



**British Orthopaedic Trainees Association**

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and the British Orthopaedic Trainees Association,

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7th July 2018

Dear College Presidents,

We have been made aware of the recent issue with the MRCS Part B results, with some candidates being told they had passed when in fact, they had failed and vice versa. We are sure you share our sympathy for the affected candidates and are as keen as we are to ensure this does not happen again.

We wish to highlight the distress this has caused affected candidates. Indeed, some candidates may have already had ARCP's based on the outcome, as well as making future personal and professional plans based on the exam result.

We urge the Colleges to undertake the following, which we trust you already are in the process of doing:

1. Commit to a full investigation, with an independent chair, into how this occurred and how to ensure it will not happen again.
2. Have full and open disclosure to candidates and the membership about the outcome of this investigation and the steps taken to prevent recurrence.
3. Provide appropriate pastoral support to those affected; specifically, a named individual for each College should liaise with the candidates and organise appropriate mentoring for their next sitting of the exam.

4. Reimburse candidates for the failed attempt in May and ensure their next attempt at the exam is free of charge to the trainees affected.
5. Provide a letter detailing the error, to be uploaded to a trainee's ARCP portfolio, to provide evidence that no misconduct has occurred on their behalf.
6. For those whose ARCP will now be an outcome 3, that appropriate posts are found.
7. Leniency should be applied if those candidates ever reach their maximum number of attempts at the exam so that consideration of this event is applied.

We trust you already have many of the above in progress and will undertake to support those candidates affected as much as possible.

Many Thanks,



Helen Mohan

ASiT President

and



Simon Fleming

BOTA President

Cc:

Professor Peter Brennan, ICBSE Chair

Professor David Croke, IQA Chair

Professor Derek Alderson, President Elect RCS England