Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations

Intercollegiate Specialty Board in Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery

23 February 2022

**Statement to All Candidates enrolled in the
Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery**

The JCIE is cognisant of a current mismatch between candidate eligibility and examination capacity with respect to Section 2 of the Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery. The JCIE wishes to reassure all stakeholders that this is not because of a reduction in the number of examination places offered. The Secretariat has worked tirelessly, and Examiners given freely of their time since examination activities recommenced in November 2020 after a period of pandemic-enforced postponements. Indeed, in the calendar year 2021, 375 Section 2 candidates were accommodated which is more than in each of the two immediate pre-pandemic years of 2018 (316 candidates) and 2019 (324 candidates).

The JCIE, however, fully acknowledges the implications of the current issue and is taking steps to address it. The intention is to stage an additional Section 2 examination prior to the summer of 2022 and is in the process of determining Examiner availability. As part of the process, communications have been sent to NHS and Ireland healthcare employers emphasising the importance of supporting Examiner leave.

The JCIE appreciates the anxiety that is precipitated by uncertainty and the Intercollegiate Specialty Board in Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery will provide an update at the earliest opportunity. It also wishes to point that the proposed additional Section 2 diet is not unprecedented and is therefore not entirely Covid-19 related; additional Trauma and Orthopaedic Section 2 examinations were required on five occasions between 2008 and 2013.

Yours sincerely

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