

# General Medical Council : Student doctors' views of their training

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## Objective

The GMC registers doctors to practise medicine in the UK. Their purpose is to protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public by ensuring proper standards in the practice of medicine. As a part of ensuring standards, for the past six years the GMC have surveyed doctors in postgraduate training across the UK to find out what they think about the quality of their training.

The survey gives a snapshot of the quality of medical education and training at a national level. The survey also generates a unique dataset of the training pathway and progression of UK trainees.

## Method

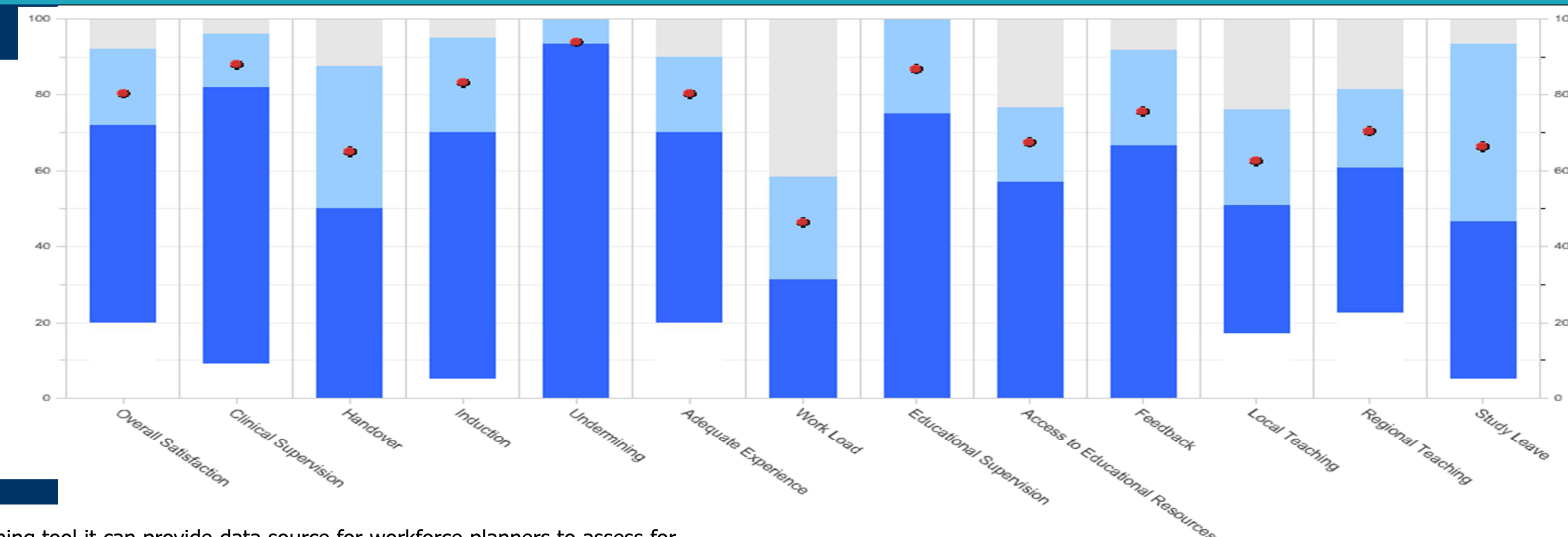
The survey is undertaken as a web based survey using in-house GMC systems, which allows survey responses to be automatically stored against the doctors' records held by the GMC.

The 2012 survey involved the following key stages:

- Ensuring that all training locations were correctly recorded by both GMC and Postgraduate deaneries
- Matching of all trainees to a training location as of the 30<sup>th</sup> April
- The trainees undertaking the survey, confirming their training information to improve data quality
- Data cleansing of the survey results
- Publication of survey results using an in house developed reporting tool.  
Available from: [http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/national\\_summary\\_reports.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/national_summary_reports.asp)

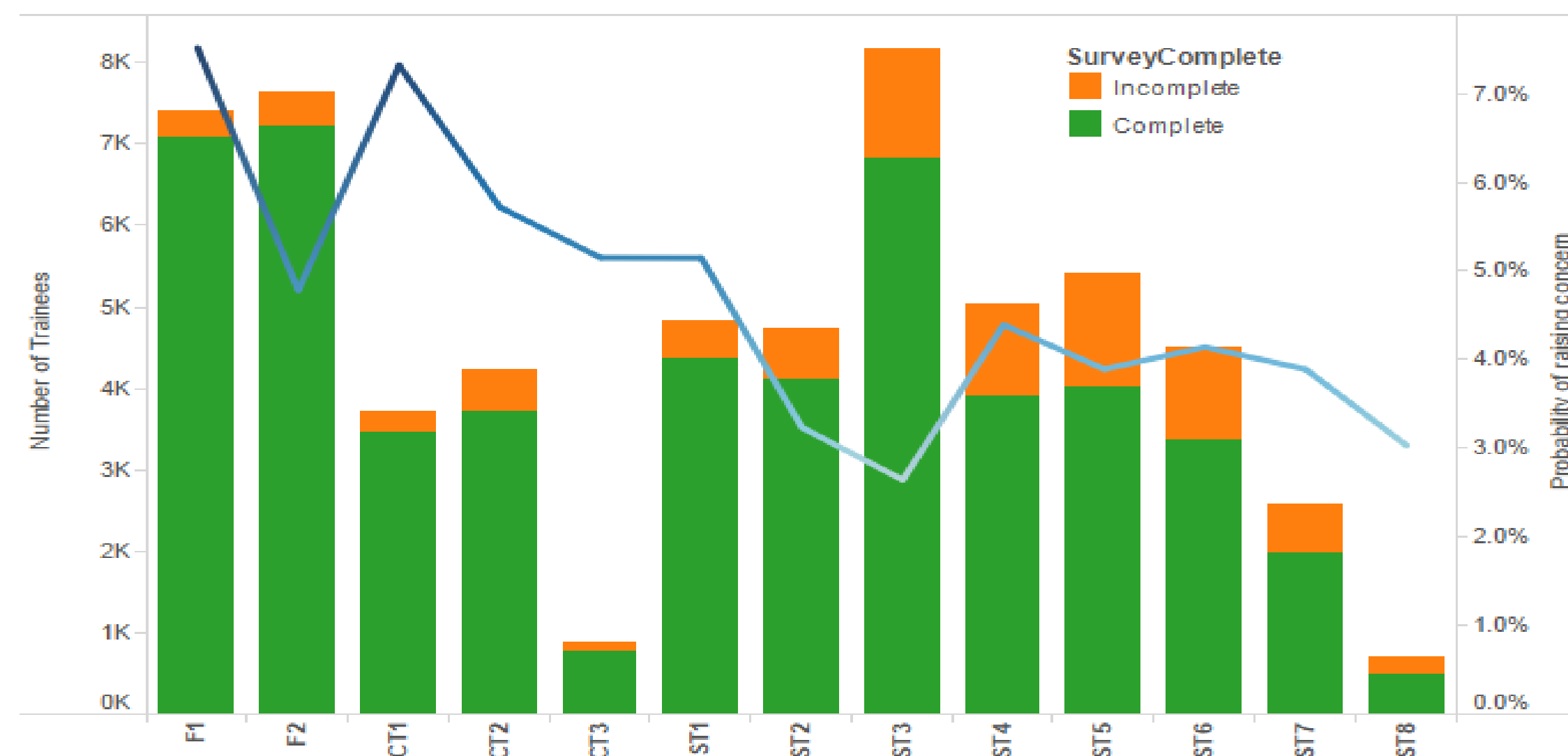
The survey also enables trainees to raise any concerns they have about their training and report if their day-to-day activities were limited because of health

Variation of results of 13 survey indicators across all trainees as presented in the survey reporting tool problems as shown right



## Results

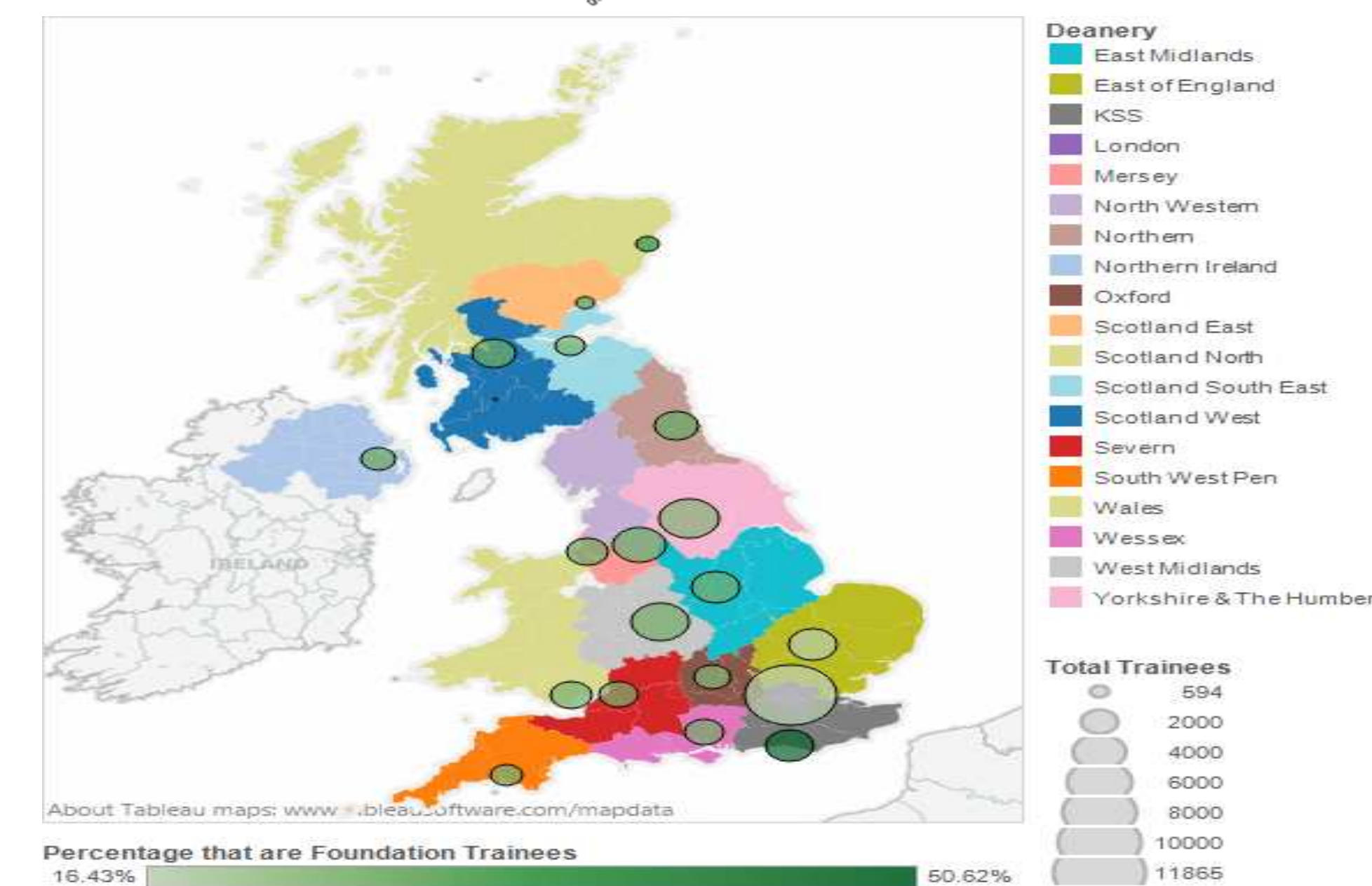
In 2012, 51,316 doctors in training completed the survey out of 54,035 who were eligible, giving a response rate of 95.0%. Response and rate of reporting of patient safety concerns differs by training level (below)



Although the survey is not a workforce planning tool it can provide data source for workforce planners to assess for example the distribution of trainees by deanery (right) or specialty progression (below).

All UK Surgery trainees by training level

	CT1/ ST1	CT2/ ST2	ST3	ST4	ST5	ST6	ST7	ST8	Total
<b>Core</b>	795	813							
<b>Cardio-Thoracic</b>			58	29	15	10	7	5	124
<b>General</b>	2	10	337	280	237	235	206	137	1,444
<b>OMFS</b>			39	35	24	35	10		143
<b>ENT</b>			101	70	76	56	43	29	375
<b>Paediatric</b>	4	5	29	18	32	21	15	12	136
<b>T&amp;O</b>	39	45	301	183	183	213	186	122	1,272
<b>Urology</b>			103	69	67	60	56		355
<b>Total</b>	841	875	1,052	727	704	701	588	328	5,816



## Conclusion

The 2012 in-house survey had one of the highest survey response rates of all previous GMC trainee surveys and was able to publish results only one month after the survey closed. The survey identified variation for example in the overall satisfaction of training, with General Practice having the highest average score of 87.8%, and Surgery with the lowest with a score of 76.2%. The 2013 survey (which is open from 26<sup>th</sup> March for a period of six weeks) will build on the 2012 survey and will include improvements to the results presentation and tracking of trainees both in the geographic and level of training