**Rolls-Royce**Media Information

**ROLLS-ROYCE MOTOR CARS EMPLOYEES VOTE FOR THEIR**

**NEW HOUSE CHARITY: FAMILIES OF OCEAN WARD**

**27 February 2020, Goodwood**

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars has today announced its new House Charity, Families of Ocean Ward. Colleagues at the Home of Rolls-Royce at Goodwood vote for their House Charity every year through a company-wide nomination process and the successful organisation is supported through a number of initiatives.

This year’s successful charity supports children with heart conditions and their families that have been treated, or are currently being treated, on Ocean Ward, Southampton General Hospital. Their aim is to help bridge the gap between home and hospital by putting families in touch with others whose child has a similar condition and experiences similar problems and issues. This is especially important as the paediatric cardiac unit in Southampton treats children not only in the local area but also children with heart conditions as far as Devon and Cornwall, across to West Sussex and Wiltshire.

One of the Rolls-Royce colleagues nominated the Families of Ocean Ward for a very special reason. Hetty Smith, Leathershop Associate, said “My nephew Ozzy has been a frequent visitor to Ocean Ward since his diagnosis of Williams Syndrome and last year stayed on the ward after open heart surgery. My nephew is a ray of sunshine – he can melt hearts with his beautiful eyes and smile – but in his three short years he has had to overcome huge obstacles already. This has been made that little bit easier by the great care and services that he and his parents were provided on Ocean Ward, with much made possible by the Families of the Ocean Ward charity. It is wonderful that the money we raise this year will go a long way to making sure those children who are admitted to the ward, and their families, will have a more comfortable visit.”

Sam Prior, Chairperson for Families of Ocean Ward, said, “Thank you for choosing Families of Ocean Ward as the Rolls-Royce House Charity for 2020. If it wasn’t for generous companies such as Rolls-Royce fundraising for us, alongside our many individual fundraisers and volunteers, Families of Ocean Ward wouldn’t be in a position to provide the range of practical and emotional help that we are currently able to offer to patients, families and their siblings. Thank you so much to Hetty for nominating Families of Ocean Ward and to all who voted for us; it’s a wonderful boost to our charity and very much appreciated.”

Andrew Ball, Head of Corporate Relations, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, said, “Rolls-Royce is proud to be making a long-standing and positive contribution in our local community by supporting local charities. Our employees go to great lengths to support the House Charity every year and we look forward to seeing what creative initiatives they come up with for Families of Ocean Ward in 2020.”

Rolls-Royce also waves a fond farewell to 2019 House Charity Home-Start Arun. The company’s support for the local charity concludes with a ‘Vintage FUNdraiser’ for 130 guests, hosted at the Goodwood-based manufacturing plant on Saturday 29 February.

– Ends –

 **Editors’ notes:**

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the BMW Group and is a completely separate company from Rolls-Royce plc, the manufacturer of aircraft engines and propulsion systems. Over 2,000 skilled men and women are employed at the Rolls-Royce Motor Cars’ head office and manufacturing plant at Goodwood, West Sussex, the only place in the world where the company’s super-luxury motor cars are hand-built.

**Further information:**

You can find all our press releases and press kits, as well as a wide selection of high resolution, downloadable photographs and video footage at our media website, [PressClub](http://www.press.rolls-roycemotorcars.com/).

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