



Promoting Catering Excellence

# Hospital Caterers Association

[www.hospitalcaterers.org](http://www.hospitalcaterers.org)

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## Patron Application Pack

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# Contents

<b>What is the Hospital Caterers Association?</b>	3
<b>Branches of The Association</b>	4
<b>Why become a Patron</b>	5
<b>HCA Membership framework</b>	6
<b>How to join</b>	7
<b>What will it cost?</b>	7
<b>Code of professional practice</b>	8
<b>Code of conduct</b>	9
<b>Application to become a Branch Patron</b>	10
<b>Application for Corporate Patronage</b>	11
<b>Branch company representative contact details</b>	12



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# Why should I become involved with the HCA?

The Hospital Caterers Association encompasses the single largest group of healthcare catering providers within the NHS and is the recognised voice of hospital catering. It represents catering managers who provide a wide range of food and other services for patients, visitors and staff in NHS hospitals and healthcare facilities.

The HCA is a national organisation, with 15 branches throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and more than 250 hospitals represented in its membership.

Our Association leads on the promotion of professional standards that enhance & improve NHS Catering services which support clinical requirements across the 4 Nations.

The membership fee is excellent value for money when you see the benefits that can be experienced.



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# Why become a Patron

The Patron scheme has been designed to let companies who wish to meet, or maintain contact with Members of the Association, support activities at Branch level only.

The Association offers two levels of Patronage, one for individual Patronage to a specific Branch, or Corporate Patronage which allows a company representative to attend every Branch of the Association.

It is the company that becomes the Patron of the Branch. Unlike Associate membership, a company has the advantage to allow any one person from the company to attend meetings of the Branch that has accepted them as Patrons.

Therefore, a different person can attend each meeting; however, only one person can attend on any one occasion.

A company/individual can become Patron to more than that one Branch and must submit an application to each relevant Branch.

1. One representative can attend a Branch Meeting to which the company is Patron, (apart from any closed sessions that are restricted to members). This issue is to be determined by each particular Branch.
2. The ability to become a Branch officer (excluding Branch Director)
3. Notification of dates and venues for Programme and/or Seminar's, (apart from any closed sessions restricted to members).
4. Ability to meet formally and socially and forge links with Branch Members.
5. Ability to host Branch Meetings on company territory.
6. Ability to meet informally with Representatives from other sections of the Catering Industry.
7. Opportunity to contribute, to help Branches of the HCA to develop.
8. To receive a copy of the Hospital Caterer Magazine.
9. Ability to develop and maintain an awareness of trends within the Hospital Catering Industry as a whole.



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# What is the Hospital Caterers Association?

Leading on the promotion of professional standards to enhance and improve NHS Catering services which support clinical needs across the 4 Nations.

Hospital Caterers Association was one of the first professional associations to be formed within the National Health Service. Inaugurated at a meeting of 25 London Hospital Catering Officers in 1948, it had enlarged to a membership of over 100 by the following year.

As interest grew amongst hospital caterers, the first branches were formed outside London in 1950, those being the North East Branch in Newcastle and the Scottish Branch in Glasgow. In the same year the Association was represented at Hotelympia for the first time.

The Association has continued to grow now having a membership of over 600 members from within catering and hotel services, represented by 15 Branches throughout Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Many senior members now hold positions in General Management, such as Hotel Services, Commercial and Facilities Management.

## The Association promotes

- The continued improvement of catering standards in Hospitals and Health Care Services.
- The education and training of persons engaged in the Health Care Services, including the encouragement of persons to join Health Care Services.
- The protection and improvement of the professional interests and status of those engaged in Health Care Catering Services.

## It achieves these objectives through:

- A Code of Practice.
- A Code of Conduct.
- National Leadership & Development Forum and Study Days.
- Branch organisation and events – a National Representation of 15 Branches.
- The Hospital Caterers Association Journal, Good Practice Guides and numerous other communications.
- Representation on National Bodies.

Hospital Caterers Association is a trading name of The Hospital Caterers Association limited, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales No. 13539619. VAT No: 390244504  
Registered Office: Bishop Fleming, 10 Temple Back, Bristol, BS1 6FL.



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# Branches of The Association

The Association has 15 Branches covering England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

These are listed below with a general outline of their catchment areas:

## East Anglia Branch

Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex.

## East of Scotland Branch

Grampian, Tayside, Fife, Lothian, Borders, Highland and Islands.

## Merseyside and North Wales Branch

Cheshire, Merseyside, Isle of Anglesey, Conwy County Borough, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham County Borough in North Wales plus surrounding areas.

## London and South East Branch

The London area inside M25 and Kent.

## Northern Branch

County Durham, Gatehead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, Cumbria and Borders.

## Northern Ireland Branch

Belfast, Northern, Western, Southern and South Eastern H&SC Trusts.

## North West of England Branch

Lancashire, Blackpool, Blackburn, Warrington and Greater Manchester.

## Oxford Branch

Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Leicestershire.

## Trent Branch

Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire.

## Wales Branch

NHS Trusts in Wales except those in North East and North West Wales.

## Wessex Branch

Hampshire, Dorset, Isle of Wight, Surrey, Sussex, and Wiltshire.

## West of Scotland Branch

Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Forth Valley, Dumfries and Galloway, Ayrshire and Arran, Lanarkshire and Argyll and Bute.

## West Midlands Branch

Staffordshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

## South West Branch

Gloucestershire, Bristol, Bath, Somerset, Devon, Dorset, Cornwall, and the Channel Islands.

## Yorkshire Branch

Yorkshire area, including Ridings.



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# Additional benefits for new and renewing Corporate Applications

Corporate Patron Benefits	Welcome Benefit on initial application (once only)	Recurring Benefit on Annual Renewal
A welcome tweet on @hospitalcaterers to its 3,400+ followers	✓	X
A welcome mention in the news in brief section of Hospital Caterer Magazine	✓	X
A welcome mention in the news in brief section of HCA Website	✓	X
Listed in the Buyers Guide on the HCA website	✓	✓
A mention in the HCA Members Network Newsletter (600 words max, can include links to websites/articles & photos, maximum annually)	✓	✓
An entry into the Corporate Patrons page on the website (600 words max, can include links to websites/articles & photos, maximum annually)	✓	✓

# How to join

You make an application to any Branch of the Association or through the HCA National Officers.

Firstly complete the enclosed application form in this pack. When completed forward it to the Treasurer of your chosen Branch for Branch Patronage applications or for Corporate Patronage applications send the application form to the Honorary National Treasurer.

For Branch Patronage applications the Branch Treasurer will put your application forward to the next Branch meeting for approval. If the approval is given your membership application will then be forwarded to the National Board for final approval.

Corporate Patronage applications will also be forwarded to the National Board for final approval.

Upon approval the Treasurer of your chosen Branch or Honorary National Treasurer will issue an invoice. Upon payment you will be issued with a membership certificate.

# What will it cost?

The Associations financial year is from 1st November to 31st October each year. Subscriptions are payable annually on 1st November each year.

## The current annual subscription rates for Patron are:

**Branch:** £130.00 (incl. VAT at the appropriate rate, confirmed annually).

**Corporate:** £1,560.00 (incl. VAT at the appropriate rate, confirmed annually).

These rates apply from 1st November 2022.

Payments should be made to the chosen Branch or National as per the instructions shown on the invoice you receive from the applicable Branch Treasurer or Honorary National Treasurer.



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# Code of professional practice

The Hospital Caterers Association. (hereafter called the Association), requires that Members of the Association:

- Seek to achieve excellence in the management and delivery of the catering services for which they are responsible and when possible, seek to encourage the pursuit of excellence by others.
- Accept that they have a duty to develop their own knowledge and understanding of their profession and activity seek opportunities to improve their competence, by participation in the educational programmes of the Association those offered by other organisations and institutions.
- Share their professional knowledge and experience with other members of the Association, providing support and encouragement when this is likely to achieve beneficial change.
- Help all members of their staff to achieve their full potential by devoting time to coaching them and encouraging the acquisition of appropriate qualifications.
- Take care to avoid bias or prejudice in the planning and delivery of services, in their recruitment practices and in the day to day management of their staff.
- Identify and seek to prevent the acceptance of any proposal that is likely to lead to the reduction of service, quality or safety to a level where the quality of life or welfare of patients and other service users be jeopardised.
- Strive to achieve the maximum efficiency possible in the management and use of resources including active support for joint purchasing arrangements where these are shown to provide best value for public money.
- Maintain staff training programme and diligently operate food handling systems that ensure the food and beverage services for which they are responsible, does not put the health or well being of consumers at risk.
- Collaborate with other health care staff appropriate individuals and agencies in any enterprise that aims to improve health and well being of those served and of the population at large.



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# Code of conduct

The Hospital Caterers' Association further requires that members of the Association shall:

- Conduct their professional and private life in a behalf of the Association and as individuals with patients, their staff, the public and the media.
- Maintain the highest standards of professional manner which avoids the risk of bringing conduct and integrity in all their dealings on themselves or the Association into disrepute.
- Do not exploit their membership or position within the Association for improper personal gain or benefit.
- Accept the discipline accountability which requires that they meet and are seen to display the highest standards of probity and impartiality in their dealings on behalf of their employing Authority.
- Conduct their professional and personal relationships with other members of the Association in a manner which ensures that the work and standards of the Association is enhanced.



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# Application to become a Branch Patron

**(Please complete in block capitals)**

Branch:	_____
Name of person making application:	_____
Name of company:	_____
Name of contact (if different from above):	_____
Address to which correspondence should be sent:	_____
	_____
	_____ Postcode: _____
Email address:	_____
Telephone number:	_____
Twitter:	_____
How did you hear about the Hospital Caterers Association?:	_____
	_____
Signed on behalf of company:	_____
Status:	_____

This application needs to be completed and forwarded to the Branch Treasurer of the:

\_\_\_\_\_ Branch of the Hospital Caterers Association.

To comply with the General Data Protection Regulations please tick the following box to allow us to hold your contact details which include your name, job title, the organisation you work for, mailing address, email address and telephone number. This information will only be used to send you the HCA Journal along with any other correspondence issued by the Hospital Caterers Association or to send you emails informing you about HCA developments, news and the National Forum. Your data will only be used by the Hospital Caterers Association or the Contractors we have authorised to use this data and will not be passed on to any other third party.

**I hereby give my consent for the Hospital Caterers Association to hold my data under the terms and use stated**

Acceptance to Patron Status will not be automatic as the applicants will be advised accordingly. No correspondence will be entered into as to reasons why a Company has been unsuccessful, nor any other body be advised. Upon approval the Treasurer will issue an invoice.

Successful applicants will be advised and will then enjoy the benefits listed for the 12-month period.

The annual renewal fee of **£130.00 incl. VAT** will be required to remain a Patron, regrettably, the benefits of patronage will not be continued unless the annual renewal fee has been received.

# Application for Corporate Patronage

**(Please complete in block capitals)**

Name of person making application:	_____
Name of company:	_____
Name of contact (if different from above):	_____
Address to which correspondence should be sent:	_____
_____	_____
_____	Postcode: _____
Email address:	_____
Telephone number:	_____
Twitter:	_____
How did you hear about the Hospital Caterers Association?:	_____
_____	_____
Signed on behalf of company:	_____
Status:	_____

This application needs to be completed and forwarded to the National Treasurer of the Hospital Caterers Association.

**Please also include a contact name, email address and telephone number for each Branches company representative in the table on the next page.**

To comply with the General Data Protection Regulations please tick the following box to allow us to hold your contact details which include your name, job title, the organisation you work for, mailing address, email address and telephone number. This information will only be used to send you the HCA Journal along with any other correspondence issued by the Hospital Caterers Association or to send you emails informing you about HCA developments, news and the National Forum. Your data will only be used by the Hospital Caterers Association or the Contractors we have authorised to use this data and will not be passed on to any other third party.

**I hereby give my consent for the Hospital Caterers Association to hold my data under the terms and use stated**

Acceptance to Patron Status will not be automatic as the applicants will be advised accordingly. No correspondence will be entered into as to reasons why a Company has been unsuccessful, nor any other body be advised. Upon approval the Treasurer will issue an invoice.

Successful applicants will be advised and will then enjoy the benefits listed for the 12-month period.

The annual renewal fee of **£1,560.00 incl. VAT** will be required to remain a Corporate Patron, regrettably, the benefits of patronage will not be continued unless the annual renewal fee has been received.

# Branch company representative contact details

**(Please complete in block capitals)**

BRANCH	SUPPLIER REPRESENTATIVE	EMAIL	TEL
East Anglia Branch			
East of Scotland Branch			
Merseyside and North Wales Branch			
London and South East Branch			
Northern Branch			
Northern Ireland Branch			
North West of England Branch			
Oxford Branch			
Trent Branch			
Wales Branch			
Wessex Branch			
West of Scotland Branch			
West Midlands Branch			
South West Branch			
Yorkshire Branch			



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