

# RCOG policy briefing



Royal College of  
Obstetricians  
and Gynaecologists

Bringing to life the best  
in women's health care

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## RCOG briefing on the NHS Listening Exercise: education and training

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### The issues

- Healthcare professionals are concerned the proposals will have an adverse impact on postgraduate medical education and training
- Healthcare professionals are unsure about the implications for postgraduate medical education and training if these are conducted by any willing provider
- The current system of postgraduate medical training under the umbrella of the Deanery structure is becoming highly effective
- Local educational policies may restrict innovation and development.

### The arguments

In response to the very real perception of threat, the RCOG believes:

- More clarity is required on the potentially damaging effect of the fragmentation of services and the knock-on effects on education, training and research
- Clarity is also needed on the language and CPD requirements for non-UK qualified healthcare professionals contracted by any willing providers
- Clarity is needed on whose responsibility it is to monitor and regulate education and training undertaken by any willing providers
- Clauses are needed to protect education, training and research in the NHS
- Clauses are needed to ensure that any willing providers are involved in the provision of education and training, working closely with the Deaneries and Trusts.

The main issue is that Independent Sector Providers have in the past been at liberty to choose the services to provide and the patients they want to treat. This has had an adverse effect on education, training and research opportunities. Independent Sector Providers are not subject to the same requirements as the NHS and therefore do not have to provide training. Cherry picking simple procedures in this sector may deprive individuals from training opportunities in the training hospitals.

### The RCOG's position

To help ensure appropriate governance and to instil public confidence in the system, the Government must:

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- Ensure that the Deanery structure is maintained
  - Ensure some national input and control over workforce planning for the specialties
  - Ensure that any willing providers provide a wide range of medical and clinical services and not just the ones they want
  - Ensure that legal mechanisms are in place to make any willing providers provide education, training and research
  - Ensure that healthcare professionals contracted by any willing providers are subject to the same regulatory requirements in education, training and CPD as those working in the NHS
  - Ensure a reporting framework exists to check on the provision of education and training by any willing providers
  - Ensure that the Royal Medical Colleges who are the custodians of the postgraduate specialty curricula, are actively involved in advising and approving education and training provided by any willing providers.

## **RCOG**

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