Regional Specialty Adviser

Eligibility and Term of Office

A Regional Specialty Adviser (RSA) shall be a Fellow of the College, resident in the United Kingdom, who, at the close of nominations for the office, holds a current licence to practise and is in active clinical practice in an approved training department in the region. They are expected to have significant experience of the delivery and organisation of training.

The role of RSA should not normally be combined with that of Training Programme Director, Head of School or departmental lead clinician/clinical director

RSAs are initially appointed for a term of three years. Individuals may apply for a second term using the appointment process. A maximum of two consecutive terms can be served.

Role and Responsibilities

Regional Specialty Advisers are the regional representatives of the Royal College of Radiologists with respect to education and training and are accountable to the Medical Director, Education and Training. They perform a vital role in assuring, on behalf of the College, that national standards for training, curriculum delivery and assessment are maintained and provide an external perspective to the LETBs/Deaneries on the quality assurance processes of their training programmes

The responsibility for delivering training lies with the LETBs/deaneries as exercised through the various school and training programme structures. The process of approving training programmes and locations, and inspecting these by formal visits, is the responsibility of the GMC. Our expectation is that RSAs will work cooperatively to support these organisations in the interests of high-quality training and ultimately patient care in their region. RSAs are also expected to provide some external support outside their local region.

Specific local responsibilities are to:

- Help disseminate and promote College policies and advice on the delivery of training
- Offer support and advice to heads of school and training programme directors
- Offer independent advice and support to trainees and if necessary provide a channel for raising concerns with the local training organisation
- Provide a short annual structured report on their training schemes which contributes to the Annual Specialty Report submitted by the College to GMC

Where it is agreed with the local training organisation, RSAs are encouraged to:

- Participate in the local ARCP process to ensure effective annual review of all trainees
- Be a member of their local specialty training committee (or equivalent)
External RSA role

The RSA is expected to support other LETBs/deaneries in the UK as the College representative providing “externality” to the attended Deanery ARCP process. This is a major contribution to the deans’ quality management process. RSAs provide a short structured report to the local LETB/Deanery which is shared with the RCR.

Time commitment

The College view is that the responsibilities of a Regional Specialty Adviser cannot be properly discharged without an acknowledgement of this commitment as a fixed component of the consultant’s job plan. However this is a matter for local negotiation and the College cannot enforce this.

RSAs are invited to attend meetings at the College twice a year to facilitate the exchange of information, views and experience between the College, other RSAs and heads of training.

Appointment Process

The College's will instigate the process for appointment or reappointment of a Regional Specialty Adviser before the end of the current incumbent's term of office as follows:

- The forthcoming vacancy will be advertised through the usual College communication channels and will invite applications from eligible consultants.
- Applications will be considered and approved by the Medical Director, Education and Training.
- The outcome of the appointment process will be notified as soon as possible to all applicants, the current RSA and the training programme directors.