

Clinical support for trainees

AAGBI SAFETY STATEMENT

AUGUST 2014



THE ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHETISTS
of Great Britain & Ireland

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The AAGBI has received reports via its Trainee Network Scheme of situations in which trainees are undertaking cases during normal working hours with no Consultant support. The AAGBI recognises the growing pressures on anaesthetic departments to cover operating lists and other clinical areas, but reminds departments that the provision of safe anaesthesia includes the clear identification of Consultant responsibility and access to Consultant assistance when it is required, often at short notice. Every department and each Trust, Board or hospital must address this requirement, and have a documented plan or policy in place for dealing with such eventualities.

The AAGBI also wishes to remind all anaesthetists that they have an obligation – as set out by the GMC – to raise concerns over patient safety, should they have them, via the appropriate channels, and that trainee status is not an acceptable reason for not doing so.

The AAGBI would like to know of any innovative systems that are in place that address service pressures but still ensure the availability of a senior anaesthetist.