From April 2013 the Health and Social Care Bill came into force. The bill has wide ranging implications for all health and social care organisations.

In practical terms the function of the Wessex Deanery remains unchanged. However we now form part of Health Education Wessex as part of Health Education England. You’ll notice a slightly refreshed design to this newsletter, and we hope you like it!

In terms of revalidation the biggest change is that your Designated Body (DB) will now be Wessex LETB and not Wessex Deanery. Although Dr Simon Plint remains the Postgraduate Dean and will continue to be the responsible officer for all doctors in training in the Wessex region.

Your GMC Online account should already have been updated to reflect this change. Email addresses within the “Deanery” have been updated to reflect the change to the organisation and now all end with @wessex.hee.nhs.uk

Please ensure you update your safe senders lists.

GMC Online is the portal through which all doctors can access their details held by the GMC. Held in the system, amongst other things, is your DB and your Revalidation submission date. The Wessex Team undertook considerable work to update these records at the end of 2012, however there has been a delay in this information being consolidated by the GMC. Please bear with us whilst this issue is resolved.

For the purpose of the Enhanced ARCP and RITA all doctors in training are required to complete a Form R prior to each assessment.

The first part of the “self declaration” section concerns scope of practice. You are required to input both your substantive training posts, as well as any additional work that you undertake outside of training. This does not include back fill shifts in your own Trust in your own Specialty, only locum shifts outside of your Specialty and/or Trust.

The Work Outside of Training (WOT) form is available as a reflection tool for any work that you do outside of your substantive training post. It is available from the Wessex Deanery website.

Further information about work outside of training is featured on page 2 of this bulletin with a statement from Dr Simon Plint, Responsible Officer and Postgraduate Dean in Wessex.

Changes to CCT

From April 2013 the majority of doctors who are due to be awarded their certificate of completion of training (CCT).

Whilst the GMC have made clear that they intend the majority of doctors in training to revalidate at this point there will inevitably be some doctors who have significant changes to their original completion dates, for example less than full time training, OOP, maternity/paternity leave, or time spent abroad between training programmes and revalidation may be required at a revised or additional point.

If your CCT date changes, or you are due to be on maternity leave or absent from programme at your submission date please contact the revalidation team.

The GMC will not amend your submission date, it must be amended by your responsible officer, this is a relatively simple process but currently cannot be done until you are officially “under notice” i.e. within 3 months of your revalidation date.
Work Outside of Training

Dr Simon Plint, Responsible Officer and Postgraduate Dean has issued a letter to all new doctors joining the Wessex region. One section of this letter concerns work outside of training and his expectations of doctors who are in a substantive training post in the region. The section is detailed below and you can access the full letter via the Wessex website.

“...[I have] concern... around trainees working extra hours or taking on extra roles, over and above their contract of employment. For example, we have been made aware that trainees are undertaking locums outside their main contract or are taking on additional roles (either voluntary or paid ones).

The Deanery’s concern is that additional work might adversely impact on your practice and / or your training.

If you are undertaking locum work, or intend to, you must discuss this with your Educational Supervisors, who must be aware of what is happening so that you can be advised of what is safe practice.

It is of concern to us that some trainees’ additional roles might be outside the area of expertise that the trainee may currently be expected to have and we are unclear how trainees are being supervised in these circumstances. Once again, if you are taking on any voluntary work that requires you to use your medical skills, or other paid employment while in training, you must discuss this with your Educational Supervisor who will, if necessary, discuss this with the Deanery.

With regard to overall working time, we would like to remind you that Working Time Regulations state that you should not be working more than 48 hours a week and that you should be taking rest breaks and periods. Whilst it is possible that some trainees will have agreed a personal derogation from this limit with their employers, trainees must remember their obligations to maintain good and safe practice. You should also remember that your contracts of employment will generally impose a maximum of 56 working hours in a given week and that you must still abide by rest periods.

...this letter ...will stand as a clear indication of the standards that we expect from all trainees within the Wessex Deanery i.e. to work within the GMC Good Medical Practice requirements.

If you have any queries or questions about this, please don’t hesitate to contact me or discuss the situation with your Educational Supervisor or Director of Medical Education within the Trust you are working in. “

- Dr Simon Plint, Responsible Officer and Postgraduate Dean, Health Education Wessex

Contacts and Web Links

You can contact the revalidation team via email on revalidation@wessex.hee.nhs.uk or telephone 01962 718413. Your queries will be dealt with as soon as possible, but complex queries can take some time to resolve. Please do consult the links below to see if your query can be answered via the website. Your Programme Management Team or Training Programme Director may also be able to help.

Deanery Website:  http://www.wessexdeanery.nhs.uk/trainee_revalidation.aspx

GMC Website:   http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/12383.asp

RST Website:  http://www.revalidationsupport.nhs.uk/index.php

Department of Health statement on Revalidation:  http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/10/revalidation-starts/