

Financial Position Statement (2019-20¹)

The JCST works 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 plan is available [here](#).

We deliver our work through the main JCST committee, the 10 Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs), the Core Surgical Training Advisory Committee (CSTAC), and the Training Interface Groups (TIGs). Our other subcommittees include:

- The ISCP Management Committee and the Data Analysis, Audit and Research Group (DAARG), which support the development and maintenance of all the surgical curricula and the online training management system (Management Committee), and review and analyse the data we host in ISCP and other in-house databases to support internal and external research projects (DAARG).
- The Quality Assurance (QA) Group, which supports national quality assurance and quality improvement processes through the Quality Indicators (QIs) and the Regional Specialty reports.

We also support national selection processes, which are run and managed by the national [Medical and Dental Recruitment and Selection](#) (MDRS) team, through our SAC Selection Leads.

Our main workstreams² cover the following areas:

- Enrolling surgical trainees (622 new specialty trainees enrolled during this period), monitoring progress through training, and recommending for certification on completion of training (489 trainees recommended during this period); supporting applications for out of programme training and research; providing advice and guidance to trainees and trainers over a wide range of issues; and providing a bespoke helpdesk service
- Writing and reviewing the surgical curricula and syllabuses for the 10 surgical specialties and core surgery, and maintaining and developing the ISCP online training management system, which currently holds 24,439 active registered users (including trainees and non-trainees)
- Supporting national quality assurance and local quality management and improvement systems across the UK and Ireland. This includes providing a network of SAC Liaison Members who support and advise local offices, Deaneries and Schools of Surgery
- Evaluating applications for the Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) on behalf of the General Medical Council (GMC) (191 CESR evaluations completed during this period)

The JCST fee supports all of the above activities, with the exception of CESR evaluations for which the GMC pays us. The JCST fee is set annually by the four surgical Royal College Presidents, which take into account previous and predicted financial performance and requirements. We are publishing this summary as part of our continued commitment to transparency on the operational costs of JCST.

JCST fee update:

At the Joint Surgical Colleges Meeting in January 2021, the Presidents agreed that the fee would remain at £260 for the coming academic year (2021-22). The fee will therefore be at its current level for five consecutive years.

Financial position 2019-20:

Our total income for the July 2019-June 2020 financial year was £2,217,801, this includes £2,035,338 from JCST fee income and £182,463 from CESR income. After operating costs, this led to a surplus of £337,258 for that financial year. Much of this surplus was the result of a number of unplanned staff vacancies during the year, which impacted workload and created some challenges within the JCST office. We also saw a continuous rise in the number of fee-paying ISCP users, including 'non-trainee' type users, such as CESR applicants.

Our intention to ensure continued funding for our strategic plan remains and we expect to continue to:

- provide 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
- 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 (March 2021)

¹ The JCST follows the RCS England's financial year i.e. July to June.

² You can read more about what we do on our website [here](#).