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Department of Health
Common Services Agency
St Andrew's House
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NHS
MEL(1999)20

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

Dear Colleague

DENTAL SPECIALIST REGISTRAR NUMBERS 1999 AND 2000

Summary

1. This circular advises NHS Trusts, Health Boards and the Scottish Council for Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education (SCPMDE) of the numbers 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.
3. Appendix B sets out the indicative distribution of posts by speciality and by region.
4. Health Boards should note that the revised allocation of registrars will redistribute some registrars to take account of manpower needs and the new specialities recognised by the General Dental Council. This is most apparent in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Health Boards should review their service provision accordingly.

Action

5. NHS Trusts, SCPMDE and Health Boards should move towards the new numbers as soon as practicable. It is the responsibility of SCPMDE to manage the change.
6. NHS Trusts and Health Boards must ensure that posts have been approved as training posts by the Director of Postgraduate Dental Education at SCPMDE before they advertise.

Yours sincerely

GERRY MARR
Director of Human Resources

RSM00229

5th March 1999

Addressees

For action:
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APPENDIX A

DENTAL SPECIALIST REGISTRAR NUMBERS 1999 and 2000

Background

1. Each year the Department in consultation with the Director of Postgraduate Dental Education at the Scottish Council for Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education (SCPMDE), sets the numbers of Specialist Registrar (SpR) training posts available in Scotland in the dental specialities. The table at Appendix B gives details of the new establishment.

Numbers

2. Numbers of SpR training posts are geared to the expected numbers of consultants' posts available to those who complete their training. These are mainly based on the Health Boards' forecasts of the numbers of new consultant posts, estimates of retirements and returns on vacant consultant posts made to the Department during 1998. The numbers have been discussed and agreed by the Advisory Committee on Dental Establishments (ACDE).

3. Recipients should note that the numbers in Appendix B are different from and supersede those published in MEL(1997)22. The change from the previous numbers to the new numbers should be managed through SCPMDE and specifically through the Dental Director. In order to facilitate the changes to the numbers in each speciality, Trusts should discuss and confirm all SpR posts with the Dental Director before advertising. This is particularly pertinent in the specialities of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, Oral Surgery and Surgical Dentistry. In these specialities the new training posts **must** be discussed with the Dental Director.

Distribution of training posts

Across regions

4. It should be noted that the distribution of training posts is indicative. Within the numbers set down by the Department, SCPMDE has the ability to move or allocate posts throughout Scotland provided there is educational approval.

Between NHS and Universities

5. Allocation of numbers between NHS posts and university (honorary) posts has always been flexible. This year it has been decided by the Advisory Committee on Dental Establishments (ACDE) that an establishment figure of 15 honorary SpRs should be set for Scotland as a whole and that these posts should be used in a flexible way where needed. The allocation of all honorary SpR posts must be undertaken in discussion with SCPMDE. ACDE should be given an annual update on how these posts are being used.

APPENDIX A

Between Trusts within a region

6. Distribution of posts will be determined locally in discussion between the Dental Director (SCPMDE) and individual employers (Trusts).

Conclusion

The management of SpR numbers is an important part of dental workforce planning and of ACDE's overall remit. Health Boards are asked to note that the information provided by them annually in response to the Department's request on retirements and vacancies is an essential element of the workforce planning process, and should be completed as accurately as possible.

APPENDIX B

DENTAL SPECIALIST REGISTRAR NUMBERS 1999 AND 2000

Speciality	Region	1999	2000
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery (5 years)	East	0	0
	S. East	3	2
	West	5	4
	Scotland	8	6
Oral Surgery & Surgical Dentistry (4/3 years)	East	1	2
	S. East	1	2
	West	2	2
	Scotland	4	6
Additional Dental Specialities including Oral Medicine (4/3 years)	East	1	1
	S. East	0	0
	West	1	1
	Scotland	2	2
Restorative Dentistry (5 years)	East	1*	1*
	S. East	2	1
	West	4+	4+
	Scotland	7	6
Monospecialities (3 years)	East	1*	1*
	S. East	1*	1*
	West	1	1
	Scotland	3	3
Orthodontics (3 years)	East	1	1
	S. East	4*	4*
	West	5*	5*
	Scotland	10	10
Additional Hospital Orthodontic Training Posts (2 years)	East	1	1
	S. East	1	1
	West	2	1
	Scotland	4	3

APPENDIX B

DENTAL SPECIALIST REGISTRAR NUMBERS 1999 AND 2000 (CONT)

Speciality	Region	1999	2000
Paediatric Dentistry (3 years)	East	1	1
	S. East	1	1
	West	0	0
	Scotland	2	2
Additional Hospital Paediatric Dentistry Training Posts (2 years)	East	0	
	S. East	0	0
	West	1	1
	Scotland	1	1
Dental Public Health (4 years)	East	0	0
	S. East	1	1
	West	2	2
	Scotland	3	3
All Dental Specialities	East	7	8
	S. East	14	13
	West	23	21
	Scotland	44	42

*1 NHS Funded Lectureship
+2 NHS Funded Lectureships