



The ROYAL COLLEGE of  
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

23 March 2020

Dear Candidate

### **Cancellation of RCOphth Examinations**

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We are writing to inform you that due to the ongoing Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic affecting the UK, the College has now taken the decision to cancel all forthcoming examinations up until September 2020. In addition to the Part 2 Oral examination and Refraction Certificate examinations that have already been cancelled for April 2020, the further examinations now cancelled are:

Part 1 FRCOphth – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
Part 2 Written – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020  
Refraction Certificate (Glasgow) – 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

We have been monitoring the developing situation closely and we have now reached a critical point where we have to put priority on the best interests on the health and risk to the candidates and cannot hold exams when social distancing measures are in place with no estimated date yet of when they will end. We also are considering the fact that many doctors are likely to be deployed to other specialities as this crisis escalates.

We are aware that this will inevitably cause disruption to trainees' plans, but it must be viewed that these are extraordinary circumstances. We aim to reschedule the cancelled exams for the first quarter of 2021. If you feel that your career progression will be threatened or if you have questions relating to your training, please contact your Programme Directors and Head of School or equivalent. We are informing Heads of School and Training Programme Directors of the decision to cancel these exams. If you have already applied for any of these exams, we will refund your examination fee within 15 working days of you receiving this email. However, the College is unable to reimburse travel and accommodation expenses incurred. We would also ask candidates to refrain from contacting the exams office for updates as we will be in touch with everyone with regular email updates as soon as we have more news on the exact dates when the rescheduled exams will be due to take place.

Yours sincerely

Mr Dylan Costello

Mr Robert Taylor

Miss Fiona Spencer

Patron  
HRH The Duke of York, KG

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Wales (299872) and in Scotland  
(SC045652)

Head of Examinations

Chair of Examinations Committee

Chair of Training