

Ref: SR1-1801069663

General  
Medical  
Council

24 March 2020

Mr Gareth Griffiths – Chair of JCST  
Dr Paul Sadler – Lead Dean, Improving Surgical Training

Sent via email

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Dear Gareth and Paul

**Re: COVID-19 and IST benchmarking**

Thank you for your letter of 18 March notifying us that, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, IST trainees transitioning from ST2 to ST3 in 2020 will not be required to take part in national recruitment selection for the purpose of benchmarking and evaluation of the pilot. You have also indicated that you will not be in a position to provide an initial evaluation report by the requested deadline of 1 July 2020 as it is expected that ARCP outcomes could be delayed.

We recognise that this is an unprecedented scenario and requires action that is pragmatic and prioritises the safety of doctors and changing needs of the health service. We are therefore happy to receive the report of the first cohort by 31 December 2020, assuming that other relevant outcome data are available by that time.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at [quality@gmc-uk.org](mailto:quality@gmc-uk.org) should you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Jane Cannon  
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