



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Department of Health

COMMON SERVICES AGENCY
GENERAL MANAGER
TRINITY PARK HOUSE

NHS
MEL(1997)22

NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

22 April 1997

Dear Colleague

DENTAL SPECIALIST REGISTRAR NUMBERS 1997-98

Summary

1. This circular advises NHS Trusts, the Scottish Council for Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education (SCPMDE) and Health Boards of the number of posts for dentists in higher specialist training.
2. Appendix A sets out the background to the number of posts in the Specialist Registrar (SpR) grade. Guidance on the transitional arrangements to the new grade will be issued in due course.
3. Appendix B sets out the planned distribution for Specialist Registrars by specialty and by region. The numbers supersede the totals of the 1995 Senior Registrar establishment and 1996 Career Registrar targets set out in MEL(1995)53.

Action

4. NHS Trusts, SCPMDE and Health Boards should maintain staffing levels and move towards the numbers set out as soon as practicable. These numbers will take effect after each Specialty Commissioning Date.
5. NHS Trusts and Health Boards must ensure that posts have been approved as training posts by the Dental Director of SCPMDE.

Yours sincerely

Jane A M McGregor

MISS J A MCGREGOR
Acting Director of Human Resources

**FOR
REFERENCE ONLY**

Addressees

For action:

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- General Managers, Health Boards
- Executive Director and Dental Director, Scottish Council for Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education
- Deans of Dental Schools
- Clinical Directors, Dundee and Edinburgh Dental Hospitals
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SCOTTISH HEALTH SERVICE COMMON SERVICES AGENCY TRINITY PARK HOUSE	
CLASS	
AGG. 12-11: 100369	
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APPENDIX A

SPECIALIST REGISTRAR NUMBERS 1997-98

Introduction

1. The Specialist Registrar (SpR) grade, is the new grade being introduced following the recommendations of the Calman report, 1993 and the Report of the Chief Dental Officer to England, *UK Specialist Dental Training*. The new grade will replace the present career and senior registrar grades.
2. Information on the implementation of the reforms to specialist dental training is provided in the *Interim Dental Supplement to A guide to Specialist Registrar training* (August 1996). Further guidance on the transitional arrangements to the new grade will be issued in due course.
3. The SpR grade will be introduced by specialty. A Specialty Commissioning Date will be announced for each specialty or groups of specialties. This will mark the beginning of the transitional period for that specialty, after which recruitment to the existing senior registrar and career registrar grades ceases within the specialty.
4. Appendix 3 of *A guide to Specialist Registrar training* sets out the requirements for establishing a commissioning date for SpR training. At present it is not possible to publish dates for commissioning SpR training in the dental specialties.
5. For the time being therefore, the current arrangements will continue and Trusts and Boards, in concert with the Dental Director of SCPMDE, should continue to appoint specialist trainees in the dental specialties as Career or Senior Registrars rather than Specialist Registrars. Present career registrar and senior registrar recruitment procedures should apply until individual specialties begin their transition.

Numbers

6. Initial numbers in the various specialties have been mainly based on NHS Trusts' and Health Board's forecasts of the numbers of new consultant posts, estimates of retireals, and returns on vacant consultant posts at September 1995. Account has been taken of the views of the Advisory Committee on Dental Establishments (ACDE) which, as part of its annual review of dental workforce numbers in Scotland, made recommendations about the initial numbers of dental specialist registrars.
7. Proposed increases will need to be phased in by the Dental Director as the Specialist Registrar grade comes 'on stream' to provide a smooth transition to the new Specialist Registrar training schemes, and it may not be practicable for the proposed numbers in the specialties to be attained in 1997-98.
8. For the purpose of workforce planning, the numbers set out in Appendix B represent the numbers of dentists in higher specialist training who have a right to make their careers in the UK. This means career registrars, senior registrars and specialist registrars. Visiting

registrars and specialist registrars whose training number has a V-prefix may be employed in addition to these numbers (as they are assumed not to be making their careers in the UK). Doctors in flexible (part-time) training or in supernumerary posts may also be employed in addition.

Part-Time Posts

9. Part-time posts (flexible training) are additional to the numbers given in Appendix B, but postholders who meet the educational criteria will be eligible to transfer to the Specialist Registrar grade. Individuals who transfer will be issued with an Scottish National Training Number by the Dental Director. 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.

Supernumerary Posts

10. Supernumerary posts are also additional to the number given in Appendix B. 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 Dental Director. Employers may create such posts only with Management Executive approval.

Distribution between NHS and Universities

11. Allocation of numbers 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 during the year without reference to the Management Executive, so long as the relevant regional specialty number is not exceeded and there is agreement between the Trust, the university and SCPMDE.

Distribution between Trusts within a Region

12. 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 discussion between the Dental Director and individual employers.

Overall Total

13. The overall total Specialist Registrar establishment for the dental specialties has been increased from the numbers in the career and senior registrar grades set out in NHS Circular MEL(1995)53 and is now 61.

APPENDIX B

DENTAL SPECIALIST REGISTRAR NUMBERS 1997-98

Specialty	Region	NHS	Hon	TOTAL
Oral Surgery ¹	East		2	2
	S East	4		4
	West	8	2	10
	Scotland	12	4	16
Oral Medicine and Additional Dental Specialties	East	1	1	2
	S East			0
	West	1	2	3
	Scotland	2	3	5
Restorative Dentistry (including Prosthetics Periodontics and Conservation)	East	1	3	4
	S East	3		3
	West	3	1	4
	Scotland	7	4	15 ²
Orthodontics	East	2	2	4
	S East	3		3
	West	5	1	6
	Scotland	10	3	16 ²
Paediatric Dentistry	East	1		1
	S East	1		1
	West	1	2	3
	Scotland	3	2	5
Dental Public Health	West	3	1	4
	Scotland	3	1	4
All Dental Specialties	East	5	8	13
	S East	11		11
	West	21	9	30
	Scotland	37	17	61 ²

Notes

- 1 Oral surgery includes oral and maxillo facial surgery.
- 2 The 4 additional posts in restorative dentistry and 3 in orthodontics will be allocated by SCPMDE in due course.