

6 April 2020

Dear colleague

Over the last few weeks, the NHS has faced unprecedented challenges due to the Coronavirus pandemic. However, the response of all healthcare professionals has been remarkable, not least the courage and determination of doctors in training to continue to provide the best care they possibly can in difficult circumstances to those under their care.

With the current significant pressure on the workforce, we look forward to welcoming new Foundation Interim Year 1 doctors into our system over the coming weeks as they graduate and are provisionally registered by the GMC at an earlier stage than normal. We are grateful to them and to those trainees who have been Out of Programme offering to come back and contribute to clinical services and also many trainees previously working Less Than Full-Time who have increased their working hours, typically back to full-time employment. This is testament to the willingness and commitment of such individuals and we have been delighted with this response.

Unsurprisingly, there has been an impact on Postgraduate Medical Education and Training. Many trainees have already been redeployed to new areas of clinical practice, training rotations have been paused, educational courses and training events have been cancelled, examinations have been postponed and recruitment methodology has been amended. We appreciate that this for many will raise many questions or cause anxiety, but we wish to assure all trainees (and trainers alike) that we will support you in every possible way we can during this period. We do not wish to see any trainee disadvantaged and want to ensure that throughout this time of complex challenges that you feel supported and valued.

Difficult decisions needed to be made and no doubt there will be many more challenges to face in the coming weeks and months. However, in order to protect the high quality of training in the UK and ensure we considered different perspectives, we have benefitted from working through these on a four Nation basis with co-operation and collaboration between the four Statutory Education Bodies. We appreciate that we have had to publish a number of "Position Statements" but have done this with as much consultation as possible with other organisations and stakeholders, including the GMC, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, Medical Schools Council and BMA.

In everything we are doing, our aspiration is to continue high quality training and our commitment to trainees is that we wish to see all of you progress in your training. We are planning to hold ARCPs this year to the standards outlined in the Gold Guide, but will be doing this in a modified format. The enclosed document outlines what this might mean for trainees and those responsible for training. As outlined above, we wish to ensure trainees are supported and every effort will be made to acknowledge the impact of COVID-19 if needed, but also to ensure that plans are put in place to address outstanding training requirements in the future.

For trainees who may have queries or questions, please direct these enquiries to:

HEE - Covid19.ARCP@hee.nhs.uk

NES - DeaneryCOVID-19Enquiries@nes.scot.nhs.uk

HEIW - HEIW@Wales.nhs.uk


NIMDTA - ValuedTrainees@hscni.net

Most importantly, during this time of uncertainty, above all please do remember to support and care for each other.

Yours sincerely,



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