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## Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations

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16 August 2021

**Statement by Mr John R McGregor, Chair JCIE and JSCFE**

Dear Candidate

**Joint Surgical Colleges Fellowship Examinations (JSCFE) 2021**

On 24 May 2021, I wrote to all JSCFE candidates to indicate that I would provide a further update as to examination planning in July. A copy of that May communication is attached for reference as it does provide details about the proposed Section 2 examination formats, which I will not reiterate here.

I apologise for being slightly late with my update, but this is explained by the entire JCIE team exploring all possibilities for recommencing JSCFE Section 2 examination activity later this year as we had hoped. Sadly, with the surge in Delta variant coronavirus cases in many countries, the ongoing unpredictability of international travel, and the potential for short notice changes to quarantine restrictions, we must admit defeat. I can reassure you that this decision has not been made lightly and has been subject to considerable discussion, both within the JCIE Membership and with the Presidents of the four surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland.

The following therefore summarises the current status of JSCFE examinations.

**Section 1**

The intention is that the Section 1 examinations between September and November 2021 that are currently listed in the JSCFE website calendar will proceed as planned. These diets are, however, restricted to candidates who were displaced from the cancelled Section 1 sittings between March and June 2021. No further Section 1 entries can be accepted until the JCIE is confident of re-starting Section 2. If you have a confirmed place in a 2021 Section 1 examination, your examination is currently going ahead, although clearly may still be subject to pandemic-induced changes.

**Section 2**

The JCIE regrets that for all specialties, it cannot confirm any dates or venues for re-starting Section 2 examinations at present. However, given that several months of planning are required, we can now state with certainty that **there will be no JSCFE Section 2 examinations in 2021**. The JCIE Chair, the JSCFE Leads and the JCIE Secretariat will continue a close liaison with the JCIE international advisers and, in conjunction with the College Presidents, and will endeavour to re-commence examination activity whenever it is feasible to do so. A minimum of 3 months' notice will be provided, and I can give you a personal guarantee that I will communicate again whenever the JCIE is able to confirm arrangements.

On behalf of the four surgical Royal Colleges of the United Kingdom and Ireland, the JCIE apologises for the ongoing uncertainty and disruption, but is confident that everyone will appreciate that the impact of the pandemic is beyond the JCIE's control. I do hope that I can come back to you with better news in the not-too-distant future.

Once again, I thank you for your understanding and I do hope you and your families remain safe and well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. R. McGregor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**JOHN R MCGREGOR**

CHAIR – JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTERCOLLEGIATE EXAMINATIONS