

JRCPTB

Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board

JRCPTB fee increase - interim response to concerns

The JRCPTB is aware of the dismay expressed by some trainees following the recent announcement of an increase in fees payable to the JRCPTB. Some commentators rather unfairly characterised the fee change as being an increase of 22%, which is misleading. It is worth explaining that the Federation originally agreed a fee increase of £10 per annum, the first for three years (equivalent to 2.6% per year), and roughly in line with inflation. NHS Education Scotland subsequently announced that it would have to introduce a charge for ePortfolio usage of £18 per trainee per annum. Unfortunately, the JRCPTB had no alternative but to pass this charge on to trainees.

Although the majority of trainees are using the ePortfolio, there are doctors working on older curricula who do not have ePortfolio accounts. The Board did not wish to introduce a financial disincentive to ePortfolio uptake and therefore did not suggest a fee differential. We will however undertake a detailed analysis of ePortfolio usage to see whether the initial charge for the ePortfolio could be reduced followed by a phased increase linked to ePortfolio uptake.

We also acknowledge that there has been a failure of communication with the Royal Colleges of Physicians' trainee committees. Plans are being drawn up with the trainee committees to improve the way in which the JRCPTB engages with trainees and improves consultation on key issues of concern.

Professor Bill Burr
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