

BY EMAIL

To: Trainees

East of England Office
Directorate of
Education & Quality
Victoria House
Capital Park, Fulbourn
Cambridge, CB21 5XB



19 March 2020

Dear Colleague

We appreciate that this is a difficult time, and one that nobody has had any past experience to prepare for. Decisions are being made quickly to respond to the growing national need, and many of you will feel that your voice and wishes are unheard. This is not the case, we are balancing very carefully our decisions, weighing national need as well as your personal development.

As you are aware, we are at the point of an increase in Covid-19 cases. Our central discussions have emphasised the need to prioritise clinical and patient centred responsibilities. You are aware of the central decision to not rotate trainees into their next placements (April 2020), as communicated to you yesterday. In view of this most recent guidance, and considering other practical ramifications, we are now advising the following:

ST3 GP Trainees

All ST3 GP trainees will remain working in their current practice

If any out-of-sync GP trainee is due to rotate into their ST3 GP placement over the next 4 months, they will remain in their current hospital placement, or an alternative placement as specified by the relevant hospital trust

ST1 and ST2 GP Trainees

Where GP trainees are currently working in a GP placement, they should remain in that placement until August 2020.

Where GP trainees are currently working in a hospital placement, they should remain in a hospital placement. The Director of Medical Education (DME) of the trust, working with the medical staffing department, will coordinate which department the trainee will be placed in. This placement will continue until August 2020.

We are aware that GP trainees who are currently pregnant may be concerned about the best placement for them to be working in. We have discussed this with the lead employer and have agreed some potential options. Please can we ask that any GP trainee who is pregnant contacts their host placement in the first instance to discuss any appropriate adjustments. If following these

conversations, you remain concerned, please seek further advice from your TPD and the Lead Employer.

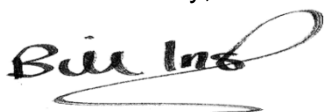
We know that this may be very disappointing for you, and that you will have made plans and decisions based upon your anticipated rotation. However, this is a unique event within our lifetime practice, and we all need to be responsive to our country's healthcare needs.

We hope that this provides clarity. Please be assured that we are all balancing many responsibilities, including clinical care, and we recognise that you are too.

This is a very difficult time, we are really grateful for your professionalism. If you have any particular queries, please contact Covid19-psw.eoe@hee.nhs.uk.

With very best wishes

Yours Sincerely,



Professor Bill Irish
Regional Postgraduate Dean
(GMC 3132872)



Dr Janet Rutherford
Head of School of General Practice
(GMC 3064308)