



The ROYAL COLLEGE of  
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

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**To Heads of School, Training Programme Directors,  
Regional Advisors, College Tutors, Educational Supervisors and all  
Ophthalmologists in Training**

**Re: Clarification on EPA1 requirement for ST7s**

Following concerns raised by some ST7 trainees and Heads of School about the difficulty in achieving the new EPA 'Managing a cataract operating list' during the final year of training, the Curriculum Sub-committee have met and reviewed their position.

We acknowledge that setting up a cataract list and arranging an assessor for this EPA may take a few months to put in place and for this reason we have resolved that trainees whose CCT date is on or before 31 March 2017 will **not** be required to complete this EPA for CCT.

All trainees with a CCT date after 31 March 2017 will be expected to complete a minimum of 2 of these assessments. However, for a trainee whose CCT date is on or before 31 August 2017 and is working in training environments where it is impossible to arrange a pure cataract list to perform this assessment, we will accept an operating list of mixed cases, as long as it contains a significant proportion of cataract cases. This situation must be discussed in advance with the Training Programme Director and Head of School who, where possible, will try to facilitate the organisation of a cataract list and will agree to this altered assessment only in circumstances where it is deemed impossible to arrange a pure cataract list.

All trainees with CCT dates after 31 August 2017 will be expected to complete 2 EPA assessments as detailed in our letter of 12 September 2016. It is strongly recommended that this EPA is undertaken in ST6 or earlier.

Please note the guidance for the new DOPS for biometry remains unchanged. All trainees are now expected to have completed this as detailed in our previous guidance.

Yours sincerely

**Miss Fiona Bishop FRCOphth**  
*Chair – Curriculum Sub-committee*