



Royal College of Anaesthetists

Position Statement

LESS THAN FULLTIME TRAINING IN ANAESTHESIA

In 1993 the EU Directive (93/16/EEC) stated that hospital training on a part-time basis should be at least 50%. In 2005, Article 22 of EU Directive 2005/36/EC changed this by deferring the decision on minimum percentage for part-time working to the competent authorities in each individual member state, as long as “*the overall duration, level and quality of such training is not less than that of continuous full-time training*”. PMETB, as the UK competent authority, chose not to set a minimum basis for LTFT training.

We remain the most popular hospital specialty after paediatrics for those who wish to work LTFT. The College recognises and values the contribution made by LTFT trainees to the specialty.

College data and a 2009 anaesthetic flexible training survey indicate that the majority of LTFT trainees work 60-70%. The evidence suggests that part-time training at 60-70% supports career progression and a healthy work-life balance.

It remains unusual to train for any length of time at 50%. For a trainee who requests LTFT training at <50%, the College would recommend that their RA and/or PD contact the College Training Directorate and Bernard Johnson Adviser to discuss how training is to be delivered in so few hours.

The College continues to follow the advice from “Principles underpinning the new arrangements for flexible training 2005” that LTFT training be undertaken on a pro-rata basis, including OOH as this remains an essential component of the anaesthetic training programme:

- *An opportunity to experience and develop clinical decision making*
- *An opportunity to learn when to seek advice*
- *A reflection of professional anaesthetic practice*

Within slot shares, there may be variations in how the OOH work is allocated. The College accepts that if training at 60%, a LTFT may work 50% OOH in conjunction with an increase in their day-time hours to 70%. These split working patterns should be closely monitored by the RA via the annual ARCP to ensure that the OOH case mix and responsibilities of the LTFT trainee, especially the senior trainee if working fewer OOH shifts, are not significantly different from their full-time equivalent.

Advice for CT1 Trainees considering LTFT Training : Commencing as a novice anaesthetic trainee on a 50-60% LTFT basis is extremely stressful for both trainee and department. There are very few who start an anaesthetic career on a LTFT basis but information gathered at the College would suggest that many of these trainees have failed to gain their Initial Assessment of Competence by 6 months. The College Training Committee recommends that, if at all possible, the trainee should gain their initial 3 month competencies on full-time basis and then revert to LTFT training once this has been achieved.

College Contact: *Claudia Moran or Maddy Humphrey*
training@rcoa.ac.uk
020 7092 1554/553

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