

Supplementary questions at AGM meeting – September 2023

<p>How can we become involved in Quality Improvement projects?</p>	<p>Please email quality@rcem.ac.uk – we would be delighted for people to get involved.</p>
<p>What other sources of funding have been investigated? E.g. government, corporate, investments, or getting NHS trusts to cover college membership (± exam) fees as a standard 'perk' of job appointment, which could facilitate necessary increases /</p> <p>Was there an alternative to raising subscriptions?</p>	<p>We have absorbed increases in costs and kept subscription increases to 2% for the last couple of years in order to minimise any impact on our members, but with the global financial environment it is not possible to continue to do this indefinitely.</p> <p>We are also exploring other income generating opportunities, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases in events and study day fees • Increase in Quality Improvement Programme charges • Increase in exams fees in order to break even • Marketing Bream's Buildings, either for let or sale • Holding international examination expansion until we have settled our UK based examination delivery and operations. • Exploring sponsorship and fundraising opportunities to offset costs • Increasing our marketing of on-demand events overseas • Reviewing existing contracts to gain preferential rates
<p>Should we not release the poll % result in relation to the votes at the AGM?</p>	<p>The poll result was not released on the day as it needed to be verified to ensure that those who voted were entitled to do so.</p> <p>The votes have since been checked and verified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase 2024 subscription fees by 6% replacing the previous arrangements: 53% for; 47% against. • The reappointment of Moore Kingston Smith as our auditors for the financial year 2023: 95% for; 5% against
<p>Will exam costs remain the same or will they also increase by 6%?</p>	<p>We are reviewing all of our income streams and seeing where changes need to be made, this includes exams fees. As soon as any decision is made on this we will update you.</p>
<p>A number of colleagues may consider stopping subscriptions if they continue to rise.</p>	<p>We believe that the College still offers incredible value for money and a range of benefits, as outlined here and we hope that our members will recognise that.</p>

	<p>Of course we do not want to see any members leave and recognise that impact, so have kept any increases as low as we can, but we are not immune to the impact of the external financial environment.</p> <p>For a trainee the cost for 2024 membership will be between 93p / £1.60 a day (depending on your membership category); for a full UK Fellow it will be £2.24 a day. See our full chart for all the detailed fees.</p> <p>You can also claim tax back on membership fees, as outlined above.</p>
<p>Don't the rising costs fall disproportionately on trainees? Membership - consultants can cancel their membership but those in training posts can't. Likewise only trainees do exams...Those are the two main sources of college income.</p>	<p>When you look at the overall college finances (available here) the amount of staff we have supporting trainees working across our operations isn't covered by the fees that we levy from trainee membership; the examinations are losing half a million pounds a year so we do have to do some things to address that. The consultants ultimately are subsidising the trainee support through the fees that they're paying so it's quite a complex picture because you have got a range of different people paying membership fees and we've got the balance of costs building across a range of different places. We will be publishing some further information and charts on where the costs on income fall which will give more insight but in the meantime the detail is in the accounts (starting on page 106, or 54 in adobe reader).</p> <p>The rise is a 6% flat rate across all membership groups. Depending on which membership group you fall in this could be as low as an increase of £2 a year or maximum increase of £46 a year.</p>
<p>I appreciate the benefit of increase in training posts. However in Scotland there seems to be a lack in consultant roles for those trainees to go in to. Is this being considered in projections?</p>	<p>Workforce projections and planning is a dynamic and complicated task. Responsibility for Workforce Planning lies with both NES and Scottish Government, which we can inform with Census data. Based on the data from the last workforce census that RCEM published in July 2021 (found here) the current production of trainees meets the needs of replacing and fulfilling the anticipated expansions reported at time of census. The census does not account for recent changes to the workforce; clinicians retiring earlier, people leaving the speciality, less than full time working, portfolio careers. However, this does not account for the struggle that some trusts are experiencing filling recruitment gaps, especially at ST4. There are hospitals that are struggling to fill posts and there are gaps across ED Consultant rotas. We are currently undertaking our census in England and Northern Ireland which will mean we have completed Censuses in all four nations and as a College we need to look at our approach to census monitoring going forward.</p>

What is being done to address long wait in examiner training course?	<p>We have been working hard to increase examiner numbers and examining opportunities and have recruited and trained over 250 new examiners since the start of 2022. This has enabled us to offer 200 extra UK OSCE spaces to candidates this year and helped safeguard the delivery of OSCE exams critical to trainee progression during periods of industrial action. In response to the growing number of applications to become an examiner, we added two extra Examiner Training Workshops this year, providing an extra 80 training places. Two workshops took place in London, along with workshops in Glasgow, Birmingham and Manchester – with a total of 5 workshops offering 200 training places. We now have an extremely small waiting list for training places and will shortly be announcing dates for examiner training workshops in 2024. We are committed to making the application and training process for new examiners as smooth as possible and will be running 6 workshops next year, priority for places will be given to those on the waiting list.</p>
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