

## Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations

22 October 2020

To Whoever It May Concern

### Intercollegiate Specialty Examinations (FRCS) November and December 2020

This is to confirm that the bearer of this letter is a Candidate who is travelling to the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin (RCSI) to sit their final Intercollegiate Specialty Examination in Surgery under the auspices of the Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations (JCIE). These examinations are taken towards the very end of surgical training and a pass is a pre-requisite for certification in the relevant surgical specialty by the General Medical Council. Without certification, the individual cannot be appointed to a Consultant post and the examinations are therefore essential for the sustainability of surgical services. The exam that the individual is travelling to sit has been many months in planning and follows the enforced cancellation of previous sittings between March and May 2020.

A Covid-safe environment for the delivery of the examination has been the subject of considerable engagement between all major stakeholders throughout the UK and Ireland. Because of quarantine requirements between the UK and Ireland, Irish candidates are being examined by video-link to the RCSI to avoid them having to travel to the main examination centre in the UK. Travel to take these examinations is deemed as essential business for key workers, irrespective of where the bearer of this letter is travelling from. This is endorsed by the four surgical Royal Colleges of Great Britain and Ireland and by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC). The AoMRC recently released a statement to this effect. This can be accessed through the following link.

<https://www.aomrc.org.uk/statements/exams-academy-statement/>

Thank you for your understanding and we can assure you that all participants in these examinations are aware of their responsibilities.

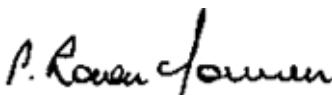
Yours faithfully



**PROFESSOR S MICHAEL GRIFFIN OBE**  
CHAIR – JOINT SURGICAL COLLEGES



**MR JOHN R MCGREGOR**  
CHAIR – JCIE



**PROFESSOR P RONAN O'CONNELL**  
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