

Financial Position Statement (2020-21¹)

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 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, which supports the development and maintenance of all the surgical curricula and the ISCP; the Data Analysis, Audit and Research Group (DAARG), which is responsible for monitoring and analysing data held in ISCP and other in-house databases to support internal and external research projects.
- The Quality Assurance (QA) Group, which supports national quality management and quality improvement processes.

We also support national selection processes, which are run and managed by Heath Education England's (HEE) [Medical and Dental Recruitment and Selection](#) (MDRS) Group.

Our main workstreams² cover the following areas:

- **Trainee services:** supporting, advising and guiding trainees during their surgical training including enrolling (527 new specialty trainees enrolled during this period), monitoring progress, and making recommendations for certification on completion of training (458 trainees recommended during this period); supporting applications for out of programme; providing advice and guidance to trainers over a wide range of issues; providing a bespoke helpdesk service; and administering/supporting Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs) and other sub-committees/groups.
- **Curricula and the ISCP:** writing/reviewing and supporting the development of the surgical curricula and syllabuses for the 10 surgical specialties and core surgery in line with regulatory requirements; maintaining and developing the [ISCP online training management system](#), which currently holds 28,584 registered users.
- **Quality:** 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; developing Quality Indicators (QIs) for training placements; running the JCST Trainee survey and reporting annual results; and supporting the development of Regional Specialty Reports.
- **CESR:** evaluating applications for the Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) on behalf of the General Medical Council (GMC) (98 evaluations and 45 reviews completed during this period).

The JCST fee covers all of the above plus other ad-hoc activities / projects undertaken by the JCST, the exception is CESR work for which the GMC pays us. The JCST fee³ is set annually by the four surgical Royal College Presidents, taking into account predicted financial performance and affordability. We publish this summary as part of our ongoing commitment to transparency on the operational costs of JCST.

Financial position 2020-21:

Our total income for the July 2020-June 2021 financial year was £2,333,677, this includes £2,210,427 from JCST fee income and £122,616 from CESR income. After operating costs, this led to a surplus of £514,355 for that financial year. Much of this surplus was the result of a number of staff vacancies, which impacted workload and created challenges within the JCST office, and the reduction in travelling expenses due to COVID-19 restrictions. We also saw a continuous rise in the number of fee-paying ISCP users, including 'non-trainee' users, such as CESR applicants.

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

- provide resilient, highly functioning JCST and ISCP structures and services by continuing to make the necessary investments in IT, website systems and other resources;
- manage the increasing quality improvement and regulatory demands; and
- review JCST processes to make improvements where we can to streamline and remove the administrative burden on trainees, trainers and JCST staff.

It behoves the four surgical Royal Colleges, especially following the impact of COVID-19 on surgical training, 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 2022)

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](#).

³ At the Joint Surgical Colleges Meeting in January 2022, the Presidents agreed that the fee would remain at £260 for the coming academic year (2022-23).