Why we need more radiologists in the UK

The need
CT and MRI scanning has grown by 10–12% per year for the last ten years and this will continue. The number of radiologists has grown by only 3% per year in that time. The English Cancer Strategy demands, a step change in delivery of diagnostics by the NHS’ by 2020.

The shortage
In September 2015, over 15,000 patients were waiting more than a month for the results of their CT or MRI scans. In 2014 there were 420 vacancies for consultant radiologists across the UK, a 12% vacancy rate.

Action is needed now
It takes at least five years to train a qualified doctor to become a radiologist. The UK has 48 trained radiologists per million population: Germany has 92, Spain 112 and France 130. We need at least 80 radiologists per million population.

If the Government doesn’t invest in more radiologists …
Cancers will remain undiagnosed for longer; earlier diagnosis could save the NHS £44 million. Stroke assessment and management will be delayed. Patients could bleed to death for want of an interventional radiologist. Patient and carer anxiety will increase and outcomes will be worse.

Increasing the radiology workforce is a priority for patients – show your support by tweeting #YesWeScan @RCRadiologists

The Royal College of Radiologists: leading, educating and supporting radiologists across the UK.

www.rcr.ac.uk