

## **ST3 National Preferencing: a shot in the dark or an informed decision?**

### **Aims:**

A national survey to evaluate if the current level of available information is allowing applicants to make informed decisions when preferencing deaneries during the ST3 application process.

### **Methods:**

A 9 question online survey was created aimed at trainees who have just undertaken the ST3 application process. The survey was distributed via TPDs of the CST programmes within the UK and The British Orthopaedic Trainee Association mailing list. The results were collated using google software.

### **Results:**

106 responses in total were collated. 97% of responses were from either CT2s or ST3s. 73% of respondents felt there was not enough information available about deaneries. 84% of respondents relied on current trainees to get information on deaneries. 68% of trainees felt having more information available to them may have influenced their decision. 85% of trainees were in favour of creation of an online resource containing deanery information.

### **Discussion:**

The results demonstrate the lack of information available to trainees when they are preferencing deaneries. The majority of trainees got their information from other trainees. This information is open to bias and it is unlikely that an applicant will be able to obtain information on every deanery in the UK using this method.

**Conclusion:**

**The survey highlighted that information available about the different deaneries is limited. It confirms the need for an online resource created by trainees for trainees to enable them to make informed decisions. We will address this need by creating an online resource called [ww.whichdeanery.com](http://ww.whichdeanery.com).**