched a new Training Hub of online resources), grants (for research, teaching and supporting early career researchers), and networking opportunities (including at conferences – see later in this petition). Member surveys consistently show that the Society's members highly value the Society for their career progression. The Society continues to innovate in how it supports its community, for example, offering a new series of resources to support the teaching of physiological concepts as well as a new online member magazine.

    Although the Society operates in a distinct area, it nevertheless engages closely with many academies and societies such as The Royal Society; The Royal Society of Biology, The Academy of Medical Sciences; and The Royal Society of Edinburgh. We also collaborate regularly with funding organisations such as UK Research and Innovation, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the Medical Research Council and Wellcome. The Society regularly connects with relevant organisations across the broader health sector, such as the Faculty of Public Health, British Medical Association, and British Heart Foundation. In addition, it works closely with organisations in other connected areas where physiological input is valuable, such as the climate change space through organisations such as the Grantham Institute and the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change. An example of a recent collaborative engagement initiative is the Society's establishment of a consensus statement around 'A Roadmap for Global Heat Resilience'. The Society has brought c. 30 organisations from across academia, industry, clinical and policy landscapes to identify a plan to improve the long-term resilience of populations and infrastructure to rising temperatures, with physiological insight at its core. The launch of the statement took place in the Houses of Parliament in June 2024 with over 150 people in attendance and the Society plans to follow this with a conference in 2025.

    The Society has a proactive programme of impactful policy projects that seek to raise the awareness of physiology and improve health of populations. In recent months this has included reports on AI and health, mental health, healthy ageing as well as climate change and health. In addition, the Society supports the physiological community through its work in areas such as *in vivo* and research infrastructure policy.

    b. **Publishing** – the Society's three academic journals (*The Journal of Physiology (JP), Experimental*

*Physiology (EP)* and *Physiological Reports*) lead the discipline, promoting best practice and pushing the boundaries of scientific endeavour. The Society's high-quality, sustainable, innovative publications deliver high value to the Society, its members, and the global physiology community. The strategic priority is making the Society's journals flagships for physiology, where any researcher is proud to publish. The Society is seeking to expand its coverage of physiology research through the launch of new journals seeking to publish cutting-edge research which will further support the advancement of its understanding of human health. A recent example of *The Journal of Physiology* promoting best practice and leading the discipline was the co-publication of the ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting of *In Vivo* Experiments) Guidelines 2.0 which sets a minimum requirement for "describing *in vivo* experiments to enable others to scrutinise the work adequately, evaluate its methodological rigour, and reproduce the methods and results." The guidelines have been cited 167 times since publication in 2020.

*The Journal of Physiology* is the leading general research journal in the discipline, with the highest number of citations of any physiology journal. Since 1878 it has published research that significantly advanced the Society's knowledge of physiology and increased its understanding of how the body functions in health and disease.

*The Journal of Physiology* has published 42 Nobel Prize winners. *Experimental Physiology* have published 14 Nobel Laureates.

c. **Conferences** – the Society holds and supports scientific conferences, meetings, and workshops (more information can be found here: https://www.physoc.org/events/) to disseminate research knowledge and provide a forum for communication between physiologists and to grow and support communities among them.

A strategic priority is connecting communities through the Society's conferences enabling them to participate and present their work and publish in Society journals. The Society's conferences include innovative symposia, high-profile lectures and cutting-edge two-day meetings, providing an environment in which physiology can thrive. Since 2023, the Society has increased the number of meetings offered. These two-day meetings are organised by the community for the community in members' institutions. For example, the Society held a conference on "Neurophysiological Bases of Human Movement"" which brought together a rich mix of physiologists and clinicians from all over the world specialising in human neurophysiology. The conference was a huge success with over 100 delegates specialising in all areas of sensorimotor function and control. A key differentiator of this meeting was that delegates were able to discuss hotly-debated topics in the field in point counter point workshops. The consensus reached during these was published recently in *The Journal of Physiology*.

The Society has integrated new technologies, tools, and formats to support the community to make meaningful collaborations and make connections whilst helping to level the playing field for researchers from all sorts of backgrounds at a variety of career stages. Successfully moving its conferences and meetings online to safeguard the health of attendees and presenters during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020 the Society won an industry leading award for the support it has offered its members during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Society's Covid-19 Hub provided links to a range of activities that support members on a professional and personal level.

15. The Society's activities significantly benefit the public in a variety of ways, as outlined in point 3 above. It would, therefore, be in the public interest for the Society to benefit from Charter status. The Society's publications, meetings, policy reports and educational resources including animations directly benefit

people actively involved in physiology such as researchers, teachers, and students as well as those who use the Society's evidence-based and independent information to inform policy decisions. The social return on this investment extends far beyond those immediately engaged with the science of physiology and gives rise to much wider health improvements and health benefits to the general public as well as broadening the public's understanding of how physiology relates to everyday life. For example, the Society's recent work in the area of climate change and health has included bringing a range of organisations together with a consensus statement on improving resilience to rising temperatures as well as a policy report in collaboration with Faculty of Public Health setting out clear recommendations for government, the NHS and employers across areas such as research, the built environment and workplaces. These initiatives utilise the expertise of the Society's members to identify policy and public health changes that should be made to improve the health and experience of the population.

16. The Society has also recently brought its members together to advise on how artificial intelligence can be effectively and safely implemented in healthcare settings, producing clear guidelines that are rooted in physiological insight and would unlock the potential of this new technology. The Society has undertaken a series of projects focused on utilising physiological evidence and insight to support people to live healthier for longer, including working with Demos to advise on measures to support people to stay in work longer, thereby improving the lives of older adults as well as boosting the economy, and working with Centre for Ageing Better to support public health post COVID-19 pandemic with its project *A National Post-Pandemic Resilience Programme - Supporting older adults to recover from the pandemic*. The Society's work with organisations such as National Centre for Universities and Business has identified how to improve opportunities for physiological knowledge exchange in order to increase the public benefit from physiological research conducted in universities.

17. A recent economic analysis of the contribution of physiological teaching to the UK economy, in conjunction with the Academy for Healthcare Science, identified the vital role physiology teaching plays in underpinning clinical curricula, with the Society's Physiology Curriculum for Medical Students seeking to ensure medical training is physiology informed. When appropriate, these initiatives have separate work streams for devolved nations, recognising the public conversation can differ between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

18. In addition, the Society provides the following specific public benefits:

    a. the publication of scientific journals.
    b. the holding of meetings and conferences to spread advances in physiology.
    c. creating and distributing educational resources to support the understanding of physiology as well as encourage its study.
    d. awarding grants and prizes. The Society runs a programme of grants and prizes to support and celebrate the work of its members and physiologists generally. These schemes provide financial support in numerous ways, enabling individuals to further their careers, research interests, and knowledge, as well as affording them recognition amongst their peers for their contributions to physiology.
    e. communicating the importance of physiology to human health and society through free public lectures and resources in a multimedia format for example Physiology and Climate Change, and other outreach activities.
    f. supporting its members' research within the discipline.

19. The Society has membership options to suit every career stage in physiology, medicine, biomedicine, and the life sciences. The Society has over 3,000 Members and more information on membership can be found here: https://www.physoc.org/join/. The Society's members are predominately drawn from across

academia (research and teaching as well as those studying physiology) although we collaborate with physiologists in clinical and industry settings.

20. As a prestigious Learned Society, the Society has strict membership criteria and set out below is a summary of the membership categories, criteria, and numbers. All members must abide by the Society's Membership Code of Professional Conduct (which can be found here: https://www.physoc.org/join/membership-code-of-professional-conduct/.)

| Membership Category | Subscription | Description and criteria |
|---|---|---|
| **Undergraduate and Master's** | Undergraduate and Master's membership is £11 each year until they complete their studies | Those studying physiology, biomedical or life sciences disciplines such as:<br>▪ Undergraduate students<br>▪ Master's students<br>▪ Integrated MSc and MRes students<br>▪ Medical students (for the full duration of degree)<br>▪ Undergraduate members may join at any stage of their degree and can remain an Undergraduate and Master's member until the end of their degree. |
| **Postgraduate** | Postgraduate membership annual subscription fees are £35 per annum. | Those enrolled in a physiology, biomedical or life sciences PhD. Or in training or working in physiology with less than four years' experience since completing your undergraduate degree.<br><br>As part of their application, they are required to provide a letter of support from their supervisor, confirming their PhD, or a CV outlining your past and current working experience. |
| **Full Member** | **Within five years of your PhD** (or less than 9 years since an undergraduate) : £4.91 per month by Direct Debit or £59 per annum.<br><br>**More than five years' experience since PhD**: £9.83 per month by Direct Debit or £118 per annum. | To apply for Full membership, they must be an established or early career physiologist, scientist, or clinician in academic, industry or the healthcare sector. They must have at least four years' experience in physiology or a related discipline and/or an appropriate qualification (e.g. a PhD in physiology, or a related subject or an MD). |
| **Fellow** | For members of 10+ years | For consideration for Fellow of the Physiological Society the applicant must possess regular member status for at least ten consecutive |

| Membership Category | Subscription | Description and criteria |
|---|---|---|
| | Subscription fees are £142 per annum (£11.83 per month by Direct Debit)<br><br>The increased fee supports the next generation of physiologists, with a portion of your subscription costs being set aside for Early Career Researcher initiatives | years postdoctoral prior to the year of nomination. In addition, the Fellowship applicant must meet three of the six prerequisites below:<br><br>**Research**<br>• Served as a Principal Investigator involved in original research, significantly contributing to the advancement of physiology<br>• Recipient of major research grants<br><br>**Publishing**<br>• Demonstrated consistent scholarly production in the form of journal articles and/or book chapters with at least 20 peer reviewed publications in a physiology or a life science journal which must include either three in a Society Journal or three abstracts from a Society meeting.<br><br>**Service to the Society**<br>• Actively engaged in the Society and its activities, (e.g. *Demonstrated commitment and contribution as a Council or Committee member or other Panel or Task Force member or Editorial Board member in any Society publication etc.*)<br><br>**Policy and public service**<br>• Played a significant leadership role in setting of national or international policy, whether impacting on education, research or other scientific areas related to physiology<br>• Outstanding service on relevant national or international professional committees<br>• Peer-acclaimed contributions to the public understanding of physiology<br><br>**Education and teaching**<br>• Established reputation in developing innovative new courses or teaching methods in physiology or medicine (*i.e. scholarly activity in education, recipient of a teaching award, authored/edited a textbook used at multiple institutions, etc.)*<br>• Substantial experience in an external examiner capacity<br><br>**Administration**<br>• Personal responsibility for significant resources (*such as budget, personnel, or facilities*)<br>• Project management of a senior and complex nature<br><br>To note where more than one bullet is listed under a prerequisite below only one must be successfully achieved.<br><br>An applicant will need to provide an up-to-date CV (a maximum of three pages), two letters of support from referees who are both Full Society members (one must be a Society Fellow and outside the applicant's institution).<br><br>All applications will be reviewed by the Nominations Committee and any unsuccessful applicants will be notified and given the opportunity to review their supporting evidence and resubmit. |
| **Honorary** | Honorary Fellow | Nominations Committee considers nominations and makes a recommendation for awardees to the Board each year. While there is |

| Membership Category | Subscription | Description and criteria |
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| A list of the Society's Honorary Fellows can be viewed here | membership is the highest honour that the Physiological Society presents to an individual. It is awarded to those individuals who are 'persons of distinction in science who have contributed to the advancement of physiology'. | no set quota, the number of Honorary Fellow members elected in a given year is unlikely to exceed three.<br><br>In support of a fair, transparent and systematic approach, the Nominations Committee will make the appropriate assessment solely in context of information provided via the nominations form.<br><br>The proposing member is currently a Full, Honorary or Fellow Member of the Society<br><br>All information relevant to the nomination is completed on the form and is explicitly evidenced how the candidate meets the criteria of distinction and how their work has impacted the advancement of physiology |
| **Retired** | Retired membership annual subscription fees are £17 per annum | Those members that have retired from all paid employment and have been a paying Member of The Physiological Society, with voting rights, for at least the past five years.<br>Retired Members can access all the usual benefits of membership and attend Society meetings at a reduced cost. |

21. The Society represents a unique area of professional expertise. In addition, there is no significant overlap with any other operational Chartered or non-Chartered bodies; the list below sets out a number of organisations that are involved in physiology and the Society explained how its members differ significantly in their expertise and area of practice from the members of these bodies.

| Organisation | Chartered status | Area of practice |
|---|---|---|
| The Royal Society | Chartered | The Society can be distinguished from The Royal Society in that it focuses only on physiology, whereas The Royal Society promotes the sciences in general and has a much broader (albeit smaller) membership. The purpose of the Royal Society is to recognise, promote, and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity. |
| Royal Society of Biology (RSB) | Chartered | The RSB's mission is to be the unifying voice for biology, to facilitate the promotion of new discoveries in biological science for national and international benefit, and to engage the wider public with its work.<br><br>Physiology is a distinct branch of biology, relating to the function of organs and organ systems, and how they work within the body to respond to challenges. The RSB's activities have a degree of overlap with the Society's; however, the Society caters for a clear and defined sub-discipline of biology, and therefore occupies a different space to the RSB. |
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| Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) | Not Chartered | RCCP holds a PSA accredited register for Clinical Physiology in the fields of Audiology, Cardiac Physiology, GU Physiology, Neurophysiology and Respiratory and Sleep Physiology. In June 2021 it was announced that The Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) had been transferred into the Academy for Healthcare Science with immediate effect. The AHCS is the overarching body for the whole of the Healthcare Science Profession, working to ensure that Healthcare Science is recognised and respected as one of the key Clinical Professions in the Health and Care system.<br><br>The Society is distinct from the RCCP in that the Society is a Learned Society, focusing on students and academics, whereas the RCCP registers and oversees clinicians. |
| Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) | Chartered | Although there is some overlap between the organisations (on the basis that physiologists can be members of RSPH) the RSPH has a much broader remit than the Society – it is a campaigning and educational charity and exists to improve and protect the public's health. Membership is open to anyone working in public health or the wider health sector, those studying for a public health related degree (or equivalent) or, indeed, anyone with a lifelong interest in protecting and improving the public's health and in supporting public health initiatives in the United Kingdom and around the world.<br><br>Their membership includes healthcare professionals, food safety specialists, environmental health experts, policy makers, academics, and students whereas the Society is a Learned Society, focusing only on physiology. |
| British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences<br><br>(BASES) | Chartered<br><br>BASES is a Licensed Member Body of the Science Council, enabling it to award Chartered Scientist status to members who meet the criteria. | BASES is the professional body for sport and exercise sciences in the UK. It seeks to deliver excellence in sport and exercise sciences by leading the advancement of knowledge and evidence-based practice within the sport and exercise sciences for the benefit of human performance, health and education.<br><br>BASES has more than 30-years' experience working across multiple disciplines, including physiology, as they intersect with sport and exercise science. In areas where there is overlap with professional bodies with a more generic discipline focus, BASES seeks to develop effective working relationships and clear understanding around areas of common interest. This allows BASES to retain a distinctive role as the pre-eminent professional body for sport and exercise science, while working with and drawing on the experience of other societies working in the field.<br><br>There is some overlap with BASES, however the Physiological Society's members aim to understand the mechanisms of living things, from the basis of cell function at the ionic and molecular level to the integrated behaviour of the whole body and the influence of the external environment. |
| Association for Respiratory | Not Chartered | The Society can be distinguished from this Association, on the basis that the Association focuses only on respiratory matters –in the Association's words, they *'are the professional guardians of physiological* |

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| Technology and Physiology<br><br>(ARTP) | | *measurement and interpretation within the field of respiratory medicine for the United Kingdom*.'<br><br>ARTP is the sole professional organisation in the UK for practitioners working in respiratory physiology and technology. Its members are healthcare scientists and include clinical physiologists, clinical scientists, physicians, nurses, and equipment manufacturers.<br><br>The Society is distinct from the ARTP in that it is a Learned Society, focusing on students and academics, across all aspects of physiology. |
| The British Society for Clinical Neurophysiology | Not Chartered | As the name suggests, this organisation focuses on clinical neurophysiology (a sub-discipline of physiology), whereas the Society is a Learned Society, which focuses on all aspects of physiology. |
| Association of Gastrointestinal Physiologists | Not Chartered | This association can be distinguished from the Society in that its subject matter is much narrower than the Society's, limited only to gastrointestinal physiology, rather than physiology in general. |

22. The Society's finances are robust. As stated in the Trustees' Annual Report and Account for the year ended 31 December 2023, the Society had total reserves of circa £16.1m. The reserves include "Free Reserves" of circa £4.4m, available immediately to meet the day to day running costs of the Society. The Society's Sustainability Policy defines its commitment towards ethical and environmentally friendly practices within its organisation. The Board of Trustees and staff of the Society are committed to building a sustainable organisation, which can be measured in financially sustainable terms, but also accepts its responsibility towards environmental and social impact.

23. The Society meets the criteria for Royal Charter status on the basis that:

    a. it comprises members (individuals primarily based in academic institutions) of a unique profession (physiologists) and is the largest network of physiologists in Europe;

    b. as a discovery science-based society, the Society fills a unique role in British science and has synergy, without significant overlap, with its sister societies;

    c. longevity and permanency are key components of Royal Charter status, and the Society has a sustainable and exciting future, underpinned by a sound financial position; the Society is due to celebrate its 150th Anniversary in 2026 and has since its inception built up a strong financial track record; therefore the Society is financially robust, with healthy levels of reserves that will help to futureproof the organisation, and

    d. its contribution to the knowledge of physiological systems and its activities in connection with the treatment of disease are demonstrably in the public benefit.

24. The Society have obtained letters of support, as attached, from the following bodies: The Royal Society; Royal Society of Biology; Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists; Royal Society for Public Health; British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences; Association for Respiratory Technology and Physiology; The British Society for Clinical Neurophysiology; and Association of Gastrointestinal Physiologists.

25. The Society's members, therefore, consider it to be overwhelmingly in the public interest for the Society to be granted Charter status, particularly given its pre-eminent position as a Learned Society and its distinguished history in promoting physiology and supporting those working in the field and given that physiology is at the core of the medical curriculum with research-led education given to healthcare professionals. Having Charter status would strengthen the Society's ability to advance physiology for the benefit of the public in general.

26. In terms of the change of name of the Society, the Society has applied to the Cabinet Office for consent to use the word "Royal" in its name (the proposed new name being "Royal Physiology Society"). The understanding of the board of the Society is that the Cabinet Office will grant consent once Charter status has been granted.

YOUR PETITIONERS therefore most humbly pray that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased in the exercise of Your Royal Prerogative to grant a Charter to Your Petitioners in the terms of the draft herewith submitted or in such other terms as may to Your Majesty seem proper.

And Your Petitioners will ever pray, etc.

Signed: 

Name: [redacted]

(Chair)

Date: 20/05/2025