

ACADEMY OF MEDICAL ROYAL COLLEGES _____

Academy Trainee Doctors' Group Statement: MPET Review

The Academy Trainee Doctors' Group (ATDG) is aware of the considerable financial challenges that the NHS faces in the next decade and we accept that medical training budgets will not be immune to this. However, the ATDG believes that consistent provision of training is necessary to develop a skilled workforce to provide high quality patient care. We are therefore supportive of solutions that value training rather than service provision as the key deliverable. We note that Lord Darzi's *A High Quality Workforce suggested* that a review of MPET (Multi Professional Education and Training Levy) should include:

- A rebase of MPET
- Replacement with a tariff based system where funding follows the trainee
- Provision of more appropriate support for **all** professions.

Lord Darzi's overall aim was to produce a fairer and more transparent system in which high quality training posts received more funding than poorly performing ones. The ATDG is supportive of this principle and encourages the recognition of excellence in training centres. A review of MPET commenced in 2008/9 with a costing exercise in a number of trusts and calculations of how these might relate to 2009/10 prices and levels of activity. The review focused on Medical Service Increment for Teaching (SIFT), Non-Medical Education and Training (NMET) and Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education (MADEL).

Concerns have been expressed from a number of stakeholders regarding the proposed speed of implementation and lack of clear piloting of new systems. We support the decision that there will be no change in existing salary support funding for postgraduate medical training until further piloting has taken place. The ATDG are concerned about the consequences of changes in the following three areas:

1. Salary support for more senior trainees may become the increasing responsibility of NHS trusts. Although NHS trusts aim for excellent patient care, their priority is not necessarily to provide robust training. We are concerned that the proposals may offer little incentive for trusts to provide the high quality training required to those medical trainees at a crucial point of training, i.e. immediately prior to gaining CCT, and that an emphasis on service provision would dominate

2. The ATDG believes that the equality and transparency of training funding is best achieved by the establishment of robust underlying principles. We believe that the administration of medical training budgets should remain with organisations whose priority is the production of highly trained doctors, rather than organisations that may aim to primarily make them as cost effective as possible. This principle of transparency should also be promoted
3. The MPET review relies on the establishment of firm quality metrics for education and training. The ATDG are pleased that this is a focus of the current review but we believe that it is vital that this process is established and validated prior to testing of any new tariff based system.

The ATDG looks forward to being a partner in this process.