

Statement from Academy of Medical Royal Colleges on European Working Time Regulations

Since the European Working Time Directive introduced restrictions on hours the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges has consistently been made aware of concerns from some members about the potential effects on medical education and training and consequently for clinical care in certain areas of healthcare and specialties.

Over the period of the implementation of the Regulations the Academy has consistently engaged with Government to seek to ensure that services and training are not compromised. Where there have been specific concerns or problems these were always reflected to Government.

It has been clear, however, that difficulties and concerns are not uniform across specialties. Hence Colleges have taken differing views about the Regulations themselves and the most appropriate solutions.

In September 2013 the Academy Council agreed that greater flexibility was needed particularly over SiMap/Jaeger and that a single system was not necessarily appropriate across all specialties.

Members, however, did have differing views about the appropriate solution and the need to retain the 48 hours limit. In some specialties it was felt that it was possible to provide appropriate training within the 48 hours whilst others felt it was not possible.

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