GMC National Training Survey 2016 – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the GMC Training Survey?

The annual GMC training survey has been developed to monitor the quality of postgraduate medical education and training in the UK. It asks specific questions about the programme every doctor in training is following on the census date, which this year is 22nd March 2016.

The GMC has census information about the programme, post, grade and local education provider (LEP) doctors are in on this date and all questions should be answered with regard to this census date. **Even if trainees have rotated into another role by the time of the survey, the answers should be about your experiences in the post assigned on 22nd March 2016.**

When is the survey?

Both the trainee and trainer survey open on Tuesday 22nd March 2016 and run for 6 weeks until closing on Wednesday 4th May 2016.

Is the trainee survey mandatory?

All eligible doctors should complete the GMC survey. It is considered **mandatory** by Health Education England in the North West (HEE NW) and a professional obligation of all trainee doctors to provide this vital feedback on education and training experiences. A unique code is provided on completion which will be needed for each trainee’s ARCP. Without this completion code, trainees may be given an **adverse ARCP outcome.**

Who needs to complete the trainee survey?

Trainees **are** required to complete the survey if, on the census date, they are:

- In foundation, core, broad based, specialty, or general practice training;
- In fixed term (FTSTA) or locum (LAT) appointments;
- In military, clinical lecturer or academic clinical fellowship training posts
- Working either within the NHS or in a non-NHS organisation;

They are **not** required to complete the survey if, on the census date, they are:

- Past your CCT date but not on sub-specialty training;
- On parental or adoption leave;
- Out of programme training outside of the UK (but OOPT trainees within the UK are required to complete it);
- Out of programme on research, experience or a career break
- On long term sick leave;
- A non-medical public health trainee
- Following a Medical Training Initiative (MTI) programme

How should the survey be completed?

From 22nd March, the survey should be available via [www.gmc-uk.org/nts_gmconline](http://www.gmc-uk.org/nts_gmconline). Doctors should complete the relevant survey as early as possible in the survey period.

The first step is to **validate** the census information that HEE NW has provided to the GMC. If a change is necessary then this will result in a short delay whilst we confirm the details.
What if a doctor is unable to login?

If you are having trouble logging in to GMC online then you can contact the GMC online team on 0161 923 6602

If, after logging in to GMC online, the survey is not available please contact the Quality team at HEE NW on gmcSurvey@nw.hee.nhs.uk or 0151 285 4746.

How are HEE NW Involved?

HEE NW will provide data to the GMC before the survey starts. We will be sending the GMC a list of all trainees eligible to complete the survey, as well as their placement details for 22nd March 2016. We will not provide email addresses, as the GMC will use the email you provide to login to GMC online.

During the survey, HEE NW will prepare summary reports for the Dean, Heads of School and Training Programme Directors so that they are aware of trends and progress. We will also prepare lists indicating the individuals who haven’t completed the survey yet, and share these with our Dean, Directors of Medical Education and Medical Education Managers who can support you in completing. We will send out reminders each week to those who have not yet completed the survey. In the final days, we will phone anyone who has not yet completed the survey to remind them.

What is the format of the survey results?

The survey results will be published around July 2016; HEENW will analyse the results and circulate summaries around stakeholders. We will also analyse trends over the history of the survey to see whether there is an improving picture or room for improvement.

The GMC publish outliers, should the scores in your programme differ significantly from the national average for that specialty. Positive (green) outliers represent scores in the upper quartile nationally. Negative (red) outliers represent scores in the lowest quartile nationally. Light green and pink colours indicate areas which are not outliers, but which are in the highest and lowest quartiles respectively.

The example shows how responses are collated and grouped into fourteen useful indicators. The outliers are quality indicators of potential problems or areas of good practice; they are rapidly followed up. Individual comments relating to patient safety and bullying or undermining are also taken very seriously and will be investigated.

The results of the survey are only released to HEE NW in anonymous summary form. Individual comments are always anonymised and are never attributable.

How will the survey affect training?

The survey results inform our quality management processes. HEE NW’s monitoring visit process investigates areas of concern, and we expect LEPs and programmes to respond where areas of concerns are highlighted, particularly where the GMC survey is supported by interviews, local surveys or local intelligence.
We will use the survey results to monitor the quality of training for each LEP and programme, against the GMC’s standards for education and training. The GMC Standards are grouped into five themes:

- Theme 1: Learning Environment and Culture
- Theme 2: Educational Governance and Leadership
- Theme 3: Supporting Learners
- Theme 4: Supporting Educators
- Theme 5: Developing and Implementing Curricula and Assessments

**When will the results be available?**

The results from the surveys this year will be added to the GMC’s online reporting platform in June 2016, summary reports from the GMC will also be published from then onwards.

**Further Information**

GMC Survey Documentation:
http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/nts_documents.asp

GMC Trainee survey:
http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/national_trainee_survey.asp

GMC Trainer survey:
http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/national_trainer_survey.asp

GMC Standards for Education and Training:
http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards.asp

Survey Results:
https://webcache.gmc-uk.org/analyticsrep/saw.dll?Dashboard

Quality Improvement Case Studies:
http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/casestudies.asp

HEE NW:
https://www.nwpqmd.nhs.uk/quality/gmc-surveys