

Financial Position Statement (2024–25¹)

The JCST is an intercollegiate advisory body acting on behalf of the four surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland for all matters relating to surgical training.

It provides strategic oversight and support to a range of committees and groups, including the **10 Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs)**, the **Core Surgical Training Advisory Committee (CSTAC)**, the **Training Interface Groups (TIGs)**, and other key sub-committees such as the **ISCP Management Committee**, the **Data Analysis, Audit and Research Group (DAARG)** and the **Quality (QA) Group**. The JCST also oversees the [Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme \(ISCP\)](#), the online training management system used by surgical and dental trainees. Further information on the JCST's remit and purpose can be found in its Terms of Reference [here](#).

In addition to the responsibilities outlined above, the JCST team support the following key areas:

Trainee Services

- Managing trainee enrolment, progression, and certification recommendations – during this period, **1,101** new specialty trainees enrolled and **601** certification recommendations were issued
- Providing advice and support to trainees and trainers
- Delivering a dedicated helpdesk service
- Providing administrative support to SACs and associated committees and groups

Curriculum and ISCP

- Supporting the development and maintenance of curricula and syllabuses across all 10 surgical specialties and core surgery
- Maintaining and enhancing the ISCP website platform – **31,696** active users at the time of writing, with just over **100,000** accounts in the system

Quality

- Developing **Quality Indicators (QIs)** for training placements
- Managing and reporting on the **JCST Trainee and Trainer surveys** (available on the JCST website [here](#))
- Providing data and guidance to SACs for their annual specialty reports

Portfolio Pathway

- Supporting the evaluation of applications to join the Specialist Register via the Portfolio Pathway on behalf of the GMC – **175 evaluations** and **101 reviews** completed (**276 applications** in total)

The **JCST training fee**² funds most of the above activity, including additional projects undertaken by the committee. The fee is reviewed and set annually by the Presidents of the four surgical Royal Colleges.

Financial Position 2024–25

Total income for the period July 2024–June 2025 was **£2,878,995**, comprising:

- **£2,551,700** from JCST training fees
- **£327,295** from Portfolio Pathway activity

¹ The JCST operates on the RCS England financial year, running from 1 July to 30 June.

² Portfolio Pathway work is excluded. The JCST undertakes this work under a GMC contract, which funds the activity.

After operating costs and service charges³, the JCST reported a **surplus of £675,775**. This outcome was influenced by a number of factors, including:

- Staff vacancies and other team changes, including adjustments to working hours affecting salary and pension costs
- Lower than expected expenditure on areas such as travel and accommodation
- Higher number of paying users

The JCST remains committed to maintaining sustainable funding to support its core activities while continuing to invest in developments that enhance the experience of trainees and other stakeholders.

The four surgical Royal Colleges reaffirm their support for the JCST's long-term sustainability and its role in driving improvement, delivering strategic objectives, and supporting high-quality surgical training across the UK and Ireland.

*Joint Committee on Surgical Training on behalf of the surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland
(March 2026)*

³ Service charges are currently under review by the finance departments of the four surgical Royal Colleges, with the revised approach scheduled to take effect from the 2025–26 financial year.