



**NaTHNaC**

# Annual Report

## 2023-2024



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# OVERVIEW

## Statement from the Chair

We are pleased to present the annual report for the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) which covers the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

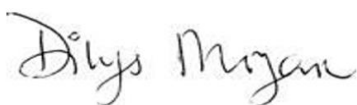
The travel industry has been recovering from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and as the demand for travel services and advice has increased, NaTHNaC continues to achieve the broad aim of “Protecting the health of British travellers”.

2023/24 has been another busy year, with significant activity in all 6 key service areas. The number of calls to the Telephone Advice Line offering support to health professionals by specialist nurses for those with complex travel remained around the same as last year – having shown a large increase from 2021/22. The TravelHealthPro website remains the major resource of information and advice for both health professionals and travellers, with the number of sessions on the website reaching 2,782,553 and the trend of sessions for views for long-haul destinations continuing to increase during the year. International health surveillance for the identification of global health events of importance to British travellers resulted in the posting of 58 news items in 57 different countries with recommendations as to how to reduce travel-related health risks.

Supporting and administering the Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres (YFVCs) remains an important role and source of funding for NaTHNaC, and there was a small increase in the number of registered YFVCs in 2023/24 compared with the previous year (1781 and 1765 respectively). A total of 1727 health professionals completed yellow fever training during the year through a combination of eLearning alone and eLearning supplemented by a virtual classroom option.

We would also like to thank the continuing support of our commissioners UK Health Security Agency, the host University College London Hospitals (UCLH), our Collaborators, and members of NaTHNaC’s Technical Advisory Group.

I would like to acknowledge the work done by the NaTHNaC team and I thank them for their resilience, hard work and patience as they continue to protect the health of British travellers as outlined in this report.



Dr Dilys Morgan MBE, MD

# GOVERNANCE

The National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) was created by the Department of Health in 2002. We are now commissioned by UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and work in partnership with our network founders:

- The Hospital for Tropical Diseases (HTD)
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM)
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)
- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)
- University College London Hospital (UCLH) NHS Foundation Trust

NaTHNaC's broad aim is to protect the health of the British traveller, and it does this by providing evidence-based advice and information to health professionals, travellers, the travel industry, and national government, as well as training for health professionals and the travel industry.

## NaTHNaC Technical Advisory Group

The NaTHNaC Technical Advisory Group was formed in April 2014 and has representation from each of the NaTHNaC partners plus UKHSA and UCLH NHS Foundation Trust. NaTHNaC is grateful for the support of each member organisation.

### Technical Advisory Group Members:

- **Prof Nick Beeching** – Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (until end Nov 2023)
- **Dr Michael Brown** – University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- **Joanne Cayford** – Journalist and Radio Producer (observer) (until Jan 2024)
- **Dr Vanessa Field** – NaTHNaC
- **Dr Hilary Kirkbride** – UK Health Security Agency
- **Prof James Logan** – London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- **Dr Nicky Longley** – Hospital for Tropical Diseases
- **Prof Dilys Morgan** – Chair
- **Dr Dipti Patel** – NaTHNaC
- **Prof Bertie Squire** – Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
- **Dr Fiona Yung** – University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

## NaTHNaC Senior Management Team (SMT)

Established in June 2012, the NaTHNaC SMT consists of the director, deputy director, operations manager, senior nurse, deputy senior nurse, and clinical adviser. It is chaired by the director and meets quarterly. The SMT is responsible for the strategic and operational management of NaTHNaC and for implementing any policies and strategies as agreed by the TAG.

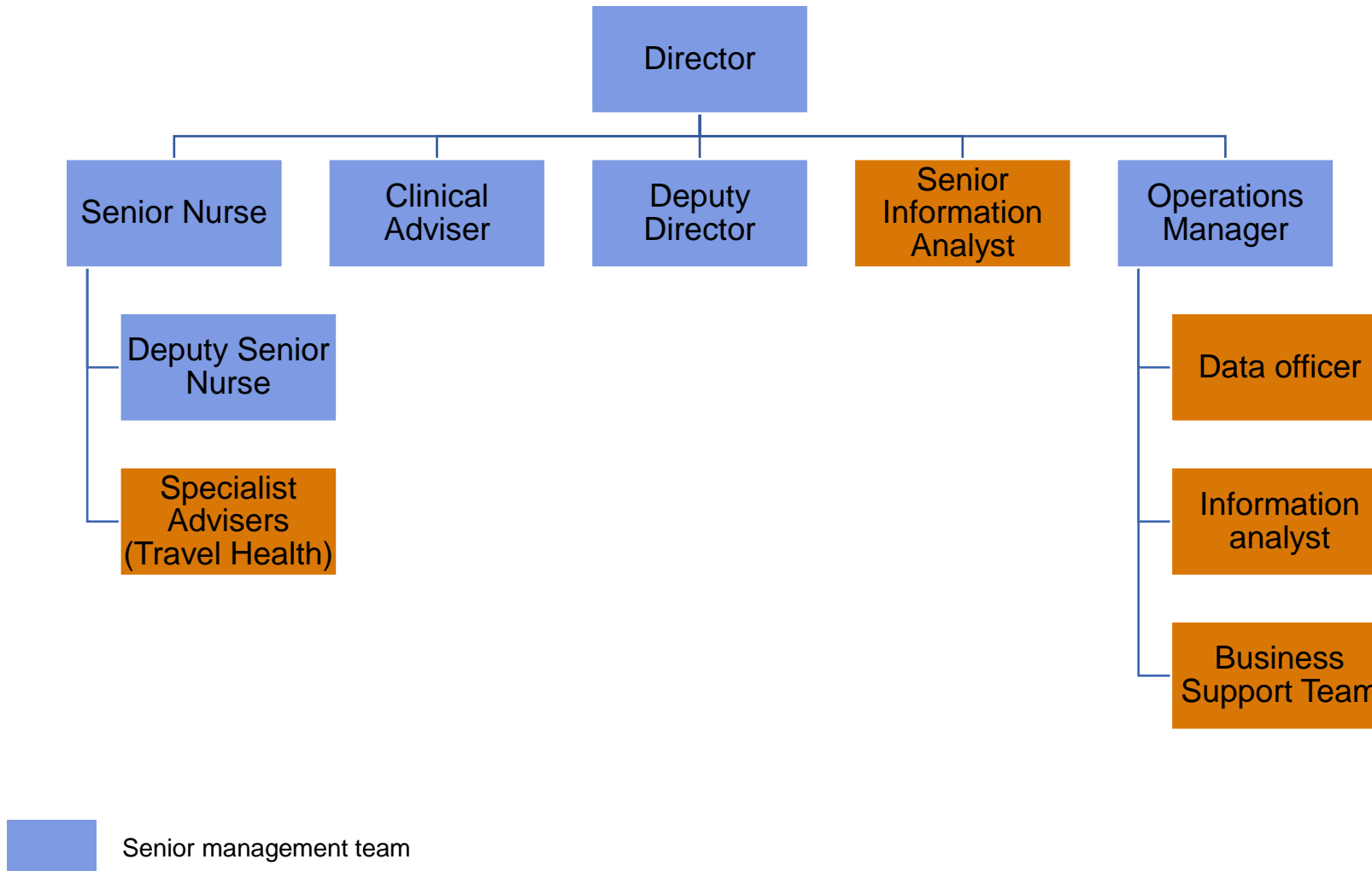
## NaTHNaC Team

NaTHNaC's expertise is provided by 16 staff and has two bases in London and Liverpool. Staff include doctors, nurses, an information analyst, and administrators (see organogram on page 5).

### Team Members

- **Lynda Bramham** – Specialist Nurse Adviser, UCLH (remote worker)
- **Terence Corrigan** – Online Communications & Development/Data Officer, London
- **Dr Vanessa Field** – Deputy Director, UKHSA (remote worker)
- **Rachael Fletcher** – Specialist Nurse Adviser, UCLH
- **Dr Lisa Ford** – Clinical Adviser, LSTM
- **Mary Gawthrop** – Specialist Nurse Adviser, UCLH
- **Sanch Kanagarajah** – Senior Information Analyst, UCLH (remote bank worker)
- **Masum Miah** – Operations Manager, UCLH
- **Linda Pang** – Administrative Assistant, UCLH
- **Samia Richards-Zoubir** – Information Analyst (from September 2023)
- **Dr Dipti Patel** – Director, UKHSA
- **Sheena Ryan** – Business Support Assistant, UCLH
- **Hilary Simons** – Senior Specialist Nurse, LSTM
- **Dr Catherine Smith** – Clinical Adviser, UCLH (from Nov 2023)
- **Alexandra Stillwell** – Specialist Nurse Adviser, UCLH
- **Rosemary Tucker** – Specialist Nurse Adviser, UCLH (remote worker)

# NaTHNaC Organogram



## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The financial statement covers the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

NaTHNaC receives operating funds from three sources:

### **UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)**

UKHSA provides core funding for NaTHNaC on an annual basis, and commissions NaTHNaC to carry out its work of primarily protecting the health of the British traveller, including the programme for Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres (YFVCs). NaTHNaC is hosted by the UCLH NHS Foundation Trust, and its headquarters are at 250 Euston Road, London. All monies received from UKHSA are administered through the Trust, and all London-based NaTHNaC personnel (with the exception of the Director and Deputy Director) are employed by the Trust. The Director and Deputy Director are employees of UKHSA, and Liverpool staff are employees of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

### **The Yellow Fever Vaccination Programme**

Income from the yellow fever programme comprises both YFVC registration fees and training fees. Registration fees from YFVCs are assigned to the year of receipt and the subsequent year depending upon the period of registration of the individual centre (YFVCs have the option of registering for one or two years).

Yellow fever training programme fees are targeted to recover costs and may be carried over into subsequent years.

### **Other Income**

NaTHNaC has additional income streams including provision of data feeds and training (non-yellow fever). These contribute a small amount to the operating budget.

Expenditure is divided between the two sites where NaTHNaC operates: the UCLH NHS Foundation Trust in London and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

# NaTHNaC Financial Report

2023/24

## INCOME

	£	£
Annual Funding (UKHSA)	262,000	
Registration Fees - released & collected	393,213	
Training Fees	360,723	
Other Income	3,934	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>1,019,870</b>

## EXPENDITURE

	Pay	UCLH	453,449	
		LSTM	102,817	
				556,266
Training Costs			1,790	
Rent, Rates and Utilities			34,115	
General Expenditure			216,407	
				252,312
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>				<b>808,578</b>
<b>OPERATING PROFIT / LOSS</b>				<b>211,292</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>				<b>211,292</b>
Surplus Carried forward			(25,697)	
Registration Fees carried forward to future years			(185,596)	
Mat leave income to cover future costs			0	
<b>Total Income carried forward</b>				<b>(211,293)</b>

### Notes/Assumptions

- *Registration fees carried forward related to cash received for registrations relating to future years.*
- *Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine overheads are charged at 25% costs.*
- *UCLH overheads are charged at 15% of UKHSA income plus partial accommodation costs.*



# OPERATIONS

This section reviews NaTHNaC's six key service areas, describing how they helped meet our core objectives for 2023–2024, and achieve the broad aim of “**Protecting the health of British travellers**”.

## Key Service Areas

1. Advisory Services
2. Communication and information services
3. Education
4. International health surveillance
5. Partnerships and collaboration
6. Yellow fever vaccination programme

## Core Objectives

1. Develop consistent and authoritative national guidance on general health matters for health professionals advising the public travelling abroad, and to disseminate this information widely.
2. Provide guidance on specific potential hazards relating to the health of travellers.
3. Carry out surveillance of infectious and non-infectious hazards which might affect British travellers and produce accessible regular outputs of significant findings.
4. Oversee a programme of designation, training, registration, standards and audit for Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres (YFVCs) in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
5. Engage the major stakeholders concerned with travel health, especially the travel industry, insurance industry and government bodies, to assist in sentinel surveillance and to engage in constructive dialogue towards a unified approach.
6. Facilitate, in collaboration with other training providers, the training of health care and other personnel in the provision of best quality, evidence-based travel health advice.
7. To define short-term and long-term research priorities in relation to travel medicine.

# ORGANISATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

## Advisory Services (core objective: 2,6,7)

*Offering support to health professionals who are advising travellers with complex needs*

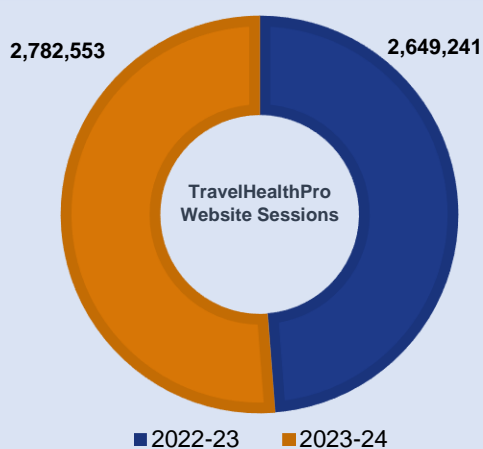
**2658**  
Calls

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 specialist nurses answered 2658 calls. Numbers are around the same as of calls received last year.

The certificate and COVID enquiry services answered **182** enquiries. This represents a 15% increase in enquires compared to last year.

## Communication and Information Services (core objective: 1,2,3,5,7)

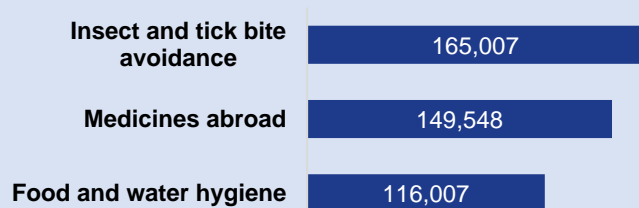
*Dynamic, evidence-based information for health professionals and travellers.*



Between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 and March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024, the total number of sessions on the TravelHealthPro website was **2,782,553** (up 5% from 2022-23).\*

The 10 most popular pages included the news item COVID-19: general advice for travellers, along with the country information pages for Thailand, India, Spain, Vietnam, South Africa, Turkey, Greece, Kenya, and Egypt.

Among the 10 most popular factsheets were insect and tick bite avoidance, medicines abroad, and food and water hygiene, with **165,007**, **149,548** and **116,553** sessions, respectively



**Social Media:** NaTHNaC's Twitter and Facebook pages continue to attract an increased number of followers. By May 2024, NaTHNaC had **4,195** X followers and **2,575** followers on Facebook.

*\*In transitioning from Universal Analytics (UA) to Google Analytics 4 (GA4), the metric **unique pageviews** is no longer available; instead, GA4 focuses on event-based tracking, emphasising **users** and interactions like **sessions** and **engagements**. Unlike unique pageviews in UA, which aggregated multiple views of a page per session, GA4 tracks pageviews as discrete events, with unique users providing a*

closer equivalent. We opted to use **sessions** for reporting instead of unique pageviews because sessions provide a broader view of user activity across the site, aligning better with GA4's event-driven model and reflecting overall engagement trends.

## Education (core objectives: 2,6,7)

*Facilitate the training of health care and other personnel*



A word cloud containing the following terms: conference, course, youtube, elearning, webinar, lecture, update, seminar, diploma, and tutorial. The words are in various shades of blue and are arranged in a non-uniform, overlapping manner.

In March 2024, NaTHNaC partnered again with the Public Health Forum of the Royal College of Nursing to provide a joint annual conference to 120 delegates.

A new “Getting to Grips with” webinar programme was launched. Three webinars were delivered with webinars to up to 100 delegates during each session. Recordings were viewed by over 300 more delegates.

We continue to work with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine to run the Professional Diploma in Travel Health, and in association with the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, run a travel medicine course for Infectious Disease Specialty Registrars.

NaTHNaC clinical staff continue to contribute as lecturers/examiners to courses run by a number of organisations including the Faculty of Travel Medicine, and the International Society of Travel Medicine. Clinical staff also presented at a number of national and international conferences.

## International Health Surveillance (core objectives: 1,2,3,5,7)

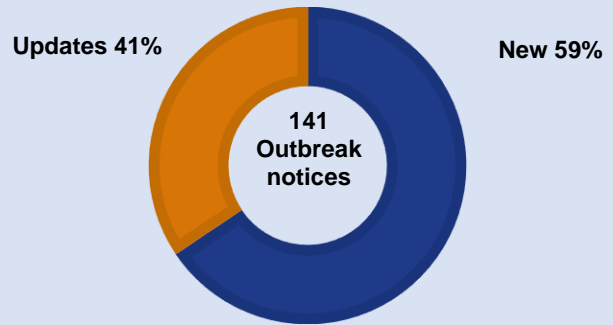
*Identification and reporting of health events of importance to British travellers*



The number 58 is displayed in a large, bold, blue font. Below it, the text "News items" is written in a smaller, blue font.

Between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 and March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024, NaTHNaC posted 58 news items which described global health events of importance to British travellers in 57 different countries with recommendations as to how to reduce travel related health risks.

A total of 141 outbreak notices were entered on our outbreak surveillance database during 2023-2024; 84 (59%) were new and 57 (41%) were updates to existing notices. The most reported diseases were dengue, cholera, polio, yellow fever and malaria.



## Partnerships and Collaborations (core objectives: 5,6)

*Engage the major stakeholders concerned with travel health*

NaTHNaC continues to have strong relationships with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) enabling clear and consistent messages to be communicated to the British travelling public.

NaTHNaC currently licenses data to one commercial organisation; a widget is available free of charge.

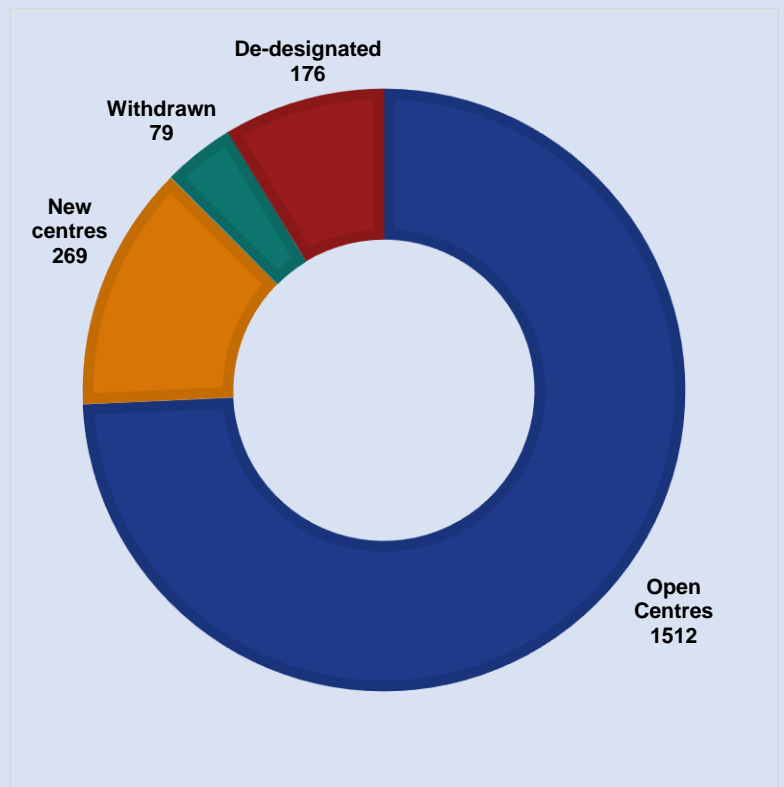
## Yellow Fever Vaccination Programme (core objectives 1,2,4)

*Registration, clinical standards, training, and audit for Yellow Fever vaccination*

Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, there were a total of 1781 centres of which 269 were new centres. 79 YFVC voluntarily withdrew their YF registration, and 176 were de-designated by NaTHNaC.

A total of 1727 health professionals completed yellow fever training during the year (1187 eLearning alone and 540 taking the eLearning supplemented by a virtual classroom option).

There was a 95.8% response rate from YFVCs to the online Annual Return of YF vaccine use.



NaTHNaC thanks our partner organisations for their support, expertise, and commitment to  
*'Protecting the health of British Travellers'*

