



**European Working Time Regulations (EWTR)
Summary of responses to College Survey**

Questions

1. Is the service/specialty in the hospital/trust where you work delivering a truly compliant 48 hour working week?
62% of all respondents said they were currently not truly compliant

2. What type of rota are you currently working?
60% of respondents were working a non-resident on-call rota
20% of respondents were working a full shift rota
14% of respondents were working a resident on-call rota
6% of respondents were working a rota not covered above

3. a) Have you been asked by your employer to opt-out?
87% of respondents had not been asked by their employer to opt-out

b) Have you individually opted out of the Directive?
23% of respondents had individually opted out of the Directive

4. How many hours a week on average do you currently estimate you are working within your trust?
70% of respondents estimated they are working more than 48 hours

5. In order to provide the service in your department/specialty are other professionals within the healthcare team acting up?
24% of respondents reported other professionals within the healthcare team acting up

6. Do you cover rota gaps which result in you working in excess of your contracted hours?
43% of respondents are covering gaps in their own hospital
5% of respondents reported covering gaps in another hospital or Trust

7. If gaps exist on your rota are these being filled with staff already employed in your Trust?
52% of respondents reported that gaps on the rota are being filled with staff already employed in their Trust

8. Has adequate time been allocated for handovers within working hours?
33% of respondents reported that handover arrangements have been inadequate

If inadequate, have there been specific instances in which patient care or safety have been compromised?

49% of respondents who reported inadequate handover arrangements reported there had been specific instances in which patient care or safety had been compromised

9. Since the implementation of the Directive on 1 August how has your available training time either as a trainer or a trainee changed?
44% of respondents reported that time as either a trainer or trainee has decreased since the implementation of the Directive
53% of respondents reported that time as either a trainer or trainee has remained the same since the implementation of the Directive
1% of respondents reported that time as either a trainer or trainee has increased since the implementation of the Directive

10. Do you have the opportunity to be involved in all stages of patient care for individual patients that require clinical expertise?
27% of respondents reported that they were not involved in all stages of patient care for individual patients that requires clinical expertise

11. Has compliance been achieved at the expense of patient safety?
44% of respondents thought compliance had been achieved at the expense of patient safety

12. Has the quality of care a patient receives been affected by the Directive?
64% of respondents thought quality of care a patient receives had worsened due to the Directive

Background information about the survey

900 surgeons and surgeons in training working in the United Kingdom responded to the survey by the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The survey was conducted electronically and was run between the 11-24th September 2009.

Respondents to the survey came from all nine specialities of surgery and cover all ten Strategic Health Authority in England as well as surgeons based in Wales and Northern Ireland.

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