Dear Medical Educator,

**Recruitment of returning educators, academics and others to support HEE’s educational functions**

I am writing to invite you to take part in an opportunity for returning clinical educators, academics and others to use their skills and experience to support NHS clinicians in the COVID-19 emergency.

HEE has identified a need for additional educational support for learners and local office education functions throughout all phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. We anticipate a new returner scheme will address this need. Medical educators, academics and others with appropriate skills, who have been retired for up to 10 years, can support educational functions during the emergency by joining the scheme. This could be in addition to returning to clinical practice. This group will provide a new and essential national professional mentoring service to medical clinical and academic trainees and other clinicians and support for local medical education. The group will work remotely from home within current HEE local office structures and management but be linked nationally to share ideas and be mutually supportive.

If you have retired up to 10 years ago you will have received from the GMC a temporary licence to practise without involvement in subsequent revalidation. We believe you are one of approximately 2000 doctors with significant educational or academic expertise who could return to provide educational/academic support to trainees, academic clinical fellows (ACFs) or junior doctors and the wider workforce. We hope you will want to do this.

You have long experience of professional decision making in complex and uncertain environments, skills which persist despite a changing clinical context. This is exactly what current trainees, ACFs and junior doctors are facing. Given the current emergency, education has effectively been suspended so that only crucial events like recruitment and high stakes assessments will happen. Under these circumstances, the ability to talk to someone like you – as a professional mentor, not a coach or counsellor – may be a vital contribution to the support of individual learners. The scheme if successful will be expanded to include support for more senior doctors and other disciplines/professions in due course.

Deaneries are also facing current staff moving back to the clinical service creating opportunities for you to work within your local HEE office. The particular areas needing your help are:

- HEE Local Office recruitment programmes
- The work of local Performance Support and Welfare (PSW) units
- Local Office ARCP and Foundation Competence assessment work
- The provision by Local Offices of remote educational and liaison sessions for junior doctors and trainees

We sincerely hope you will want to volunteer your skills and experience to support the NHS. You will be remunerated without detriment to your pension and indemnified through the NHS. We know you can make a difference. Please email returning@hee.nhs.uk now to express an interest; we will be in touch with you as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely

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