

Minutes of the Diagnostics Specialties Training Board meeting held at 2pm on Friday 9th May,2025 via Teams

Present: Marie Mathers (MM) **[Chair]**, Hayan AboSamra (HA), Judith Anderson (JA), Alastair Campbell (AC), Gillian Carter (GC), Cindy Chew (CC), Siobhan Fraser (SF), Hazel Halbert (HH), Jeremy Jones (JJ), Jen Mackenzie (JMack), Rosalind Mitchell-Hay (RMH), Dianne Morrison (DM), Sarah Mukhtar (SM), Leela Narayanan (LN), Xinyi Qui (XQ), Sue Reddy (SR), Siobhan Rooney (SR), Kerryanne Shearer (KS), Marion Slater (MS), William Smith (WS), Brian Stewart (BS), Alan Stockman (AS), Surabhi Taori (ST).

Apologies: Charu Chopra (CC), Alan Denison (ADe), Sai Han (SH), Brian Harrison (BH), Vicky Hayter (VH), Celia Jackson (CJ), Greg Jones (GJ), Ewen Millar (EM), Louise smith (LS), Sami Syed (SS), Antonia Torgerson (ST) and Struan Wilkie (SW).

In attendance (minutes): Zoe Park (ZP) & Rachel Brand-Smith (RBS) (Minutes).

Item	Item name	Discussion	Agreed/Action
1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Apologies were noted and the group introduced themselves for the new members.	
2.	Minutes of meeting held on 11 th February 2025	Paper 1 was circulated before the meeting and the minutes were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.	Agreed
3.	Review of action points	All action points from the meeting were completed or will be discussed elsewhere on the agenda.	
4.	Matters arising not on the agenda		
5.	Main Items of business		
5.1	Deanery update	<p>MS gave the below update to the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCPATH Exam – Correspondence has been sent to the COPMED lead dean- for histopathology who has agreed to take this forward to the SAC. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarly to what happened with the RCR exams, it does seem that resident doctors in Scotland are disproportionately impacted, which has been made clear in communications. • MS gave thanks to TPM colleagues and APGD who provided help with two recent tasks, including identifying if those who have completed training in that last 12 months have managed to secure posts, and how placements are managed across the different regions. This will help aid discussion with Scottish Government (SG) moving forward. • Adam Hill (Lead Dean for Quality) has produced updated guidance relating to escalating issues through TPDS, APGDS and beyond. • Study Leave – Not much to update from last STB, work is continuing to ensure that a fair and equitable system is achieved. The next meeting of the study leave governance group will take place in June, where there should be further updates. • ARCPs – MS stressed the importance of highlighting any issues or situations that need further discussions with senior colleagues as quickly as possible. Similarly, with any potential accelerations of training, this must be discussed in advance. <p>AS asked for an update on the ongoing issues around overseas study leave, and MS confirmed that that situation now is that applications for overseas study leave must be sent to the chief executive of NES, this also includes educators.</p> <p>AS followed up that there are currently two residents who have applications pending and it's not clear how the mechanisms around this will work with regards to hearing back, whether this is through TURAS, the TPD or the resident directly. MS stressed that there is a want to be pragmatic about each application.</p>	<p>AS agreed, to send MS the details of the applications to be taken forward</p>
5.2	Recruitment update	<p>JMacK gave the following verbal update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document regarding fill rates will be completed and circulated when all information is available. 	<p>RBS will circulate to group</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round 1 – Both Histopathology and clinical radiology have filled • Round 2 – Offers are still being recycled <p>SR asked for clarity around the offers that were sent out and then rescinded, and if there will be any lasting impact around this.</p> <p>MM confirmed that this was discussed at the most recent MDRG meeting and what happened was that offers were sent out based on one indicator rather than total scoring. The offers were sent but then rectified a very short time later. MS concurred with MM and noted that no applicants had reached out to express that they were affected.</p>	
5.3	Quality update	<p>GC gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no ongoing activity within the diagnostics specialty grouping regarding visits or meetings. • Enquires that were sent out after the last quality review panel meeting have all been returned and closed off. <p>BS and AC had nothing further to add.</p>	
5.4	TPM update	<p>DM gave the below update on VH behalf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the earlier discussions regarding ARCP, reminded the group the importance of ensuring that any sick leaves, mat leave etc are reported to your TPM administrator in advance to ensure TURAS is up to date. 	
5.5	Professional Development	<p>NES Annual Virtual Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seemed to go well and all workshops seemed very well attended. • Focus was on equity in healthcare. <p>Woman in Leadership</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CC highlighted that the Royal College of Physicians are doing a woman's leadership programme, although this is not specific to women and is open to all to attend. One of the main topics that will be covered will be on the active bystander. MS added that this is not closed to registrants and encouraged everyone who is interested to come along, as it is a fantastic event. There will be session with doctors in training, trainers and DME colleagues. <p>Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CC added that there will be a soft launch around the diagnostics side of training, where there will be a physician and a radiologist who will work on an acute scenario under 4 individual systems. Encouraged the group to look out for this if interested. <p>Link to events: https://www.rcpe.ac.uk/events/radiology-medics</p>	
5.6	ED&I	Item not discussed. CC had nothing further to add and will share papers at future meetings when available.	
5.7	MDRG update	MM attend the most recent MDRG meeting in April, which included the STB chairs and gave an update regarding the diagnostic specialty grouping.	
5.8	DME update	Not discussed. Representative not in attendance, representative still to be established.	
5.9	Royal College update	Item not discussed. Representative not in attendance.	
5.10	Heads of Schools report	SR gave the following update re Radiology:	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The newly reformed exam will run its first iteration in June. Hopefully, the technical issues experienced previously will be fewer for resident doctors and the system will be more robust for examiners. The process will hopefully become more standardised. 	
5.11	Specialty and STC reports		
5.11.1	Radiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JJ noted that he will be stepping down from his TPD role and that Kenneth Muir (KM) will be taking over from August. MM and MS gave thanks to JJ for his work as TPD and contributions to the STB. 	RBS will update membership list.
5.11.2	Nuclear Medicine	Not discussed. SH not in attendance.	
5.11.3	Combined Infection Training	<p>The following items were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed to fill all posts in this round of recruitment. Simulation bootcamp is funded again for this year and will run for 10 days in August. Exploring the idea of a twice-yearly newsletter with TPD colleagues to provide support to educational supervisors (ES). One iteration of this has been sent with the second due imminently. Work is ongoing to try and streamline the CIT portfolio as there are various elements that require more than one ES, such as IMT and virology. 	
5.11.3	Medical Microbiology	MS – Conversations are ongoing around the fact that there are between 5 and 10 doctors due to CCT over the next few years with no real prospects of consultant jobs to move into. Meeting will be taking place with Peter Johnston (PJ) from RCPATH next week to discuss workforce.	

5.11.4	Virology	Not discussed. Representative not in attendance.	
5.11.5	Chemical Pathology	Not Discussed. Representative not in attendance.	
5.11.6	Diagnostic Neuropathology	AT (written update) - Recent round of national recruitment interviews had a good number of applicants, but unfortunately only one interview as there were dropouts at the last minute due to several issues. Still currently two NP trainees in Scotland (both in Edinburgh). One about to sit Part 2 in Autumn.	
5.11.7	Paediatric Pathology	AT (written update) - 4 trainees in post across Glasgow (3) and Aberdeen (1). This included an IDT. New exam format has been trailed and tested and is making progress, but unsure of the exact date of implementation	
5.11.8	Forensic Histopathology	KS - Glasgow have now agreed to take a second trainee, so from February 2026 hopefully all training posts will be filled (2 in Edinburgh and 2 in Glasgow).	
5.12	Academic update	Item not discussed. Representative not in attendance.	
5.13	Resident update	MM welcomed XQ and SR as the new radiology trainee representatives Additionally, noted that EM will be stepping down as he is due to CCT and gave thanks for his contributions and wished him well for the future. MM encouraged all the trainee representatives to bring any issues forward in real time as they arise.	MM will follow up around a replacement
5.14	Lay Member update	Item not discussed, BH not in attendance.	

5.15	SAS update	HA highlighted that there are currently no ongoing issues regarding the SAS doctors.	
5.16	BMA update	Item not discussed. Representative not in attendance.	
6.	AOB	<p>ST wanted to seek clarity around maternity and how this works between NES and the Health Boards (HB).</p> <p>MS confirmed that that NES provided the funding for the doctor who is on maternity leave, therefore there is no additional funding for a replacement. It will be up to the Health Board (HB) if they wish to fill and providing funding for any gaps on the rota due to maternity leave.</p>	
7.	Dates of next meetings	<p>2025 meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 10th September 2025 11:00-13:00 • Thursday, 11th December 2025 14:00-16:00 <p>2026 meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 27th February 2026 11:00-13:00 • Thursday, 14th May 2026 14:00-16:00 	