

RCEM Training Hours Position Statement

March 2025

This statement refers to resident doctors in Emergency Medicine and **refers to training time only**. The purpose of this statement is to ensure equity and eliminate ambiguity in the calculation of training time.

NHS employers, across the four nations, who set the terms and conditions of resident doctors (until recently known as postgraduate doctors-in-training), define 'full-time' training hours, for the purposes of pay calculation, as a range between 40-48 hours per week.

Less than fulltime training (LTFT) is defined as working fewer than 40 hours per week, but the fraction is often calculated by employers from the maximum permitted 48 hours. This means that working 0.8 LTFT may be calculated as anything between 32 and 38.4 hours. It is meaningless to define a fraction of training without defining the baseline standard.

Moving forward RCEM defines 'full-time' training in Emergency Medicine as 40 hours a week. This represents the baseline standard and the maximum number of hours per week that will be recognised as training time.

This statement does not devalue any additional hours worked beyond 40 hours; staffing and working hours remain under the purview of individual organisations.

The College acknowledges that there are locally employed doctors, specialist and associate specialist doctors whose training will need to be considered to ensure that there is equality across EM clinicians.