



**THE ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHETISTS**  
*of Great Britain & Ireland*



**The Royal College  
of Anaesthetists**

**Supporting statement for Consultants, SAS Doctors and trainees active in Specialist Societies  
in Anaesthesia, Pain Management and Intensive Care Medicine**

The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland (AAGBI) and the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) value and support the work that is undertaken by members of specialist societies in the delivery and promotion of advances in patient safety, education and research, which in turn greatly benefits patients throughout the NHS.

The AAGBI and the RCoA endorse the letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 from the four Chief Medical Officers, the Chair of the General Medical Council and the Medical Director of NHS England (appended), which asks NHS employers to look favourably on requests from doctors for absence to undertake national work for professional organisations such as specialist societies that is of benefit to healthcare systems across the UK.

We believe that regular work performed for specialist societies should be recognised and represented in individual job plans, and that doctors doing this work should provide evidence of specialist society activity and output to clinical managers. We are aware that some NHS employers are restricting the time allocated in job plans to Supporting Professional Activities (SPA) to that work conducted directly on behalf of the employing Trust or Board.

We believe that such restrictions should be reconsidered and reversed in view of the fact that work for specialist societies enhances safe medical care and benefits patients in all Trusts and Boards throughout the NHS.

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**8 January 2013**

The Faculty of  
**Intensive Care Medicine**



**FACULTY OF PAIN MEDICINE**

of the Royal College of Anaesthetists