

**Subject:** RE: Programme Board report on Progression into Higher Surgical Training -  
Message from Chris Munsch

**Date:** Wed, 9 Jun 2010 12:37:06 +0100

Dear Ed and Charlie

Many thanks for your letter, which raises some very important issues.

We are very grateful to Dr Alison Carr for providing exact numbers of core training posts for the first time. The situation itself is not new, however, as surgery has always been a popular and oversubscribed discipline and policymakers have made clear their intention to encourage trainees into other areas. The JCST does not have direct control over the distribution of posts, which is largely a matter for deaneries and trusts responding to local needs.

We note, however, that Dr Carr has not commented on our aspiration to increase core surgical training to 3 years, which we believe would resolve many of the difficulties. This is proving difficult to achieve in the current climate, but we intend to continue to pursue it.

We shall have the Programme Board paper and your letter on the agenda for the 1 July JCST meeting, at which all the SAC Chairs will be able to give their views. I look forward to seeing Charlie at the meeting and discussing this further, but in the meantime please feel free to forward this e-mail to your membership.

Many thanks again, and best wishes

Chris

Chris Munsch  
Chairman, JCST