

## Financial Position Statement (2023-24<sup>1</sup>)

The [JCST](#) is an intercollegiate advisory body which works on behalf of the four surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland.

It is supported by and responsible for various committees and groups, including 10 Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs), the Core Surgical Training Advisory Committee (CSTAC), and the Training Interface Groups (TIGs) – please refer to the SACs’ Terms of Reference [here](#) for additional information on roles and responsibilities. It is also the parent body of the [Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme](#) (ISCP), the online training management system used by surgical and dental trainees.

For additional information on the JCST’s overall scope and purpose please refer to the Terms of Reference [here](#).

In addition to the roles and responsibilities described in the Terms of Reference for the JCST and the SACs, the JCST teams are responsible for (under each relevant area):

### Trainee Services

- enrolling, monitoring and processing recommendations for certification – **825** new specialty trainees enrolled, and **563** trainees recommended during this period
- supporting, advising and guiding trainees and trainers on a wide variety of issues
- providing a bespoke helpdesk service, and
- supporting Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs) and other committees/groups.

### Curriculum and the ISCP

- supporting the development of surgical curricula and syllabuses for the 10 surgical specialties and core surgery
- developing and maintaining the ISCP website – **31,838** users who logged in over the last 12 months (90k user accounts in the system at time of writing).

### Quality

- developing Quality Indicators (QIs) for training placements
- running and reporting on the JCST Trainee and Trainer surveys – reports are available on the JCST website [here](#)
- supporting and providing SACs with guidance and access to data for the generating of the annual specialty reports for each training region.

### Portfolio Pathway

- supporting the assessment of applications for entry to the Specialist Register via the Portfolio Pathway on behalf of the General Medical Council (GMC) – **137** evaluations and **92** reviews completed during this period – a total of 229 applications.

The JCST training fee covers all the above activities<sup>2</sup> and any other activities/projects the JCST becomes involved with.

The JCST training fee<sup>3</sup> is set annually by the four Royal College Presidents.

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<sup>1</sup> The JCST follows the RCS England’s financial year i.e. 1 July to 30 June.

<sup>2</sup> Portfolio Pathway work is not included. The JCST is under contractual obligations with the GMC to undertake this work and is paid by the GMC to do so.

<sup>3</sup> At the Joint Surgical Colleges Meeting in January 2025, the Presidents agreed that the fee would remain frozen at £260 for the coming academic year (August 2025 to August 2026) – see published statement [here](#).

## Financial position 2023-24

Our total income in the July 2023-June 2024 financial year was £2,559,464, this includes £2,358,819 training fee income and £200,645 Portfolio Pathway income. After operating costs, this led to a surplus of £530,007 for that financial year. This surplus was the result of staff vacancies, changes in contractual working hours for certain members of staff (affecting salaries and pension contributions) and lower than expected expenditure in other areas, such as travel expenses.

The JCST's aims remain the same, to ensure ongoing funding to support its core activities while also being able to invest in developments that benefit the trainees.

The four surgical Royal Colleges are keen to ensure the JCST remains in a sustainable position, delivers on its strategic aims, continues to innovate and improve, and continues to support trainees and trainers across the UK and Ireland.

*Joint Committee on Surgical Training on behalf of the surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland  
(March 2025)*