



INCREASE IN ANNUAL JCST FEE FOR TRAINEES 2013-15

In May this year we issued a statement¹ explaining why we had decided to increase the trainee fee to £150 this year – the first increase since its introduction in 2008. We explained that the Joint Surgical Colleges no longer receive funding from the Department of Health to support the work of the JCST and that we receive no funding for any of the training-related work that the JCST carries out on behalf of the General Medical Council (GMC). This work includes enrolling and monitoring trainees and making recommendations for CCT; 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 GMC has now confirmed that it will not pay for this work carried out by the Colleges, as it considers that the beneficiary should pay. This leaves the Joint Surgical Colleges with a combined funding deficit of up to £600k pa for the work that we do to support training. In 2011-12 the income from the fee (£723,480) offset approximately 54% of the cost of this work (£1,347,568).

All of the Surgical Colleges are committed to supporting training and we have thought very carefully about how we can continue to do so. Our resources are limited, however. At the October meeting of the Joint Surgical Colleges we decided that we had no alternative but to increase the fee further by £35 per year for the next 3 years. This means that future fee levels will be as follows:

2013 £185
2014 £220
2015 £255

We recognise the increasing financial pressures that trainees face and are phasing the increase to help to spread the load. The costs for JCST will be kept under review and any further uplift in fees beyond 2015 will simply reflect any increase in running costs. All 3 Surgical Colleges now have arrangements in place to enable trainees to combine the fee with College membership payments.

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¹ http://www.jcst.org/docs/trainee_fee_May2012