

Financial Position Statement (2018-19)

The JCST is an intercollegiate committee working on behalf of the Surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland to enhance the quality of surgical training for the benefit of patients and to support trainees and trainers. Our five-year strategy is available [here](#).

We deliver our work through the main JCST committee and the 10 Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs). We are responsible for the Core Surgical Training Advisory Committee (CSTAC), the Training Interface Groups (TIGs), the Quality Assurance (QA) Group, the ISCP Management Committee, the Data Analysis, Audit and Research Group, the Selection Group and other ad-hoc working groups in order to support surgical training from start to completion. Our main workstreams cover the following areas:

- Enrolling surgical trainees (693 new specialty trainees enrolled during this period), monitoring their progress, and recommending them for certification on completion of training (598 trainees recommended in total during this period); supporting applications for out of programme training and research; providing advice and guidance to trainees and trainers; and providing a bespoke helpdesk service
- Developing, maintaining and updating the curricula and syllabuses for all the surgical specialties and core surgery, and delivering/maintaining the ISCP online training management system, which currently holds c. 33,044¹ registered users
- Supporting national quality assurance and local quality management systems across the UK and Ireland. This includes running the trainee and trainer surveys, and providing a network of SAC Liaison Members who support and advise local offices, Deaneries and Schools of Surgery
- Supporting National Selection into surgical training by designing the selection centre processes, and participating in National Selection processes across the UK
- Evaluating applications for the Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) on behalf of the General Medical Council (GMC)

You can read more about what we do on our website [here](#).

The JCST fee supports all of the above areas of our work, with the exception of CESR evaluations for which the GMC pays us. The JCST fee is set annually at the appropriate Joint Surgical Colleges Meeting (JSCM), taking account of previous and predicted financial performance and requirements. The Colleges have previously subsidised the JCST as they are jointly responsible for its activities and financial health, including liability for deficits. We are publishing this summary as part of our continued commitment to transparency on the operational costs of JCST.

At the JSCM meeting in January 2019, the Presidents of the four Surgical Royal Colleges agreed that the fee level would remain at £260 for the following academic year (2019-20) with the intention to hold it at this level for a further two years. This will be the case for the coming academic year (2020-21).

Our total income for the July 2018-June 2019 financial year was £2,122,889 – £1,951,088 from the JCST fee and £171,801 from CESR work. After operating costs, this led to a surplus of £448,121 for that financial year. Much of this surplus was the result of a significant number of unplanned staff vacancies during the year, which led to considerable workload challenges within the JCST office. We also saw a rise in the number of fee-paying ISCP users, this includes trainees and 'non-trainee' user types, such as CESR applicants.

It is our intention therefore to ensure continued funding for our strategic plan, to:

- provide stronger and more resilient ISCP and JCST services by continuing to make the necessary investments required in IT and website systems and structures
- manage the increasing quality assurance and regulatory demands, and
- continue to review JCST processes and make further improvements where we can

Surgical training is an ever evolving system and it behoves the four Surgical Royal Colleges to ensure that there is a sustainable model for all JCST activities which supports trainees, trainers and training systems in the UK and Ireland.

Joint Committee on Surgical Training on behalf of the Surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland (February 2020)

¹ This number does not include all registered users – for example, trainees who may be on Out of Programme posts or on statutory leave and who did not log in during the date parameters used.