

Risk appetite statement

As a provider of healthcare services, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust has a **minimal** appetite for risks to patient safety and the quality of care and also to any risks to the safety and wellbeing of its staff and visitors to any of its sites.

In practice this means that the Trust will always insist on the safest available option, with an aim of reducing any risks of physical or psychological harm to as low a level as is reasonably practicable.

The appetite of the Trust concerning risks to its finances, its reputation or the continuity of its services is described as **cautious**, which means that safe options are preferred but there is a recognition that prevailing risk factors may mean that it is not always possible to minimise these types of risk.

This distinction is particularly relevant when major decisions require a careful balancing of these types of organisational risks against risks of harm as part of the same proposal.

The Trust's current statement of risk appetite by risk type, including a guide to the level of risk that may be considered as tolerable, is summarised on the following table:

Risk type	Risk appetite	Tolerable risk
Harm (physical or psychological)	Minimal	Low
Services	Cautious	Medium
Reputation	Cautious	Medium
Finances	Cautious	Medium

This **Risk appetite statement** is made by the Trust Board in August 2018, in accordance with the definitions set out in the Risk Management Strategy. It will be kept under regular review and updated where necessary.