

JCST Financial Overview (2017-18)

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 six 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 subject-specific groups in order to support surgical training from start to completion.

In summary, our main workstreams cover the following areas:

- Enrolling surgical trainees (676 new trainees enrolled during this period), monitoring their progress, and recommending them for certification on completion of training (562 trainees recommended in total during this period); supporting applications for out of programme training and research; providing advice and guidance to both 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 (CST), and delivering/maintaining the ISCP online training management system, which currently holds c. 42,000¹ 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 UK 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 the CESR evaluations – for which the GMC pays us. The JCST fee is set annually at the appropriate Joint Surgical Colleges Meeting, 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.

Our total income for the financial year July 2017-June 2018 was £2,060,690 – £1,875,670 from the JCST fee and £185,020 from CESR work. After operating costs, this led to a surplus of £473,628 for that financial year. Much of this surplus was the result of a high number of unplanned staff vacancies which proved a challenge to operations during the year. We also saw a rise in the number of ISCP users, including fee-paying non-trainees, and an increase in CESR income from the GMC. In our intention to provide stronger, increasingly consistent and overall more resilient ISCP/JCST services, we will be looking at ways to undertake further operational improvements using the surplus available.

In line with other educational organisations (HEE, GMC, etc.) and to further support trainee doctors, the Colleges have taken the decision to freeze the JCST fee for 2019-20 at the 2018-19 level (i.e. £260) with the firm intention of maintaining it at this level until August 2022.

Joint Committee on Surgical Training on behalf of the Surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland (March 2019)

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.