

## Impact of Revalidation on the Lives of Consultants

This project, led by RCPE in partnership with other Colleges and the Health Services Research Unit at Aberdeen University, has surveyed consultants and SAS doctors in Scotland and the North of England to explore how revalidation may affect other important aspects of their work. This has allowed us to estimate the impact of revalidation (in terms of doctor time) and explore any unforeseen complications in terms of impact on other areas of work. The College is very grateful to all who took the time and trouble to complete what was a lengthy and detailed questionnaire.

The [project report is now available](#) and, in addition to giving a wealth of information about how doctors currently use their time, the key messages of direct relevance to revalidation include:

- Over 75% of doctors had an appraisal in the 12 months prior to the survey (consultants 87%).
- Over half of doctors believe clinical governance information is not readily available from their employer.
- Most doctors believe that revalidation will take significant time over and above appraisal.
- More doctors in the North of England than in Scotland believe the time taken to prepare for appraisal will be higher than in previous years.
- 54% of doctors have time allocated in their job plan for appraisal but there is surprising variation between groups.
- There are a small but significant number of 9:1 contracts in Scotland and the North of England, making anything beyond basic appraisal preparation impossible.
- Only one-third of doctors can take all their study leave.
- Lack of time and insufficient cover are major barriers to CPD.
- Less than 50% of doctors expect to absorb revalidation in their current NHS time.
- Almost one-third of consultants, if faced with reducing their NHS work would limit their non-clinical administration/management activity (this includes service development and clinical governance).

For further information on the project and/or the full research results contact [e.tait@rcpe.ac.uk](mailto:e.tait@rcpe.ac.uk)