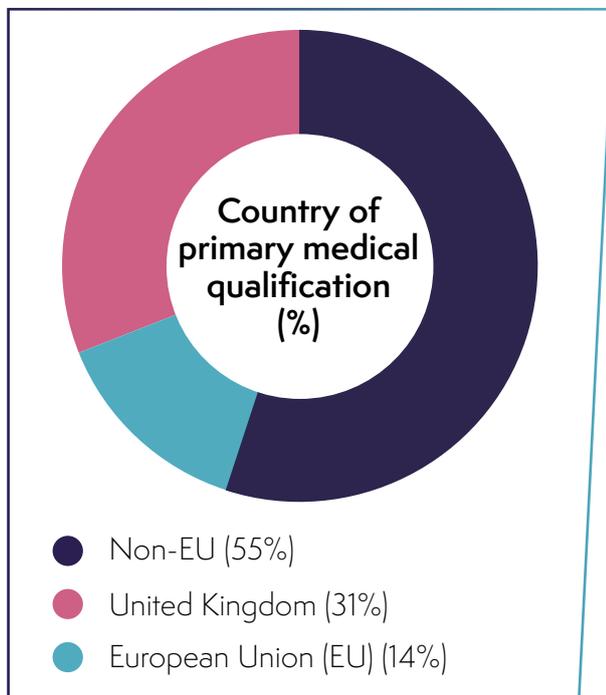


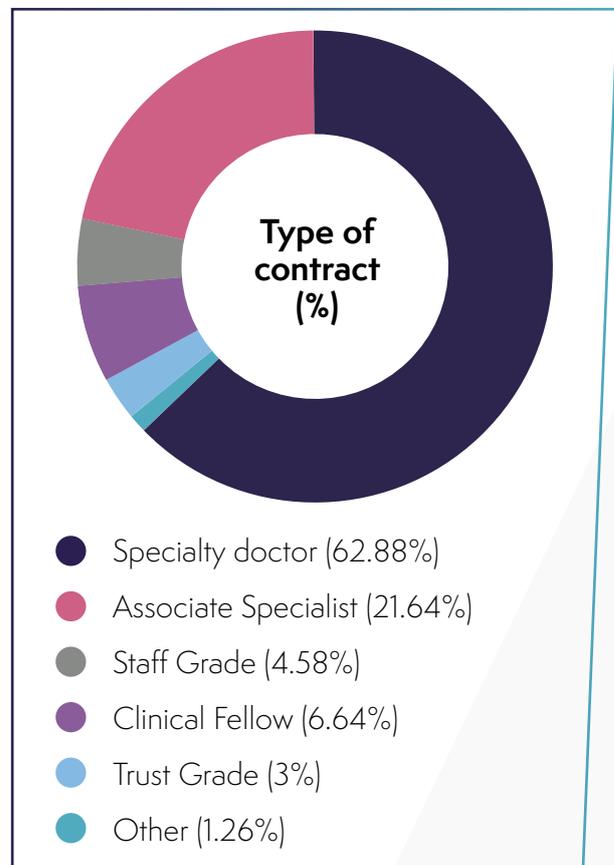
This short document summarises the main findings of the College SAS Survey conducted in November 2016. It also outlines initial actions taken within the College in response to the findings. A full report will be published in June 2017.

The number of SAS anaesthetists identified in the College Census 2015 was 2,047. The SAS survey received 634 responses providing a response rate of 31%. Good national coverage was achieved. This data is evidence not only of the working patterns and qualifications of SAS doctors but also their general feeling towards their role, status, opportunities and career progression. More detail will be in the final June 2017 report.

Summary of report findings



- Just under one third of SAS doctors obtained their primary medical qualification in the UK.
- 36% have passed the Primary exam and 14% the Final FRCA with just under 3% having a CCT.
- Other qualifications were common, especially a Diploma from another country. Nearly 10% had a Masters degree and 3% a PhD.
- 18% of respondents were on the Specialist Register. Just over 4% have CESR. About a third of respondents were planning to apply or were in the process of applying for CESR.
- 90% of SAS doctors are in a substantive post but there were many reasons for being on a temporary contract, e.g. a convenient choice with fixed term or renewable contracts, some had retired and returned, others are planning to return to training. Yet more were working flexibly alongside a research position.



- The bulk of SAS doctors who responded are now on the Specialty Doctor contract.
- Dissatisfaction with career progression opportunities was commonly expressed.
- The closure of the Associate Specialist grade has deterred some anaesthetists from moving to new jobs because they would have to move to the Specialty Doctor contract. Many commented on lack of recognition for the consultant level clinical work they regularly performed.

A session devoted to SAS issues will take place at the RCoA Summer Symposium in Belfast on 13–14 June.

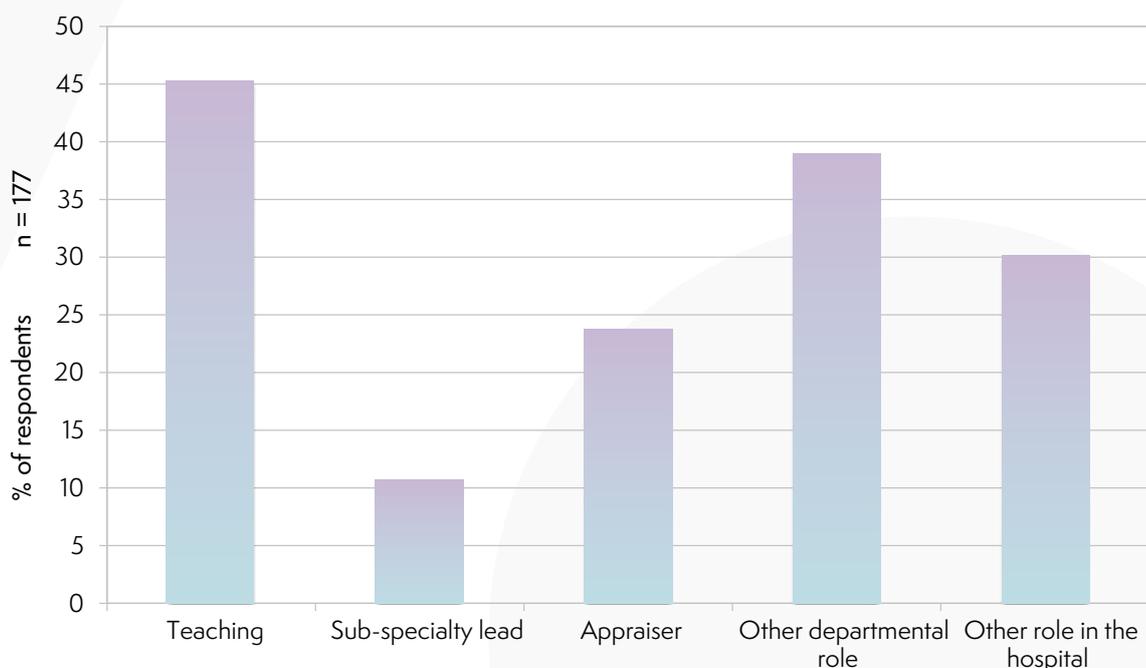
- 47% of respondents felt that their job gave them a good work life balance and a significant proportion cited family and location as important in their career choice.
- Nearly one third said they were in their current grade because their qualifications were not accepted for a consultant post.
- More than 70% of respondents perform on call duties covering theatres, maternity and intensive care. Weekend daytime emergency lists, especially trauma, is another out of hours commitment. This represents a significant and vital contribution to on call and out of hours cover in many hospitals. 45% are resident when on call.
- 23% of respondents planned to return to training. Time for further exam attempts was a common reason for taking an SAS post.
- 87% of respondents said they have at least 1.0 SPA. 177 respondents undertook additional SPA activities including teaching, appraisal and wider hospital roles suggesting an encouraging number are doing more than just providing anaesthetic service. See below table.

How your College is supporting you

There were 343 responses to the question of what the College should be doing for SAS anaesthetists. In our strategy we have committed to better understand and meet the needs of SAS Doctors in anaesthetics. This commitment is a positive step towards mobilising the whole College to engage with this important part of the workforce. So far, the questions raised have been discussed at the College's Education Committee and the Training Committee. Further presentations will be made to the Equivalence Committee, Examination Committee and Workforce Advisory Group. Discussions will be followed by actions from each of these committees and recommendations will be fed into the final June 2017 report.

In 2016 Dr Liam Brennan, President of the RCoA, established an SAS Joint Working Party which includes the College, the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) and the British Medical Association (BMA). The BMA is responsible for negotiating contractual issues. The AAGBI will be leading on welfare and mentoring. The College will focus on career development, access to training and examinations. The Working Party will publish a joint report by the end of 2017.

Additional SPA activities



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