2016 PLASTIC SURGERY WORKFORCE UK and Republic of Ireland

Profile and Analysis



FOREWORD

I am very grateful to everyone concerned in producing this valuable report, and in particular Richard Haywood and Sharon Ross. Yet again we have a 100% response rate, a tribute to everyone's hard work in determining all the numbers.

The expansion in consultant posts despite the dire financial state of the NHS confirms the value of plastic and reconstructive surgery to patients. This has been shown particularly in the specialty's role in treating patients after recent tragic trauma events.

Despite a worrying national fall in the number of recently qualified doctors interested in a career in surgery, it is very encouraging that plastic surgery continues to attract excellent trainees. Plastic surgery is the second most popular surgical specialty for women, a welcome and pleasing position - I hope we will become the most popular soon. All the incoming trainees are keen and very bright, and these attributes bode well for developing and improving care of our patients in the future. They, and our patients, have a good future ahead.

David Ward

Sanishand

President

British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons 2017 – 2018

Who is the Survey About?

This provides important workforce data on plastic surgery consultants, specialty doctors and trainees practicing in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It is based on their employment status as at 31st December 2016.

The information enclosed is based on 578 Consultants, 55 Locum Consultants, 212 Specialty Doctors and 498 Trainees (Foundation years and specialty surgical training years) based in 69 plastic surgery units (61 units in UK, 8 units in Republic of Ireland).

It is important to note that in all previous years, James Cook University Hospitals' results were mistakenly included in Yorkshire and the Humber. This survey has corrected this and included their results in the North East.



Regional Units

- 1. East of England
- 2. East Midlands
- 3. London
- 4. North East
- 5. North West
- 6. South Central
- 7. South East

- 8. South West
- 9. West Midlands
- 10. Yorkshire & The Humber
- 11. Wales
- 12. Scotland
- 13. Northern Ireland
- 14. Republic of Ireland

2016 WORKFORCE LINKPERSONS

East Midlands	Kettering General Hospital	Thangasamy Sankar
	Leicester Royal Infirmary	Matt Smith
	Northampton General Hospital	Michael McKiernan
	Nottingham University Hospital	Anna Raurell
	Royal Derby Hospital/Pulvertaft Hand Centre	Peter Russell
East of England	Addenbrookes Hospital	Sarah Louise Benyon
_act or _mg.a.ra	St Andrews Centre, Broomfield Hospital	Matthew Griffiths
	Hinchingbrooke Hospital	Tony Barabas
	The Lister Hospital	Fred Schreuder
	Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital	Elaine Sassoon
	West Suffolk Hospital	Antony Sillitoe
Northern Ireland	Royal Victoria Hospital/Ulster Hospital	Chris Hill
London	Barts & The London NHS Trust	Raj Ragoowansi
	Charing Cross Hospital	Abhilash Jain
	Chelsea & Westminster Hospital	Richard Young
	Great Ormond Street Hospital	Neil Bulstrode
	Guy's & St Thomas Hospital	Mark Ho-Asjoe
	Royal Free Hospital	Bran Sivakumar
	Royal Marsden Hospital	Kelvin Ramsey
	St George's Hospital	Sonja Cerovac
North East	James Cook University Hospital	Chris Dunkin
	Royal Victoria Infirmary	Peter Hodgkinson
	University Hospital of North Durham	Tom Collin
	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust	Jonathan Powell
North West	Alderhey Children's Hospital	Sian Falder
	Christie NHS Foundation Trust	David Mowatt
	Royal Preston Hospital	S Srinivasan lyer
	The Countess of Chester Hospital	Fahmy Fahmy
	Whiston Hospital	David Bell
	Wythenshawe Hospital/Royal Manchester Childrens Hospital	Kaushik Chakrabarty
Scotland	St John's Hospital at Howden/Royal Hospital for Sick Children	William Anderson
	Aberdeen Royal Infirmary	Ivan Depasquale
	Forth Valley Royal Hospital	Richard Clark
	Glasgow Royal Infirmary	lain Mackay
	Ninewells Hospital	Fiona Hogg
South Central	Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust	Rajan Uppal
	John Radcliffe Hospital	David Coleman
	Mountbatten	Nicholas Bennett
	Buckinhamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	Michael Tyler
South East Coast	Queen Victoria Hospital	John Boorman

2016 WORKFORCE LINKPERSONS (con't)

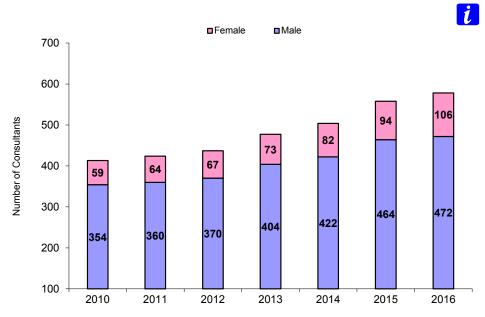
South West	Derriford Hospital	Antony Fitton		
	Southmead Hospital	Sherif Wilson		
	Odstock Ctr for Burns, Plastic & Maxillofacial/Salisbury	Gavin McCoubrey		
	Royal Devon & Exeter Healthcare NHS Trust	David Oliver		
Wales	Morriston Hospital	lan Josty		
West Midlands	Birmingham Children's Hospital	Bruce Richard		
	Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham	Garth Titley		
	Russells Hall Hospital	Simon Wharton		
	Sandwell Healthcare NHS Trust/City Hospital	Effie Katernaki		
	University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire	Tigi Eltigani		
	University Hospital North Staffordshire	Wayne Jaffe		
Yorkshire &	Bradford Royal Infirmary	David Watt		
The Humber	Castle Hill Hospital	Alastair Platt		
	Leeds General Infirmary	Daniel Thornton		
	New Pinderfields Hospital	Alan Phipps		
	Royal Hallamshire/Northern General Hospital	David Lam		
Republic of I	reland			
Cork	Cork University Hospital	Jason Kelly		
Dublin	St James Hospital	Patricia Eadie		
	Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children	Patricia Eadie		
	Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	Kevin Cronin		
	The Children's University Hospital	Kevin Cronin		
	Beaumont Hospital	Brian Kneafsey		
	St Vincent's University Hospital	Sean Carroll		
Galway	University College Hospital	Jack Kelly		

We would like to thank all the 2016 Workforce Linkpersons. Without their assistance, this survey would not be possible.

CONSULTANTS

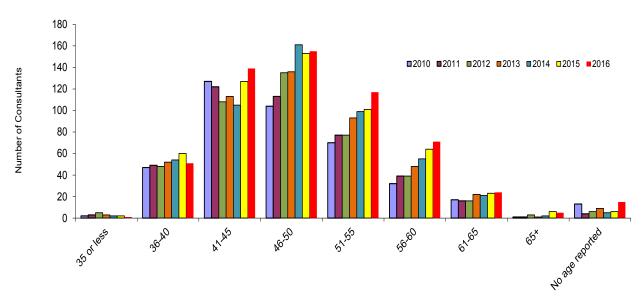
GENDER BREAKDOWN

(Headcount—Substantive Consultants)

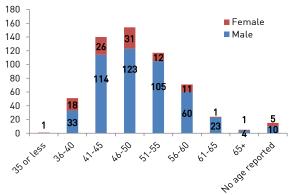


- 2016 represents a total of 578 substantive Consultants of which 548 are from the UK and 30 are from ROI.
- 18% of 2016 Workforce is female with 23% of 35-45 age group being female.
- The Republic of Ireland include 24 Males and 6 Females This is an increase of 3 posts from 2015.
- The overall number of UK substantive consultants has increased by 6% (33 posts) from 2015.

AGE ANALYSIS

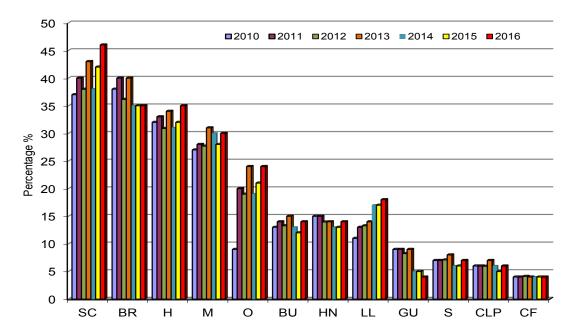


For the fifth year in a row the 46-50 age bracket continues to have the greatest number of consultants (27%), followed by the 41-45 age bracket (24%) for both the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.



CONSULTANT SUB-SPECIALTIES

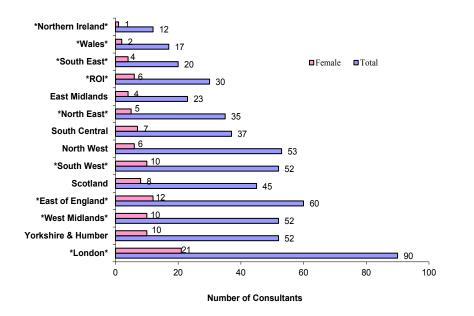
(By Percentage)



BR=Breast, SC=Skin Cancer, H=Hand Upper Limb, M=Microsurgical Reconstruction HN=Head & Neck, BU=Burns, LL=Lower Limb Trauma, GU=Genitourinary, O=Other, S=Sarcoma, CLP=Cleft Lip & Palate, CF=Craniofacial

- Each consultant was given the option of listing a maximum of 3 sub-specialty interests.
- For the fifth year in a row Skin Cancer remains the most reported subspecialty interest followed by Breast.
- 'Other' includes interests in laser surgery, facial palsy, ear reconstruction, paediatrics, scars, perineal, brachial plexus, maxiofacial and nerves.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTANT POSTS

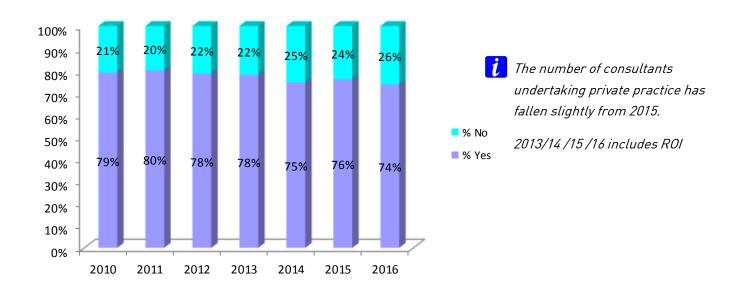




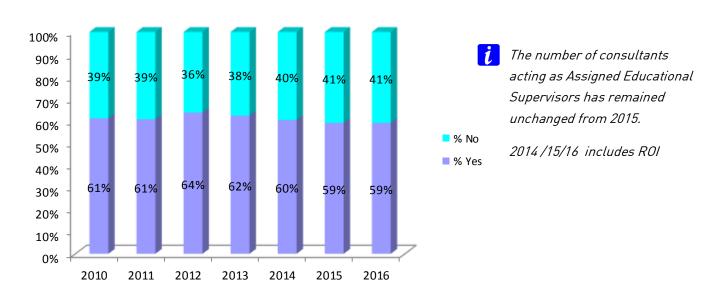
2015 (indicated with *)

Included in this result are Solo NHS Consultants from the following regions: 1 from West Midlands; 2 from South West, 1 from London and 1 from Yorkshire and the Humber.

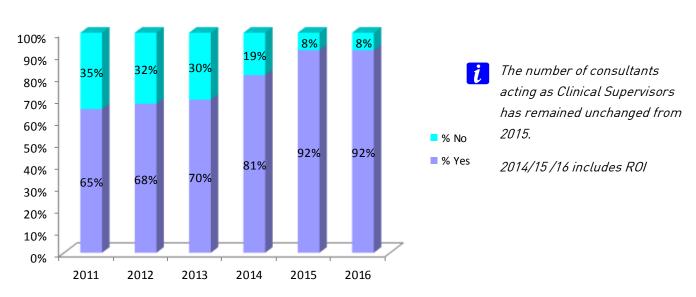
CONSULTANTS UNDERTAKING PRIVATE PRACTICE



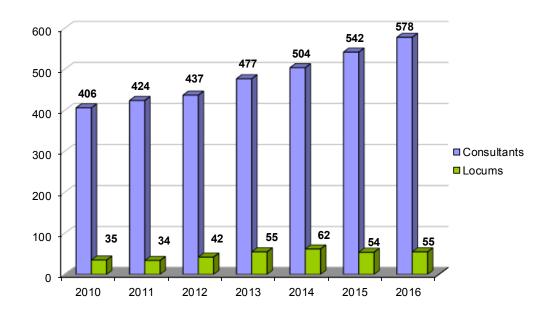
CONSULTANTS ACTING AS ASSIGNED EDUCATIONAL SUPERVISORS



CONSULTANTS ACTING AS CLINICAL SUPERVISORS



CONSULTANTS AND LOCUMS



- The number of UK Locum posts in plastic surgery for 2016 increased by 3 posts
 - The number of UK Consultant posts in plastic surgery for 2016 increased by 6% (37 posts)
 - 2016 includes 30 consultants and 2 locum posts from ROI

SUBSTANTIVE AND LOCUM POSTS

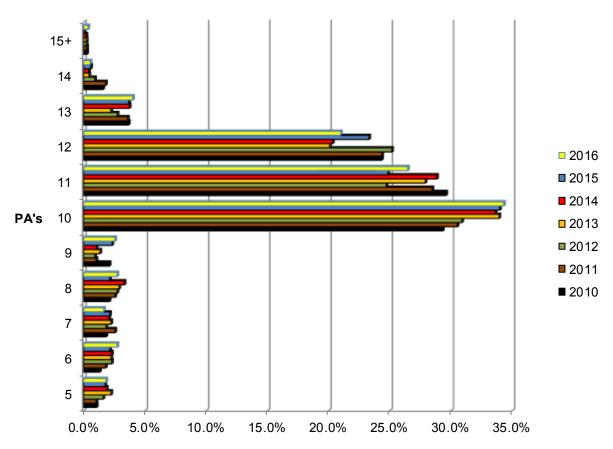
(By Region)

Region	Substantive		Vacancies		NHS		Academic		Military		Locum	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
London	85	90	3	0	82	78	2	11	1	1	11	13
Yorkshire & Humber	58	52	1	1	58	52	0	0	0	0	5	6
East of England	56	60	3	0	56	60	0	0	0	0	9	5
Scotland	46	46	1	2	46	46	0	0	0	0	2	2
West Midlands	50	52	0	0	47	48	0	1	3	3	4	5
South West	44	52	1	0	42	50	0	0	2	2	7	4
North West	53	53	0	0	51	50	2	3	0	0	3	4
South Central	38	37	0	0	32	32	2	2	4	3	4	5
North East	12	35	0	0	12	35	0	0	0	0	1	4
South East	19	20	0	0	19	19	0	0	0	1	1	0
East Midlands	23	18	0	0	23	23	0	0	0	0	5	5
Wales	16	17	1	0	15	15	1	2	0	0	0	0
Northern Ireland	11	12	0	0	11	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Republic of Ireland	27	30	2	1	N/A	30	0	0	0	0	2	2

- i
- Substantive posts include NHS, Academic, Military and vacant posts
- Of the 13 UK regions, 8 regions increased their number of substantive posts
- The ROI has increased their number of substantive posts by 3 posts for the second year in a row.

PA's WORKED BY CONSULTANTS (%)—UK

(On New Contract)



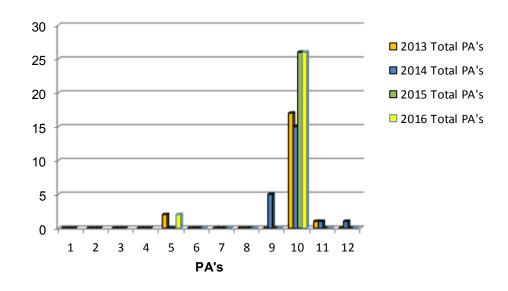
i 13 additional consultants have started working 10 PA's since 2015. 17 additional consultants have started working 11 PA's since 2015. 5 fewer consultants are working 12 PA's since 2015.

O LINE I WOLKING TE TAS SINCE 2013.

3 additional consultants are working 13 PA's since 2015.

For graphing purposes no PA's under 5 have been displayed. To note there are 3 consultants that are working 4 or less PA's.

PA's WORKED BY CONSULTANTS—REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



i For 2016 consultants working 10 PA's remained consistent with 2015. (2 unknown)

TOTAL CONSULTANTS REQUIRED REGIONALLY TO SERVICE 1:80,000 POPULATION RATIO

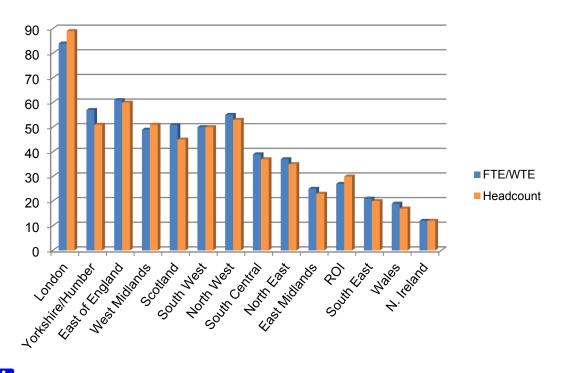
Region	FTE required for 1:80,000 ratio	Current FTE	Additional FTE required 2016	Additional FTE required 2015	Additional FTE required 2014	Additional FTE required 2013	Additional FTE required 2012	Additional FTE required 2011
North West	89	55.3	34	34	46	49	31	32
Republic of Ireland	57	27	30	31	35	38	N/A	N/A
East Midlands	57	25	32	32	34	44	23	23
South East	52	21	31	32	32	32	21	22
London	103	84	19	23	30.5	36	12	11
East of England	73	61	12	19	24	38	9	13
West Midland	70	49	21	22	23	33	13	13
South West	66	50	16	22	23	26	12	12
Wales	38	19	19	20.5	21.5	21	16	16
Scotland	66	51	15	15	18	33	5	8
South Central	50	39	11	10	15	19	10	12
N. Ireland	23	12	11	12	12	12	6	6
Yorkshire & Humber	66	57	9	2	6	15	0	0
North East	32	37	0	19	5.5	9	1	3



- Population data based on results of 2011 Census
- Above does not include locums
- Graph does not take into account the fact that services to any one region may be provided by another region.
- 2011/12 results based on 1:100,000 population ratio

FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS

(By Region)



f The above does not include consultants that are working on 'Old Contracts'

CONSULTANT RETIREMENT PROJECTIONS (Over Next 5 Years)

Current Age	No. of Consultants Retiring	Current Age	No. of Consultants Retiring	Current Age	No. of Consultants Retiring
43	2	57	4	63	4
49	1	58	7	64	4
50	2	59	5	65	4
51	1	60	7	66	1
54	2	61	4	68	1
56	3	62	3	69	1



- Based on the workforce survey responses, 57 Consultants anticipate retiring in the next five years. It is important to note that there was no obligation to answer this question.
- 1 Consultant is working Part time and one consultant retired February 2017.
- For the purpose of the above chart, current age of one respondent was unknown.

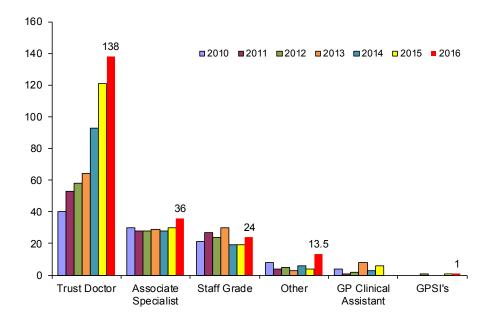
Number of Consultants 60 and over during the next 5 years, assuming zero retirements is:

 2016— 52 Consultants
 2019— 99 Consultants

 2017— 64 Consultants
 2020— 115 Consultants

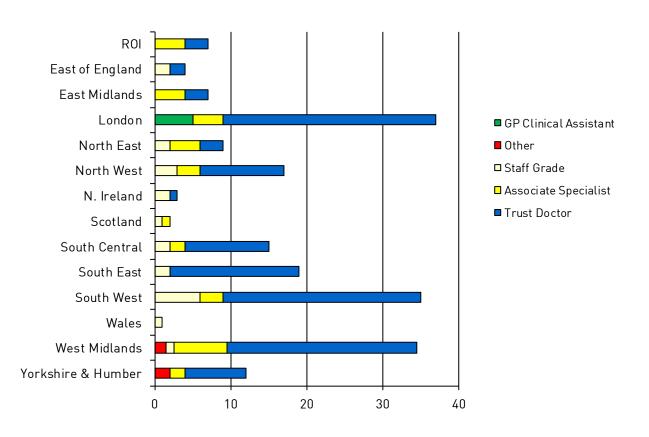
 2018— 78 Consultants
 2020— 115 Consultants

SPECIALTY DOCTORS (By Category)

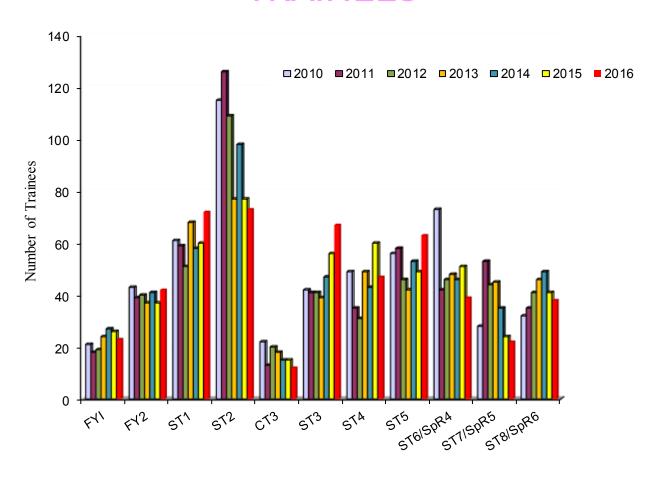


- The number of Specialty Doctors has increased from 181 to 212 in 2016. This represents an increase of 15% from 2015 and has doubled since 2010.
 - Vacancies during 2016: Trust Doctor 11; GP Clinical Asst 1; Staff Grade 1 and Other 4.
 - One Associate Specialist is working Part Time/Flexible.
 - Above figures include 3 Trust Doctors and 4 Associate Specialists from Republic of Ireland
 - 'Other' includes: Trust Reg Locum

SPECIALTY DOCTORS (By Region)



TRAINEES



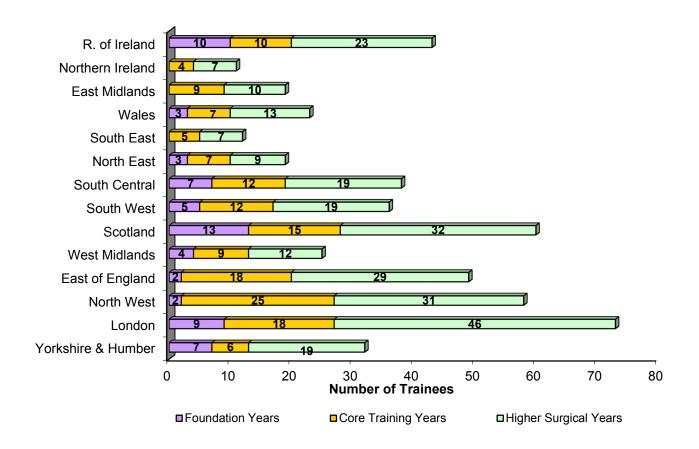
- *Note one ST4 and one ST6 job share with other academic.*
 - One ST6 and one ST3 are part time
 - One ST3 is academic and one ST7 is military.

TRAINEE VACANCIES

S.	Т1	S.	Т2	СТЗ		ST3		ST5		ST7	
Vacancy	Vacancy Duration										
2	Ongoing	2	Ongoing	1	6 Months	1	6 months	3	Ongoing	1	Ongoing
2	6 months					2	12 months				

This years' survey tracked the number of trainee vacancies and the length of time of each vacancy.

BY REGION



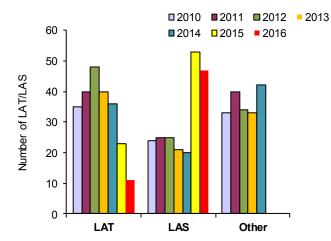
PLASTIC SURGERY TRAINEES IN TIG POSTS

Specialty	Plastic Trainees in Post in 2010	Plastic Trainees in Post in 2011	Plastic Trainees in Post in 2012	Plastic Trainees in Post in 2013	Plastic Trainees in Post in 2014	Plastic Trainees in Post in 2015	Plastic Trainees in Post in 2016
Breast Oncoplastics	3	0	2	0	3	3	4
Cleft Lip & Palate	0	1	1	1	1	2	
Cosmetic Reconstructive	4	8	16	11	8	11	10
Hand	5	4	5	8	6	4	5
Head & Neck Oncology	1	0	1	1	1	1	
Reconstructive Trauma Surgery	0	2	4	1	2	3	2
Therapeutic Use of Lasers			1	2	3	2	3
Mgmnt of Skin Cancer (pilot)				3	3	3	2



TIG Post figures kindly provided by Plastic Surgery SAC

TOTAL NUMBER OF LAT/LAS POSTS



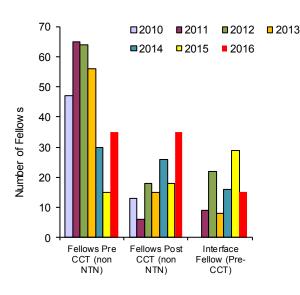
LAT = Locum Appointment for Training LAS = Locum Appointment for Service

A LAT post is recognised for training purposes by the SAC; a LAS post is not.



- For the fourth year in a row, LAT has decreased. This possibly due to HEE stating 'from the 2016 recruitment round there will be no LAT recruitment for England'
- LAS posts have decreased by 6 posts from 2015.
- There were no 'Other' reported for 2016.

TOTAL NUMBER OF FELLOWS



Since 2015: Pre CCT (Non NTN) -more than doubled Post CCT (non NTN) -doubled Interface Fellows (Pre CCT) have decreased by 50%



2016 Non NTN Pre-CCT Fellows include:

Oncoplastic Breast, Craniofacial, Research, Clinical, Orthopaedics, Burns, International, Plastic and Microsurgery. 2 Posts were vacant.

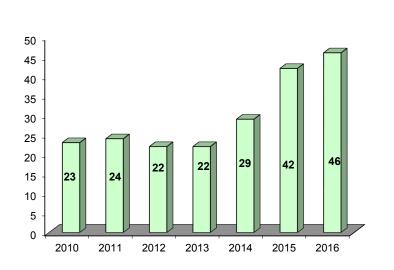
2016 Non NTN Post-CCT Fellows include:

Breast Surgeon, Hand, Skin and Microsurgery.

2016 Interface Fellows Pre-CCT include:

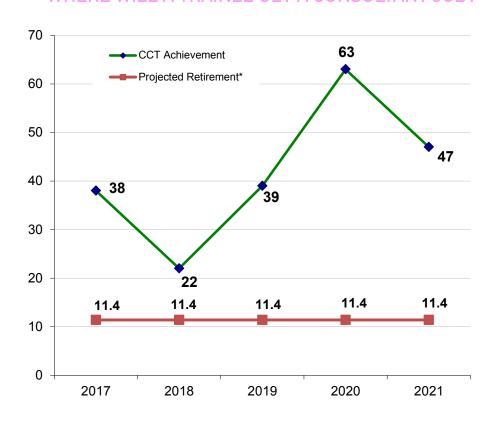
Hand, Oncoplastic Breast, Plastic Surgery, Laser, Cleft TIG and Orthopaedics

TOTAL NUMBER OF SURGICAL CARE PRACTITIONERS



- i
- This represents Surgical Care Practitioners and Surgical Nurse Practitioners that are allowed to operate or suture
- 2016 had an increase of 4 posts .
- There are no Surgical Care Practitioners in ROI, East Midlands, N Ireland, South East or Wales.

WHERE WILL A TRAINEE GET A CONSULTANT JOB?



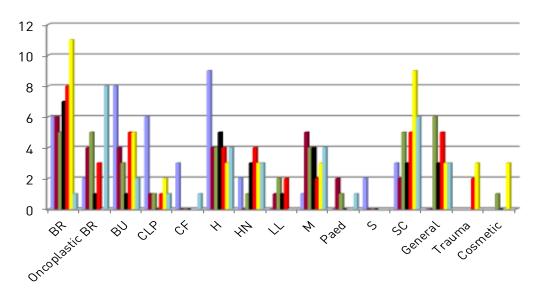
^{*} Projected retirement based on replies from 2016 Workforce Survey (57 retirements over next five years)



Based on information provided by JCST: In 2016, 60 trainees in the UK and 3 in Republic of Ireland were recommended for their certificates. This is an increase of 20 UK trainees and 1 Republic of Ireland trainee from 2015.

SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTANT PLASTIC POSTS FROM BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL







2010

12.5% of posts were Part-Time/Job Share 78% were newly created posts

2011

12% of posts were Part Time/Job Share 94% were newly created posts

2012

18% of posts were Part-Time/Job Share

92% were newly created posts

The subspecialty of 'General Plastic Surgery' has increased in BMJ by 15.7% since 2011

<u>2013</u>

3% of posts were Part-Time/Job Share

85% were newly created posts

One General Post was located in Dublin, Ireland

Number of posts advertised in 2013 was 26% less than in 2012

2014

Increase of 46% (13 posts) since 2013.

80% were newly created posts; 95% were full time posts

2015

Number of Substantive Consultant Plastic Surgery posts has increased by 4 posts from 2014 91% were newly created posts; 9% were replacement posts.

Only 9% (4 posts) were part time.

2016

Substantive Consultant Plastic Surgery posts has decreased by 11 posts from 2015.

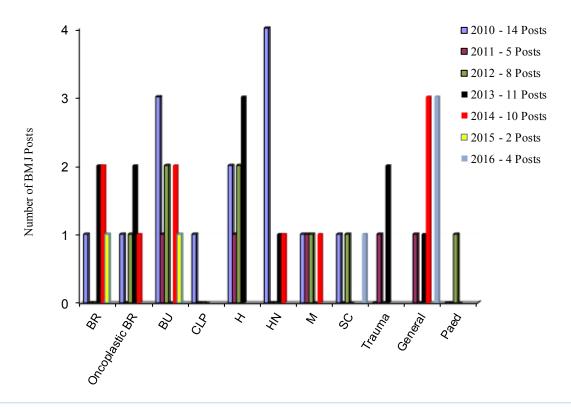
94% were newly created posts, 6% were replacement posts.

Number of part time posts was consistent with 2015.

2017

Based on 2016 survey responses, there are 38 posts (35 in UK; 3 in ROI) that are likely to be advertised and 46 posts (43 in UK; 3 in ROI) that will be advertised during 2017.

LOCUM CONSULTANT PLASTIC POSTS FROM BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL





2010

21% of posts were for a time period of <6 months, 57% for 6 months—1 year and 22% were of an unknown length of time.

2011

20% of posts were for a time period of 6 months, 40% for 12 months and 40% were full time posts.

2012

25% of posts were for a time period of <6 months, 50% for 6–12 months and 25% were Part Time/Job Share posts.

2013

Number of locum posts advertised in 2013 is 37.5% higher than 2012. 55% of posts were for a time period of 6 months and 45% were full time posts.

2014

Decrease of 10% (1 post) in Locum posts from 2013.

60% of posts were for a time period of <6 months, 20% 6 months—1 year and 20% were full time posts.

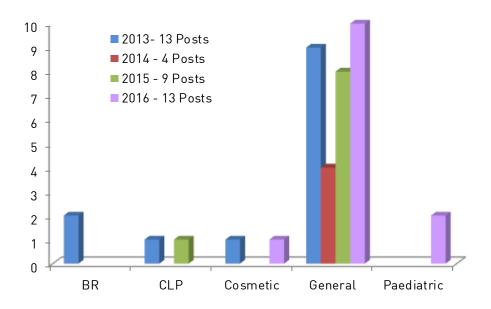
2015

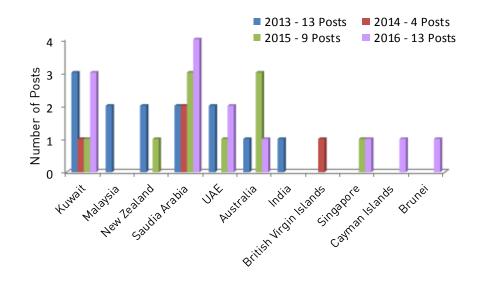
Only 2 Locum Posts were advertised for 2015 (1 Breast and 1 Burns)
One post was for a time period of 3 months and the other for 6 months.

2016

Only 4 Locum Posts were advertised for 2016 (1 Skin Cancer and 3 General)
One post was Full Time; one for a time period of 2 months and two posts for 6 months

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT PLASTIC POSTS FROM **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL**





<u>i</u> 2013

This is the first year for tracking Consultant Plastic Surgeon posts internationally. 8% of the posts were for a time period of 2 years and 92% were full time posts

2014

International Consultant Plastic Surgeon posts decreased by 69% from 2013. 25% of the posts were for a time period of 2 years and 75% were full time posts

2015

Number of International Consultant Plastic Surgeon posts more than doubled from 2014. 22% of the posts were for a time period of 2 years and 78% were full time posts

2016

Number of International Consultant Plastic Surgeon posts returned to same level as 2013. Twelve posts were full time and 1 post for a time period of 1 year

Form A: Consultants and Speciality Doctors: Substantive/Locum Plastic Surgery Consultants and Speciality Doctors in post on 31st December 2016

							LINE PERSON				
n					l		Tel				
al Director					1		Mobile				
al Director Email							Email				
				_							
Only give e enter totals for		where this tr	ust is the e	mploying trus	t for the co	onsultant or spe	ciality doc	tor			
ultants				Specialty Doc	tor	Total	Total PA's	Any Vacant?		NOTES:	1
number of subst	antive posts			Staff Grade					1		•
	demic	Military	-	Associate Sper	olalist		-		1		
number of Locus		manual y	-	Trust Dr (reg e			_		1	1	
Vacancies as of			-	GP Clinical Ass			-		1		
				GPSI's	SISTERIL.						
nany new consul 17?	Itant posts will	be advertised		Other			 				
nany new consultised in 2017?	itant post are i	ikely to be							•		
Only include	NHS PA's										
Consulta	nt Gender (M/F)	Year of Birth (yyyy)	New Contrac Total N45 PA's		Educational Supervisor?	Clinical Supervisor Yes or No	Private Practice? Yes or No	Sub- Speciality Interest 1*	Sub- Speciality Interest 2*	Sub- Speciality Interest 3*	planned in next 5 years?
1											
2											
3											
4											
5	_	+		_			—				
6											
	_	_		_			_				
. 8	_	_					_				
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	here is no obliga	tion to complete th	retirement box								
	e following code	e to indicate consul	tent subspeciality	y interests:							
BR - Breast											

Please Return to: BAPRAS, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE Tel: 020 7831 5161; Fax: 020 7831 4041; Email: sharon.ross@bapras.org.uk
ALL DATA COLLECTED WILL BE KEPT ANONYMISED. RESULTS WILL BE USED TO GENERATE ANNUAL CENSUS ONLY



The survey form for 2016 did not change from 2015.

This survey form was also sent to the Republic of Ireland even though some questions did not apply to ROI.

Form B: Trainees - Higher surgical Trainees/Fellows and all other posts (not already included on Form A). Status at each grade on 31st December 2016

Hospital Name			
Region			
Link Person			
	be listed only	once on this for	nospital). Any current vacancies should be includ m so that duplicates are not created. Please sts, where applicable
Pre Higher Surgical Trai		Nontro	
	Total No. of posts	Number of Vacant/Unfilled	Notes: If vacant, how many months was it vacant?
FY1	LOSIS	v acar is Offinied	
FY2	+	 	
ST1/CT1 or equivalent	+	 	
ST2/CT2 or equivalent	+	 	
СТЗ	1 	 	
ST3 or equivalent	Total number	Number Vacant	Notes: If vacant, how many months was it vacant?
ST4 or equivalent	+		
ST5 or equivalent	 		
ST6 or equivalent	 		
ST7 or equivalent			
ST8 or equivalent			
	•		
SpR4/SpR5/SpR6			
LAT/LAS without National	Training Numb	<u>er</u>	
Number of LAT	+		
Number of LAS			
Senior/Peri CCT Fellows	: (only include	follows not alread	dy listed on this form
Seliio// eli CCT rellows	Total number		please indicate whether from another Specialty
Interface fellows -Pre CC1		110.65	man manufe wire in in a morrer openally
Other fellows (non-NTN)	+		
Pre-CCT	+	 	
	+	 	
Post-CCT			
Post-CCT		L	
	er / Surgical nu	rse practitioner (allowed to operate or suture)

Please return to: BAPRAS, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE

SCP / SNP

Tel: 020 7831 5161; Fax: 020 7831 4041; Email: sharon.ross@bapras.org.uk

All data collected will be kept anonymised. Results will be used to generate annual census only

SUMMARY

Since we started the workforce survey in 2010 we have seen an expansion of consultants every year. This year is no different with a 6% increase to a total of 578 substantive posts. 18% of the total consultant body are female, 23% of the 35–45 age group being female, indicating a positive shift towards more women in the speciality. This is a positive reflection of the increased proportion of women in medicine and Plastic Surgery being an attractive speciality to all new doctors.

It is encouraging to see the continued expansion of consultant numbers in light of the cost saving measures in the current NHS. This shows how important Plastic Surgery is to the modern NHS. Skin cancer, breast reconstruction, hand surgery and microsurgery are still the top four subspecialties however there are significant numbers in all the other subspecialties showing the broad practice across Plastic Surgery.

The largest age group continues to be the 46–50 year age group with the numbers decreasing from 155 in this group to 117 in the 51–55 age group, 71 in the 56–60 age group and 24 in the 61–65 age group indicating 30 consultants leaving NHS posts each year. In 2020 we see there will be 115 consultants over 60 with the majority of consultants working over 10 PAs.

The growing number of new units in hospitals that did not have on site Plastic Surgery services is a great step forward for the local patient population but also offers a great support for those individual hospital trusts. We would encourage those new units to keep links with the local units establishing networks for regional training, clinical governance and audit.

The survey shows UK units have definite plans to advertise for 46 posts and likely to advertise for a further 38 posts.

Assessing the numbers achieving CCT we see the number dropping to 22 in 2018 and peaking to 63 in 2020. In 2016 there were 2 vacant consultant posts and 55 locum posts.

Combining these figures we would expect those achieving their CCT to be in a good position to attain consultant posts over the next few years. However there are concerns there will be vacant posts.

Our Linkpersons kindly reviewed the vacant posts in our training grades again this year. Interestingly we see only 10 vacancies in specialist training posts. This figure is lower than expected and if accurate, encouraging that most units have a full complement of middle grade staff. We have seen a steep increase in the numbers of Trust Doctors (40 in 2010 and 138 in 2016) which is likely to account for the vacant posts being filled. Recruitment into surgery is still at a worrying low with the ratio of applicants to posts for Core Training posts being 2.53:1 and ST posts 2.78:1. We need to keep encouraging our medical students and juniors to consider the surgical specialities for a career.

In summary our speciality is in a strong position with the workforce numbers balanced for the next few years however there is some uncertainty for the next decade.

Our thanks go to all the Linkspersons for completing the forms and Sharon Ross for a 100% completion rate for a 7th year.

Richard Haywood

Chairman - Workforce Planning Group 2016/2017