

BY EMAIL

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

18 March 2020

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Dear Colleague,

## COVID-19 – supporting the NHS clinical response

We are writing in response to the latest developments in the spread of COVID-19. As you might expect, there is likely to be a need for significantly more experienced clinicians to be available to the NHS over the next few months.

We are therefore writing to ask if you would agree to be seconded back to the NHS from your academic work, for the immediate future. We do not know how long that would be for – but we can assure you that it will be for no longer than is necessary.

While we cannot speak for the universities and academic funders, we understand they would support academic trainees devoting themselves fully to clinical work at this time. In particular, please do not be concerned about any deadlines for submitting your academic work, as appropriate pauses or extensions will be made.

Please do speak to your research funder first about what approach you should take, but otherwise **we would be grateful if you could complete the attached form from your Regional Postgraduate Dean and return to your local HEE office/Deanery at [edit.eoe@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:edit.eoe@hee.nhs.uk) by Friday 20 March to say if you are willing to help, so we can factor this into the regional contingency planning.**

Many thanks for your help.

Yours Sincerely,

**Professor Wendy Reid**  
Executive Director of Education and Quality  
& National Medical Director  
Health Education England

**Professor Bill Irish**  
Regional Postgraduate Dean  
Health Education England –  
East of England