

Updated Proposal for SAC Panels to Provide Externality for Deaneries

SACs will establish panels from which deaneries should choose an external adviser to provide external help/advice in relation to:

- ARCPs/RITAs
- Trainees in difficulty
- Development of new training programmes
- Changes or difficulties in existing programmes
- Any other aspect of training in the specialty requested by the deanery

SACs will be happy to provide advice as a body to deaneries as requested and approval of new training programmes or advice on the extent to which prior learning/experience can count towards a Specialist Registrar's programme should come from the SAC as a body to ensure consistency.

The SAC panel will normally comprise current members of the SAC and past members who are willing to continue with this activity to provide an appropriate geographic spread of individuals around the countries. Individuals would not normally continue in this roll for more than 2-years after they have stopped being members of the relevant SAC. SAC membership is normally for 5-years and it would be sensible for individuals to have been a member of the SAC for 1-year before they took on this advisory role. However, some specialties may need to be more flexible and include other suitably qualified people to cover the geography.

Current SAC members have advantages as external advisers; for example they are:

- Nominated by the Dental Faculties and the relevant specialist societies for the discipline, which indicates that their expertise is acknowledged by their colleagues in the specialty.
- Not chosen by a deanery so demonstrably independent.
- Up to date and actively involved in education in the specialty.
- Able to report back easily to the SAC which ensures consistency of advice.

SACs appreciate that deaneries desire to choose their external adviser, rather than be allocated a member, and accept the financial need for someone based reasonably close to the deanery geographically. Deaneries may wish to seek advice other than from a Panel member but should be aware that the individual would be giving advice on a personal basis which may/may not reflect thinking within the specialty generally. In that case it would be more difficult to demonstrate genuine externality and such an arrangement would be outwith the provisions of the IMoU.

Individuals, who are members of the SAC Panel but not of the SAC, will have more difficulty reporting to the SAC, sharing experiences and seeking advice when required. Deaneries should appreciate that it would not be appropriate

to expect SACs to accept large numbers of non-member advisers at their meetings or to receive no feedback about a deanery at all.

Proposed Selection Mechanism

SACs will send a copy of their proposed Panel membership (with an indication of each member's geographical base) to all deaneries. Deaneries will be free to choose from the Panel with selections directed through the SAC chair to ensure a balanced workload between Panel members. The SACs will also notify the Deanery when an individual is due to leave the Panel to ensure smooth transfer of responsibility.

"Reports from SAC Panel Members" should be a standing item on SAC agendas. Members of the SAC Panel will normally report back at SAC meetings. If the adviser to a deanery is not a member of the SAC they should send the SAC a short report. The SAC will then copy the minute of the agenda item to them so that they have feedback on their report and are aware of reports from other deaneries. If there are serious issues, the non-member will be welcome to attend that part of the SAC meeting.

Expenses to attend an SAC meeting for non-members of the SAC will be met by the deanery to which they are giving advice.

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Job Description for SAC Panel Member

Job Purpose

To provide external specialty advice when requested by a deanery or deaneries and report back regularly to the SAC.

Specific Duties

RITAs/ARCPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine paperwork and advise on specialty specific issues to be raised at interview• Attend RITA or ARCP interviews when invited• Help the deanery to provide feedback and advice to the trainee including any targeted training required• Facilitate arrangements to help a trainee if needed through the SAC• Raise any concerns about deanery programmes with the deanery in the first instance
Trainees in difficulty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide specialty expertise as requested either by the deanery or the trainee
Development of new training programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide specialty specific advice as requested by the deanery or unit wishing to set up a new programme
Changes or difficulties in existing programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the evidence• Analyse the reason(s) for change or difficulty• Recommend improvements
Any other aspect of training in the specialty requested by the Deanery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As requested
Reporting to SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a short written report for each SAC meeting• Contact the SAC Chair promptly if there are any concerns about training programmes or individual trainees• If not an SAC member, be prepared to attend part of the SAC meeting if requested