

EOE Resident Doctors Forum – Meeting minutes

Date: 21 September 2026

Time: 13:00- 14:00

Duration: 1 Hour

Chair : Dr Nafisa Yousufzai – GPST3, Trainee Communication and Engagement Fellow 2025/2026

Attendees: Postgraduate Dean Prof Bill Irish, Trainee representatives from multiple specialties (Luton GP, Public Health, Rehab Medicine, General Surgery, Histopathology, Hematology, Psychiatry, Anaesthetics, Paediatrics, Infectious Diseases, ENT, Dental Foundation Programme).

Guest: Deputy Postgraduate Dean Dr Christopher O'LOUGHLIN

Resident Forum Discussions and Feedback

- The forum discussed issues like access to agendas, website usability, and meeting format preferences.
- Participants favored online meetings for convenience and suggested gathering feedback to improve communication.

Updates on previous meeting action plans:

- On-call rooms being charged to Trainees now resolved after discussing in 10 point plan meeting and trainees get re-imbursement for it from their respective trusts.
- Ongoing debate for standardization of SDT for foundation doctors and GPST Doctors in their hospital placement. More updates will be taken from BMA representative.
- Regarding Study budget discrepancies across Trusts & Deaneries, Dr Christopher O'LOUGHLIN joined the meeting and updated on below points:
 - No Individual Study Budget: The previous system of individual annual study budgets has been replaced by a pooled system. Funding is now allocated per trainee (about £812/year, diluted to roughly £700 due to non-tariff posts and admin costs), with around £400 per trainee available for aspirational activities after mandatory expenses.
 - Curriculum-required courses are fully funded, while aspirational activities (e.g., conferences, exam prep) are subject to available funds and require TPD approval. There is no strict cap, but spending is monitored to ensure fairness.
 - Trainees highlighted differences between regions in funding specialist courses such as ADOS/ADI-R and tropical medicine training.

Answer by Deputy Dean : There may be regional differences in funding depending on what is included in local training programmes. Where a course is not included, trainees can discuss a strong case for aspirational funding with their TPD. Funding should be considered

across the full training period, and regional variation may reflect differences in locally organised teaching.

- Partial self-funding may disadvantage LTFT and other trainees with less ability to meet additional costs; equity should be considered when allocating funding.
- Exam Fee Reimbursement: As part of the government-BMA deal, two sittings per exam taken after April 2026 will be reimbursed, though the mechanism is still being finalized.

Specialty-Specific Concerns:

- **GP Trainees:** Difficulty accessing funding for women's health courses, with calls for these to be considered curriculum requirements. Deputy Dean is calling for strengthening local teaching to cover curriculum required topics rather than attending aspirational courses.
- **Infectious Diseases:** Lack of funding for the Diploma of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, unlike other deaneries. Deputy dean responded that the course is not currently a mandatory curriculum requirement for infectious disease trainees, limiting funding eligibility. However, Dean will discuss it further and will feedback to relevant bodies.
- **Histopathology:** Request to expand training posts at Addenbrooke's Hospital to allow longer rotations and broader exposure. Dean and Deputy Dean confirmed that expanding histopathology training posts is under discussion mainly at ST1 levels however for higher-grade posts, expansion is possible, subject to Trust capacity and funding.

Other issues discussed:

- ARCPs: Should be held in absentia, with face-to-face discussions reserved for non-standard outcomes.
- Concerns were raised about NHS booking systems sometimes being more expensive than external options. Cost-effectiveness should be reviewed.