



5 September 1995

Dear Colleague

**SCOTTISH HEALTH SERVICE;
SPECIALIST REGISTRAR: INITIAL NUMBERS**

Summary

1. This circular sets out the initial numbers of doctors by region for the new Specialist Registrar (SpR) grade, which will be introduced throughout the United Kingdom by specialty during the year commencing 1 December 1995.

Action

2. The background to the changeover to the new grade is given in Appendix A. NHS Trusts, Health Boards and the Common Services Agency are asked to ensure that the Specialist Registrar numbers set out in Appendix B are established and maintained.

3. In a few specialties the number of senior registrars and other doctors meeting the entry criteria for the new grade may exceed the Specialist Registrar numbers set out in Appendix B. In these specialties the employers in the regions concerned and the Postgraduate Deans should not recruit further until the numbers have come into line.

4. The numbers in Appendix B supersede the totals of the 1995 Senior Registrar Establishment and the 1996 Career Register targets set out in Appendices B and C of MEL(1995)30. These initial numbers will take effect from each Specialty Commissioning Date.

5. Postgraduate Deans will issue each doctor entering the SpR grade with an individual Scottish National Training Number (SNTN) which he or she will hold until he or she leaves the grade.

Addressees

For action:

Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

General Managers, Health boards

Executive Director, Scottish Council
for Postgraduate Medical and Dental
Education

Postgraduate Deans and Directors

General Manager, Common Services
Agency

General Manager, State Hospital

For information:

General Manager, Health Education
Board for Scotland

Enquiries to:

Mr C J Fazakerley
Directorate of Human Resources
NHS Management Executive
Room 62
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 2515
Fax: 0131-244 2837

6. Employers and Postgraduate Deans must ensure that posts have been approved as training posts by the appropriate Joint Committee on Higher Training before they fill them.

7. Part-time and supernumerary posts are not included in the numbers given in Appendix B but postholders will be eligible to transfer to the Specialist Registrar grade. Individuals who transfer will be issued with an SNTN by their Postgraduate Dean. Part-time training opportunities should continue to be made available for candidates unable for well-founded reasons to work full-time, following the principles set out in MEL(1993)43.

8. This circular has not given any breakdown of the figures between different Trusts within a Region. The distribution of the posts will be determined locally in discussions between Postgraduate Deans and individual employers.

Yours sincerely



M R SIBBALD
Director of Human Resources

**APPENDIX A TO NHS MEL(1995)
SPECIALIST REGISTRAR: INITIAL NUMBERS**

1. This Appendix sets out the background to the initial numbers of doctors for the Specialist Registrar (SpR) grade. Guidance will be issued separately on the details of the transitional arrangements.

Introduction of the SpR grade

2. The Specialist Registrar (SpR) is the new grade being introduced following the recommendations of The Report of the Working Group on Specialist Medical Training, Hospital Doctors: Training for the Future (the Calman Report, 1993). It will replace the present career and senior registrar grades.

3. The SpR grade will be introduced by specialty. Transitional arrangements for the grade will commence on the Grade Commissioning Date (expected to be 1 December 1995) which is the date when the grade is commissioned throughout the United Kingdom. A Specialty Commissioning Date (which should be within 12 months of the Grade Commissioning Date) will be announced for each specialty or group of specialties. This marks the beginning of the transitional period for that specialty after which recruitment to the existing career registrar and senior registrar grades ceases within the specialty. It is hoped that the transitional period will be completed in as short a time as practicable.

4. Senior registrars may opt either to continue as senior registrars or to become specialist registrars. In either case they will be counted as part of the SpR numbers and be issued with a Scottish National Training Number (SNTN).

Initial numbers

5. The initial numbers in the various specialties have been derived partly from Trusts' estimates of the future number of consultant appointments needed and partly from the expected numbers of doctors eligible to transfer to the new grade. The SpR numbers will be reviewed at regular intervals.

6. Allocations between NHS senior registrar posts and university posts (honorary) have always been flexible. Adjustments between the 2 types of SpR post within individual specialties can be made by mutual agreement during the year without reference to the Management Executive so long as the relevant regional specialty number is not exceeded.

7. One post within the medical paediatrics establishment for each Region (and in the West 2 posts) should be used for training in paediatrics with a special interest in community child health.

8. The Department will consider proposals to create supernumerary posts on a personal basis for full-time or part-time specialist registrars mainly or exclusively engaged on research work, as has been done for senior registrars, provided that educational approval has previously been obtained from the appropriate Joint Committee on Higher Training. Employers should not create such posts without Management Executive approval.

9. The 33 posts in Public Health Medicine remain as set out in MEL(1995)30.
10. Regional Postgraduate Medical Education Committees will need to take into consideration both the local services and the training requirements of each post. Other changes to medical staff deployment may be required to ensure that the quality of care and delivery of services are maintained and improved. Attention will need to be given to ensuring that the number of hours worked by doctors in the training grades is kept within New Deal limits.

APPENDIX B TO NHS MEL(1995)

INITIAL SPECIALIST REGISTRAR NUMBERS BY SPECIALTY

SPECIALTY	WEST	SOUTH EAST	EAST	NORTH/ NORTH EAST	TOTAL
MEDICAL SPECIALTIES	455	291	121	155	1,030¹
HOSPITAL SPECIALTIES	439	284	118	150	997²
ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY MEDICINE	12	6	2	3	23
ANAESTHETICS	62	34	16	18	130
CLINICAL LABORATORY SPECIALTIES	44	26	10	16	102²
Blood transfusion	-	-	-	-	6
Clinical chemistry	6	2	2	2	12
Clinical genetics	6	2	-	2	10
Haematology	7	5	2	3	17
Histopathology	14	10	4	7	35
Immunology	2	-	-	-	2
Microbiology and virology	9	7	2	2	20
MEDICAL SPECIALTIES	119	84	33	36	272
Dermatology	6	4	2	2	14
General medicine (group) ³	52	37	16	20	125
Genito-urinary medicine	5	4	-	-	9
Geriatric medicine	12	6	3	3	24
Homeopathy	1	-	-	-	1
Medical oncology	2	3	-	1	6
Medical paediatrics	24	14	8	10	56
Neurology	5	3	1	-	9
Palliative medicine	3	3	2	-	8
Radiotherapy	6	6	-	-	12
Rehabilitation medicine	3	4	1	-	8
OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY	26	18	9	10	63
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	1	1	1	-	3

¹ Includes 6 posts in blood transfusion and 2 posts in public health medicine deployed by the Common Services Agency.

² Includes 6 posts in blood transfusion deployed by the Common Services Agency

³ General medicine group covers general medicine, communicable diseases, cardiology, clinical pharmacology and therapeutics, endocrinology and diabetes, gastroenterology, rheumatology and respiratory medicine.

SPECIALTY	WEST	SOUTH EAST	EAST	NORTH/ NORTH EAST	TOTAL
PSYCHIATRIC SPECIALTIES	42	33	17	19	111
Child and adolescent psychiatry	9	4	3	3	19
Forensic psychiatry	3	3	3	-	9
General psychiatry	20	18	9	12	59
Mental handicap	3	3	1	-	7
Old age psychiatry	6	4	1	4	15
Psychotherapy	1	1	-	-	2
RADIOLOGY	35	20	2	12	69
Diagnostic radiology	34	20	2	12	68
Nuclear medicine	1	-	-	-	1
SURGICAL SPECIALTIES	95	61	28	35	219
Cardiothoracic surgery	4	2	-	2	8
ENT surgery	10	7	2	3	22
General surgery	24	16	8	10	58
Neurosurgery	6	2	1	1	10
Ophthalmology	13	8	6	6	33
Orthopaedic surgery	20	11	8	10	49
Plastic surgery	6	4	1	1	12
Surgical paediatrics	2	2	-	-	4
Urology	10	9	2	2	23
OTHER SPECIALTIES	3	1	-	1	5
Neurophysiology	1	-	-	-	1
Intensive therapy	2	1	-	1	4
<hr/>					
PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE	16	7	3	5	33¹

¹ Includes 2 posts deployed by the Commons Services Agency.