

JCST FEE FOR TRAINEES 2017–18

The surgical royal colleges of the UK and Ireland are committed to maintaining the highest standards of surgical training. Together, via the Joint Committee on Surgical Training (JCST), the Colleges ensure the delivery of all matters related to surgical training. This includes enrolling and monitoring trainees and making recommendations for certification; developing, maintaining, updating and delivering the curriculum and the online training management system; and supporting national quality assurance and local quality management processes for surgical training programmes. The JCST fee paid by surgical trainees helps to cover the running costs of this essential service.

The Colleges recognise the significant financial pressures being placed on trainees and, in 2016–17, a decision was made to freeze the JCST fees. Unfortunately, due to inflationary pressures, the fees will increase by 2% in 2017–18, equivalent to about five pounds in additional fees for each trainee over the course of the year. The new rates will be applied in August 2017. The decision to increase fees has not been taken lightly.

We have stressed that the trainee fee will be used to cover normal running costs of JCST functions. Funding for developmental work will be provided by the Colleges. This includes major work in the year ahead to improve the eLogbook and the trainers' site within the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme.

While we recognise that any increase in the fee will be disappointing, we hope that you recognise the rationale that informs this decision.

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