

To: Regional and Local Postgraduate Deans
HEE National Programme Leads
HEE National and Regional Directors

Thursday 19th March 2020

Sent by E-Mail

Dear Colleagues

**Releasing medical leadership to support NHS services with response to COVID-19 –
Wednesday March 18th**

As part of HEE's response to supporting the NHS in maintaining services for patients during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, we have taken the decision to release clinical staff currently working within HEE who wish to return to frontline services.

HEE recognises the broad range of expertise that our medical clinical staff, clinical fellows and clinical advisors bring to the areas of work that they lead, however we must acknowledge the needs of patients and the NHS service. We understand that clinical staff make a critical contribution to supporting care and that this is a priority during this unprecedented time.

Clinical staff that are on secondment or in Fixed Term Contracts with HEE, including clinical fellows, should be offered the chance to return full time to their employers to deliver frontline care. Where current clinical staff wish to and can return to frontline care, HEE Postgraduate Deans, and national and regional programme leads are asked to support this in a safe and co-ordinated way at the earliest opportunity.

Where necessary, HEE will continue its current funding arrangements of these staff, aligned with their current terms and conditions, in order to reduce administrative burden at this current time. This will continue to the end of the first quarter of 2020/21 as a minimum.

Once the Covid-19 impact has been addressed HEE will work with individuals and look at opportunities that can be offered to come back into the organisation to continue with their HEE related work.

This opportunity should be offered to all clinical staff including the capacity of Heads of Schools and Training Programme Directors where this is required, beyond their capacity to support business critical functions to HEE, in particular, to maintain the necessary clinical leadership for medical and dental recruitment and ARCP panels.

In supporting any staff to return to clinical services during this period, I would ask that you support them in ensuring they have access to timely induction and that their deployment is supported by appropriate access to training or resources to refresh their skills and competencies where required.

I know you are all working hard to respond to the needs of patients and the NHS at this unprecedented time and I am grateful for your continued support.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Reid', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Wendy Reid

Executive Director of Education & Quality and Medical Director

Health Education England

Cc: Medical Clinical Staff across Health Education England