



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH – Clinical Scientist – Genomics response to HEE's Strategic Framework Call for Evidence 2021

We are aware the NHSE/I are doing a specific piece of work around genomics workforce given the particular challenges faced in this area.

- Since the introduction of the STP training (2009), we have had dramatically reduced numbers of trainees going through the system, which in turn creates a lack of trained staff.
- Genomics is booming, with additional work across the board, but specifically enhanced with the consolidation of genomics laboratories.
- The Test Directory produced as part of the consolidation process aims to create equitability and consistency for our patients but has increased the number of tests available/funded to all.
- The move towards large panel-based approaches has improved the quality of the testing but has increased the workload.
- The introduction of whole genome sequencing (WGS) for cancer has been in addition to standard of care (SOC) testing. Currently there is a severe shortage of trained staff, or indeed staff to train for this new area of analysis and interpretation
- There are a high number of staff approaching retirement, with not enough staff coming through the training scheme to cover the shortfall.

It is hoped that this provides an understanding of the situation in genomics.