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**Welcome to the February 2014 issue of Responsible Officers' News.**

**This is the penultimate issue of RO News from the NHS Revalidation Support Team (RST), as we prepare for closure on 31 March 2014.**

**The final issue of RO News from the RST will be published during the week commencing Monday 10 March. If there is anything you would particularly like us to cover, please [contact Julie Pottinger](#)**

**NHS England plans to continue with a regular communication to responsible officers. If you currently subscribe to RO News, the RST currently holds your email address for this purpose and plans to transfer this to NHS England.**

**If you do not want us to transfer your data to NHS England, please [contact Julie Pottinger](#)**

**Please pass this newsletter on to colleagues supporting the responsible officer, including appraisers, human resources and clinical governance teams, as appropriate.**

**NHS Revalidation Support Team**

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## RST publishes updated guidance on information management and quality assurance of medical appraisers

The RST has published updated versions of two guidance documents in January 2014: *Information Management for Medical Revalidation in England* and *Quality Assurance of Medical Appraisers*.

Both documents include minor revisions to improve clarity and bring them up to date. However, the principles and messages of each document are otherwise consistent with previous versions.

The revised *Information Management for Revalidation in England* makes reference to the recently released *Medical Practice Information Transfer (MPIT) Form*. *Quality Assurance of Medical Appraisers* has been revised to include clarification of the different approaches to achieving consistent appraisal outputs, depending on whether the appraiser is employed or independently contracted.

[Read \*Information Management for Revalidation in England\*](#)

[Read \*Quality Assurance of Medical Appraisers\*](#)

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## Briefing on conflicts of interest and appearance of bias published

The responsible officer regulations require each designated body to appoint one responsible officer (except for NHS England which may appoint several). However, where a conflict of interest or appearance of bias exists between the responsible officer and one of the doctors, an alternative responsible officer must be nominated or appointed for that doctor.

In deciding whether to appoint an alternative responsible officer, designated bodies will need to demonstrate that:

- they have complied with the responsible officer regulations
- the doctor has been treated fairly and equitably.

The *RST Briefing: Responsible Officer Conflict of Interest or Appearance of Bias* (RST, 2014) sets out the process to be used by all designated bodies in England to provide the designated body with confidence that decisions are consistent, fair and equitable.

There is also a separate application form that can be used as a template for a doctor to use when requesting a change of responsible officer.

[Read the briefing](#)

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## FAQs on RST transition developed

As previously mentioned, the RST is gradually transferring its revalidation support functions to

NHS England as it prepares for closure at the end of March 2014. The RST has published a series of FAQs around the transition on the RST website. A sample is given below.

### **Who can I contact about revalidation from 1 April 2014?**

Doctors, responsible officers, appraisers and other interested parties can find medical revalidation support from a number of alternative sources, including:

- [NHS England](mailto:nhscb.revalidation@nhs.net) at [nhscb.revalidation@nhs.net](mailto:nhscb.revalidation@nhs.net)
- [the GMC](#)
- [the medical royal colleges and faculties](#)
- their designated body or responsible officer.

### **What will happen to the RST website and where can I access RST publications from 1 April?**

All relevant content on the RST website, including RST tools and documents, will be transferred to [the NHS England website](#) by 31 March 2014.

From 1 April a simple landing page will be hosted at the RST domain [www.revalidationsupport.nhs.uk](http://www.revalidationsupport.nhs.uk), explaining that the RST has closed and redirecting to the NHS England web pages. This landing page will be in place for a minimum of six months.

[Read more FAQs on the RST transition](#)

If you have a question about the transition that is not covered on the website, please [contact us](#)

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## **Report on year one benefits and impact of revalidation to be published**

In March 2014, the RST will publish a report on its evaluation of the benefits and impact of medical revalidation in year one of implementation.

The RST received and analysed 3,500 responses to its surveys (thank you to all those who replied). This extensive evidence base is supported by findings from research commissioned by the RST from:

- The King's Fund on culture and behavior, and
- Collaboration for the Advancement of Medical Education Research and Assessment (CAMERA) at Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry on patient and public involvement.

The report will include findings from the research and a framework for measuring costs, benefits and impact in future years.

All RO News readers will be notified as soon as the report has been published.

[Further details on the evaluation](#)

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## Revalidation event for small designated bodies

Organised by NHS England (North), a Small Designated Body Networking Event was attended by over 150 delegates in London on 5 February 2014.

Delegates included responsible officers, chief executives and senior managers from designated bodies with less than 30 doctors.

Delegates discussed the particular challenges small designated bodies face in managing revalidation, such as handling conflicts of interest and outsourcing appraisals and case investigations. They also had a chance to network, share learning and put their questions to a panel including an HR director and experts from the RST, GMC, National Clinical Assessment Service (NCAS) and NHS England.

Feedback from attendees was very positive and ideas from the day have been captured in a report, which will be made available on the NHS England website in the coming weeks.

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## Department of Health commissions secondary care locum programme

Following a recent review of the quality assurance arrangements for secondary care locum doctors, the Department of Health has commissioned a one year programme of work to implement the recommendations of the review. A new, small team will be established to take this work forward in 2014-15.

During February 2014, there will be an exercise to seek expressions of interest from trusts that wish to be involved in piloting some of the recommendations from last year's report.

## Feedback or questions

We hope you have enjoyed reading this issue.

If you have any feedback or questions, please [contact Nigel Woods](#), Head of Implementation Support, NHS Revalidation Support Team.

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