

9 July 2018



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

Re: Revised arrangements for Trainee Selected Components (TSCs)

We are writing to inform you that, following further meetings with the Curriculum Oversight Group (COG), we are again able to approve that TSCs are undertaken for up to a 12-month period.

The Curriculum Oversight Group comprises the UK Shape of Training Steering Group and the GMC. Following further discussions about the future direction of the curriculum, which is currently undergoing a major redevelopment, the potential to include specialty interest / subspecialty training within the envelope of the training programme was discussed and this proposal was encouraged by COG. This will therefore form part of the new curriculum submission in due course. This is timely as the Training Committee, as well as the Curriculum Sub-committee, feel that it would be beneficial to continue approving TSCs for up to 12 months.

I am sure this will be a popular development with many trainees, Training Programme Directors and Heads of Schools. As it is important for trainees to get the opportunity to step up their responsibilities in the last 6 months of their training, acting increasingly as an independent practitioner and supervising more junior trainees in both the outpatient setting and theatre, this period of Consultant Preparation may coincide with the second 6 months of the TSC.

Heads of School and Training Programme Directors should ensure the timetable for the TSC allows for these opportunities. This is compatible with the requirements for the timetable and responsibilities of a trainee undertaking a TSC and should not present a problem for the approval process for a TSC. The timetable should ensure that trainees have the opportunity to maintain cataract surgery skills, particularly in a 12-month TSC in the final year of training.

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The Curriculum Sub-committee will look to develop overarching outcomes for assessment of specialty interest/subspecialty training in the future. The new curriculum will lead to more specific requirements for TSCs being developed by the Evaluation of Training Sub-committee, which will ensure all trainees get excellent and consistent training opportunities during the TSC period. In order to facilitate this, potentially many trainees and trainers will be involved in piloting these assessments during the development phase.

It is still acceptable for TSCs to be 6 months in length as this is the case in some regions. For trainees who have had a TSC approved for August 2018, and have local support for this to be 12 months, then this can be extended.

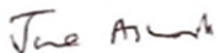
It is simplest if the original application for a 6-month TSC is amended to show any changes to the timetable or training opportunities and re-submitted clearly marked for the extension to be approved for the second 6-month period. This will then be confirmed by the Evaluation of Training Sub-committee.

The above change is effective immediately.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Spencer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Miss Fiona Spencer
Chair – Training Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Ashworth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Miss Jane Ashworth
Chair – Evaluation of Training Sub-committee