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# = News Release

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006

## DOCTOR SPECIALTY TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES PUBLISHED

There will be over 2000 specialty training opportunities available to doctors in Scotland from August 2007, it was confirmed today. In addition, GP trainees in Scotland on the new MMC curriculum will be spending more time within a primary care environment.

Today's provisional figures are in addition to specialty posts being filled by doctors who are already in specialty training.

Unveiling the figures Health Minister Andy Kerr said:

“This represents significant increased investment in doctors’ training and I am pleased that we will be able to offer sufficient opportunities to all doctors who wish to continue to train in Scotland.

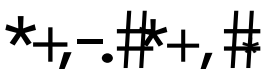
“Under Modernising Medical Careers, we’re moving from a system where people are treated by doctors *in training*, to one where they’re treated by trained doctors.

“There’s no doubt that moving to that new system presents challenges, but today’s figures show we will provide unprecedented training opportunities for doctors in Scotland.”

Chief Medical Officer Dr Harry Burns said:

“I am delighted that we are able to implement enhanced primary care training for GPs. As well as improving the focus and quality of training this will mean 150 new trainee posts in primary care.

“As before, recruitment is competitive and not everyone will be able to have their first choice of specialty or location. The number of vacancies in each specialty and location is ultimately decided by the need of patients and the NHS. This has always been the case.



“The fact is the number of opportunities for entering specialty training are much greater than we would normally see. Doctors in Scotland can be very confident of their chances of a training opportunity.”

Provisional data based on the specialties within the Royal Colleges are shown below:

<b>INDICATIVE SPECIALTY GROUP</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>SUBSTANTIVE OPPORTUNITIES BY SPECIALTY GROUP IN SCOTLAND*</b> (all figures are approximate and may be subject to change)
<b>Specialties</b>		
Anaesthetics		<b>140</b>
Emergency Medicine		<b>100</b>
General Practice		<b>510</b>
Medicine		<b>330</b>
Obstetrics & Gynaecology		<b>110</b>
Ophthalmology		<b>20</b>
Paediatrics		<b>65</b>
Pathology		<b>20</b>
Psychiatry		<b>150</b>
Public Health		<b>10</b>
Radiology		<b>15</b>
Surgery		<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>1570</b>

\* The remainder are Fixed Term Specialist Training posts which have still to be allocated to specialties.

#### NOTES FOR NEWS EDITORS

1. A more detailed split of training posts by specialty, level of entry and deanery will be placed on the MMCScotland website ([www.mmc.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.mmc.scot.nhs.uk)) by early January. Some marginal variations to this information may follow as issues of detail are addressed locally – but these will give a clear indication to trainees of the opportunities available.
2. Final details of posts will, of course, be available as the recruitment process commences on 22 January. At that stage, applicants across the UK will be able to register electronically with the new Medical Training Application Service ([www.mtas.nhs.uk](http://www.mtas.nhs.uk)) and can view the detail of the programmes available.
3. Trainees should refer to the **Scottish Applicant’s Guide** (to be published shortly on the MMC Scotland website) so that they are familiar with the recruitment process. They should also consider the person specifications for each specialty to assess at what level they should apply. All these documents are available on the MMC website along with a host of other information and frequently asked questions.

4. Opportunities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will be announced separately by the administration in each country.

Contact: Duncan Young 0131 244 2598

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