



**British Orthopaedic Trainees Association**

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**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012**

**Dear Professor Standfield,**

**Re: Annual Workplace-Based Assessments**

On behalf of The Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT) and The British Orthopaedic Trainees' Association (BOTA) we wish to express our concern regarding the content of your letter dated 12th February 2012 regarding the London Core Training Committee decision to unilaterally increase the number of annual Workplace-Based Assessments (WPBA) to eighty.

After significant discussion the JCST have recently reached a consensus on this issue - pan-specialty and pan-deanery of 40 WPBAs per annum.

We strongly believe that the reflective formative feedback that trainees get from a properly performed WPBA is the most valuable component of the whole process; doubling the number runs the risk of halving the quality and curbing the enthusiasm for the whole process by the trainer. Turning reflection, discussion and shared learning into a tick box exercise with a mad rush for quantity and not quality of assessments detracts from the original reasoning for the implementation of WPBAs.

Also nationally and pan-specialty there is no appetite to increase beyond the current figure of 40 (equating to 1 WPBA a week). We therefore question the reasoning behind the proposed increase from forty to eighty.

There is considerable pan-specialty disquiet amongst London trainees, and they are united against your proposals. London trainees are being potentially disadvantaged compared to their colleagues who work within deaneries that follow the national guidelines in relation to this matter. Furthermore, the engagement of consultants to the WPBA process is also being put at risk by the measures that you propose.

We request that your trainees are allowed to adhere to the National JCST quality indicators. We have expressed our view to Mr Ian Eardley and will raise this at the next JCST meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

**Goldie Khera, ASiT President**

*On behalf of ASiT and BOTA Executive*

**Emily Baird, BOTA President**

Cc

Mr David Tolley, President RCSEd  
Professor Norman Williams, President RCSEng  
Mr Ian Anderson, President, RCPSG  
Mr John Getty, Vice President RCSEng  
Ms Ellis McGovern, President RCSI  
Mr Ian Ritchie, Vice President, RCSEd  
Mr Ian Eardley, JCST Chair